



August 2026

Dear Country Day Middle School Families:

Greetings and welcome to a new year! This is an informative letter to help parents and students understand the role of the school counselors in the Middle School. In each division of Country Day, the role of the counselors varies somewhat. It is our commitment in all divisions to build a strong relationship between parents, students, and faculty in our school.

The counseling department is very pleased to announce that we are in our fourth year of having two full-time middle school counselors. Janani Buford, who is in her 25th year, will be the primary counselor for grades 5 and 7, and Jo Malveaux, who is in her fourth year with us, will have grades 6 and 8. The two counselors will loop up with the students and have their respective groups for the entire four years of middle school. In addition, we will work very closely to ensure all students are supported.

The philosophy of our Middle School is for the counselors to get to know as many students as possible and to work with students based on their individual needs. This could involve individual counseling, classroom lessons, or working in a small group. It is not unusual for us to meet with individual students at lunch or informally, just to check how things are going. This interaction allows us to understand what is happening in their lives and to be aware of any needs or concerns our students may have. Parents are always contacted if there are any concerns beyond the normal pre-adolescent and adolescent issues.

Our classroom visits in 5th and 6th grade are monthly. Classes will focus on various character development traits, as well as teaching strategies to help cope with changes they are facing physically, emotionally, and socially.

As the counselors in the middle school, we look forward to and appreciate the opportunity to work with your child. We also welcome every opportunity to talk with parents and invite parents to come for a visit or call with concerns. By working together, we can endeavor that our Country Day Middle Schoolers grow and mature into healthy, happy adults.

Sincerely yours,

Janani Buford

Janani Buford

Director, Middle School Counseling

Jo Malveaux

Jo Malveaux

Middle School Counselor