

SCHOOL COUNSELING NEWS

Sheboygan Falls Middle School

What Have We Been Up To:

October was *National Bully Prevention Month*. To bring awareness to this important topic, all students participated in two Bullying lessons during their FOCUS class time. In addition, Mrs. Renzelmann also led the 5th grade students in a school counseling lesson on Bullying. Students learned about the difference between bullying, conflict, mean moments, and unkind behaviors. They also learned about the different types of bullying and discussed strategies on how to handle bullying as a victim and a bystander. Students identified safe adults they can talk to if they or someone else is being bullied. Lastly, Kelsi Engelhardt, the Director of Prevention and Education for Safe Harbor, visited all 7th Grade classrooms where students learned about healthy relationships, harassment, and bullying.



Wisconsin School Counselor Association Conference:



The Sheboygan Falls Middle School Counselors are members of the Wisconsin School Counselor Association and had the opportunity to attend the annual conference in November for professional development. Throughout the conference, Mrs. Renzelmann and Mrs. Lorge participated in many informative sectionals that extensively covered topics related to student success, mental health, behavioral supports, and Academic Career Planning. They are looking forward to sharing and implementing what they have learned into our School Counseling Program.



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ACP Updates:

The State of Wisconsin requires the Department of Public Instruction to ensure that all students in grades 6-12 receive Academic Career Planning (ACP) education and services. Please visit the [Wisconsin DPI website](#) to learn more. In order to meet state requirements, Sheboygan Falls Middle School will be requiring all students in grades 5-8 to complete all of their Academic Career Planning requirements before transitioning to the High School. More information regarding ACP requirements will be shared with families soon!

- **5th Grade Students** completed their first ACP lesson through Xello during November's School Counseling Class. The lesson focused on the importance of lifelong learning and how it impacts their future success. Students also explored potential careers and discovered how perseverance can help them achieve their future goals.

During the month of October & November, 6th-8th grade students began to do their ACP Lessons in Xello during Focus class.

- **6th grade students** focused on learning more about their own interests related to careers. Students also explored the importance of making responsible decisions for themselves & their future.
- **7th grade students** were able to explore different pathways they can take related to careers of interest. Students also learned about their own biases and how those can influence career choices.
- **8th grade students** evaluated their skills and how they relate to different careers. Students also began to prepare for their 8th grade TEAM Talk conferences and their transition to High School.

Xello is a tool to guide students through the Academic Career Planning process. See the video below for more information regarding Xello.

[Xello Website and Video](#)



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ACP Updates Cont'd:

*****8th Grade Students & parents** have also been invited to attend their **Eighth Grade TEAM Talk Conferences** with a focus on Individual Academic Career Planning. During the months of November and December, Mrs. Lorge will be meeting with each eighth grade student to discuss their transition to High School and individual ACP Goals. Parents have been invited (via a [letter sent home](#) and an Infinite Campus Blast) to attend their child's 8th Grade TEAM Talk to discuss and preview their transition to high school. Parents are encouraged to attend. Reach out to Mrs. Lorge if you have any questions or would like more information regarding the Eighth Grade TEAM Talks.

Parent & Community Resources:

- Winter Wear- If parents need assistance in providing winter wear for their child(ren), please reach out to your child's School Counselor.
- Differentiating and Understanding Unkind Behavior- [Information](#) shared with students during National Bully Prevention Month

What's Next?

During the months of November and December Mrs. Lorge and Mrs. Renzelmann will continue their drop in classes with a focus on soft skills, diversity, and ACP. The Safe Harbor visit and lesson on healthy relationships, abuse, and harassment has also been rescheduled for 8th grade students on Friday December 1st.

We wish all of our students and families happy holidays and a great new year!



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