

Instruction

Comprehensive School Counseling Program/Guidance Services

The Woodstock Academy shall provide and maintain a comprehensive school counseling and guidance program in which students are systematically, actively, and purposely assisted in acquiring personal human skills. Students shall be provided with the assistance and guidance to effectively identify, select, plan, and prepare for post-secondary education or a career of choice. The program is designed to assist students through specific self-appraisal and self-improvement activities, to enable effective planning to meet their personal education and career goals. Various certified and non-certified staff members are part of this program, which includes, but is not limited to; school counselors, social workers, school psychologists, teachers and administrators. The Head of School or his/her designee shall oversee this program.

The specific goals of the school-counseling program are:

1. Help students develop knowledge of self, including family relationships and the understanding of others;
2. Assist students with emotional and mental growth, including family relationships and the understanding of others;
3. Assist students in the development of social skills and civic responsibility;
4. Assist students in problem-solving, decision-making and coping skills to allow them to live a healthy life;
5. Assist students in their career development and support partnerships between school and community;
6. Assist staff as a resource/consultant in student-teacher relationships, behavior management, student evaluation and parent/guardian contacts;
7. Aid students and families during crisis situations;
8. Form relationships with parents/guardians to provide support as needed; and
9. Assist in referrals to other student services personnel and with out-of-school agencies serving youth as needed or required.

Pursuant to the Comprehensive School Counseling Guide prepared by the Connecticut Department of Education, The Academy shall make the following guidance and counseling services reasonably available to all students within available resources:

1. Academic guidance to help students and their parents/guardians to acquire knowledge of the curriculum choices available to students, to plan a program of studies, to arrange and interpret academic testing, and to seek postsecondary academic opportunities;
2. Career guidance to help students acquire information to plan for postsecondary education and career opportunities; and
3. Personal or social counseling, while working with the appropriate staff, to help students develop an understanding of themselves and the rights and needs of others, resolve conflict, and define individual goals that reflect their interests and aptitudes.

The major program components of The Academy's comprehensive counseling and guidance program shall contain the following:

1. Guidance curriculum that is delivered through classroom presentations and activities, and structured group activities;
2. Individual planning which is a process that includes activities to assist students and their parents/guardians in the planning, monitoring, and managing of the student's learning as well as his/her personal, educational, and career goals;
3. Responsive services which meet the immediate concerns and needs of students, usually with a prevention focus, such as, but not limited to, drop-out prevention, peer leadership, and drug and alcohol prevention; and
4. System support, which focuses on program development, implementation, and management, and connects the guidance program to existing family and community support and to school improvement and student achievement.

Through the appropriate handbooks and newsletters, parents/guardians shall be provided annual notification about academic and career guidance and the personal or social counseling programs that are available to students.

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The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut