

Superintendent's Proposed Budget Initiatives

Darien Public Schools
December 11, 2018

Elementary School Psychologists
MMS School Counselor

Elementary School Psychologists

— Shirley K. Klein —
Assistant Superintendent of Special
Education and Student Services

Role of the School Psychologist in Darien

Role of the Elementary School Psychologist

School psychologists create a supporting learning and social environment for all students.

- Providing support and consultation to classroom teachers
- Addressing immediate needs (e.g., students in crisis)
- Designing IEP goals/objectives, clinical intervention, behavior intervention plans (BIPs)
- Pre-referral intervention (SRBI)
- IEP- and 504-mandated counseling (individual and group)
- Parent training
- Meeting attendance: PPT, 504, team, and parent meetings
- Collecting data and designing data collection systems to support classroom teachers
- Conducting evaluations
 - Psychoeducational: cognitive, social, emotional, executive functioning
 - Classroom observations: qualitative, time-on-task, environmental modifications
 - Functional behavior assessments (FBAs)
 - Risk assessments for students in crisis (e.g., self-injurious behaviors)

Current Darien Mental Health Staffing

School	Psych FTE	Psych Ratio	Additional Mental Health Staff
DHS	3.0	1:467	8 School Counselors 1 Social Worker
MMS	3.0	1:367	5 School Counselors 1 Social Worker
Elementary	5.0	1:454	NA

Elementary School Psychologist Responsibilities

2017-2018 Evaluations

School	Evaluations (total)	Evaluations (average per psych)
DHS	133	44
MMS	107	36
Elementary	248	50

Note: ELP Psychologist completed 46 evaluations for ELP Program

2017-2018 Meeting Attendance

School	PPT Meetings (average per psych)	Team Meetings (average per psych)	Total (average per psych)
DHS	194	45	239
MMS	159	132	291
Elementary	175	263	438

Local Norms

Local Elementary School Staffing

Town	Psychologists (Per Building)	Ratio (approximate)	Additional Mental Health Staffing	Total Elementary Mental Health Staff Ratio
New Canaan	1.5	1:342	NA	1:342
Region 9 (Easton/Redding)	1 and 1.2	1:467	1 Social Worker in Each Building	1:245
Weston K-2	1	1:400	1 Counselor	1:200
Weston 3-5	1	1:500	1 Counselor	1:250
Westport	2	1:232	NA	1:232
Wilton Pre-K to 2	3	1:267	1 Counselor	1:200
Wilton 3-5	2	1:450	2 Counselors	1:225
Darien	1.0	1:454	NA	1:454

Budget Proposal

One additional psychologist in each elementary school through the following budget allocations:

- Reallocate 1.0 FTE Coordinator for Student & Family Social Services to Psychologist
- Total increase of four psychologists

Addition of a School Counselor at MMS

— Shelley Somers —
MMS Principal

Garan Mullin, EdD, Assistant Principal
Mary Scalise, Assistant Principal
Meghan Emanuelson, Interim Director of Guidance 6-12

Rachael Sandler, MMS School Counselor
Anthony Pavia, MMS School Counselor

Role of the School Counselor

Social Emotional Learning



MMS Advisory

Advisory goals incorporate Responsive Classroom values:

- To build student-to-student affiliations
- To reflect on school issues
- To develop positive relationships with adults
- To expand communication and social skills

Role of School Counselors in Advisory

- Members of MMS Advisory Committee
- Create lessons in concert with committee
- Help align lessons with counseling framework and goals
- Collaboratively instructing their advisory groups

MMS Counseling Program Goal

To improve student achievement and awareness academically, socially, and emotionally.

Academic	Social Emotional Learning	Career
Goal Setting	Self Awareness	Learning Style Exploration
Organization/Work Completion	Peer Relationships	Short Term/Long Term Goal Setting
Self Advocacy	Coping Skills/Decision Making	Naviance
Habits of Mind	Transitions	Secondary Choices

Difference in Primary Roles at MMS School

School Counselor

- 504 Case Management
- General Education Counseling
- Whole Class Lessons
- Student Scheduling
- SRBI Progress Monitoring
- Facilitate Grade-level Team Meetings/Parent meetings
- 5-6 and 8-9 Transition Planning
- Attend PPT Meetings
- New Student Orientation

School Psychologist

- IEP-mandated Counseling
- Psychoeducational Evaluations
- Conduct Risk Assessments
- Consultations to Teams
- Present Assessment Results at PPTs
- Attend PPT and 504 Meetings
- FBAs and BIPs
- Collect Data on IEP Goals/Objectives
- Articulation PPT Meetings

