

### Family Involvement:

Help your child to be successful in school and in life...

- Make school important
- Encourage your child to do their best
- Attend school programs
- Read school communication
- Get to know your child's teachers and school counselor
- Contact your child's school counselor with any questions or concerns about your child
- Support your child in school activities
- Encourage reading and writing
- Talk openly and frequently with your child
- Help your child to develop career awareness
- Celebrate your child's successes

Contact your child's school counselor if you have questions or concerns about:

- Your child's academic progress
- Your child's social, behavioral, and/or emotional adjustment
- Identifying or sharing your child's needs
- Coordinating communication with your child's teachers
- School and community resources available for your child

### Family Review of Materials

Families may review materials to be used in any school counseling program by contacting the school counselor. Families who object to the participation of their child in the personal/social counseling program must notify the school principal in writing if the child is not to participate in any counseling program.

Visit Middle School web pages and the School Counseling website at:

[www.k12albemarle.org](http://www.k12albemarle.org)

For additional information contact:

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# Middle School Counseling Program

**The mission of the School Counselor is to provide a comprehensive developmental school counseling program that assists all students in acquiring skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to become effective students, responsible citizens, productive workers, and lifelong learners.**

**Middle School Counselors** work with students in acquiring competencies that form the foundation for their next steps educationally and occupationally. They assist students to develop education and career plans based on a clear understanding of themselves, their needs, interests, skills, and the possibilities of the worlds of education and work.

**The Middle School Counseling Program** is an integral part of the total educational process and the shared responsibility of the entire school community. The professional School Counselor collaborates with other school professionals in helping students learn. A successful program requires the support and participation of all school personnel, families, outside agencies, and the community at large.

## **The Standards of Learning**

The Virginia Board of Education, in January 2004, implemented state Standards of Learning for School Counseling Programs. These standards are consistent with Board of Education regulations and are composed of three domains: academic, career, and personal/social.

### **Academic Development**

Students will develop an understanding of their educational needs and expectations of the educational environment related to their abilities, interests, talents, values and career goals.

### **Career Development**

Students will understand concepts of job and career, skills for success in the workplace, decision making, goal setting, identifying interests, and exploring careers.

### **Personal/Social Development**

Students will increase their knowledge of self, and learn appropriate modes of interaction and communication within school, home and community.

**Standards of Learning for School Counseling Programs** provide a proactive, prevention-based program that encourages and promotes academic, career, and personal/social development in preparation for the challenges of the 21st century.

## **School Counseling Curriculum**

School Counselors provide collaborative lessons within the classroom. Counselors assist with orientation to middle school, graduation requirements, post secondary planning, career planning, workplace readiness skills, and personal/social issues.

## **Individual Student Planning**

Counselors work one-on-one to help all students plan, monitor, and manage their own learning, as well as meet competencies in areas of academic, career, and personal/social development.

## **Responsive Services**

Counselors provide support to meet immediate needs and concerns of individual students. Students and families are referred to appropriate community resources when needed.

## **System Support**

School counselors consult, collaborate, team, and partner with stakeholders to provide professional support for the entire school community.