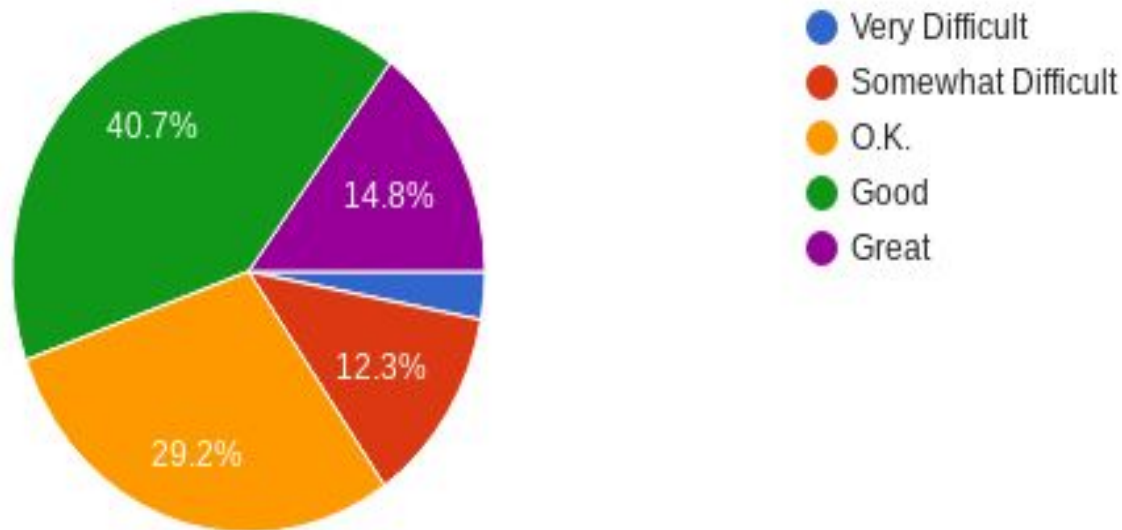
Vision of MMS Counseling Department

Counseling Department Student Interest Survey

(Conducted 9/26/18)

How would you rate the start of your school year?

1,016 responses



Student-Identified Need for Small Counseling Group by Topic

(Based on Sept 2018 Needs Assessment)

Topic for small group	# of students who selected this topic	Percent of students at MMS
Study Skills	416	40.9%
Course Selection	326	32.1%
Time Management and Organization	286	28.1%
Transition to MMS/DHS	229	22.5%
Making Friends	196	19.3%
Problem Solving	139	13.7%
Increasing Self-Esteem	116	11.4%

Local Middle School Staffing

Town	Counselors (Per Building)	Counselor to Student Ratio
New Canaan	6	1:223
Region 9: Easton/Redding	Easton: 1	1:333
	Redding: 2	1:194
Weston	3	1:185
Westport	Bedford: 3	1:141
	Coleytown: 3	1:154
Wilton	3	1:330
Ridgefield	East Ridge: 3	1:226
	Scotts Ridge: 3	1:157
Darien (Current)	5	1:224
Darien (Proposed)	6	1:186

Addition of Counselor	Impact on MMS
Two counselors per grade level to implement comprehensive counseling program	Supports the middle school model Counselors not split across 8 teams Increased and consistent participation in team meetings
Increase small group counseling	Respond to the student-identified needs for small groups in the areas of friendship skills, study skills, organization, etc.
Collaborative teaching across subject areas to provide interdisciplinary learning experiences	Healthy Living Academic Areas Increase in developmental counseling lessons across all grade levels
Improve and increase consistency in instruction and communication	Clear understanding of counselor responsibilities Increase meeting time with students and families
Eliminate the “grade level split” for two counselors	Focus on grade level transition times 5-6 and 8-9 transition Time for grade level specific meetings: team meetings, SRBI, parent-team conferences, etc.
Decrease counselor caseload average from 224 students to 187 students	Aligned with counselor caseload averages in our DRG Aligned with Darien High School counselor caseload averages

Supporting the Transition to Darien High School

Developmental Guidance - delivered through Guidance Seminar program. Each student is scheduled into a Seminar for one quarter (approximately 5 lessons).

Advisory - Each student is a part of an Advisory group which remains the same throughout high school. Each counselor is an Advisor.

Transition Planning - The DHS counselors are involved in the transition planning of all 8th to 9th grade students through a variety of programs/events.

Questions?