



Educational Support Services and Programs.

K-12 Guidance Program

Four certified guidance counselors are employed at the elementary, middle school, and high school. The guidance departments in each of the district's buildings provides students with counseling services, developmental guidance, and college/career choice information. The counselors also provide informative sessions throughout the school year (orientations, college information night, financial aid workshops, etc.) The guidance counselors also administer the district's assessment program (InView, Terra Nova, PSSA, PSAT, Ability/Career Assessment) and, in conjunction with the teaching staff, the EdPerformance Series of Assessments.

Instructional Support

The district has both an elementary Instructional Support Team (IST) and a middle school Educational Support Team (EST) to help in the identification, referral, and remediation of students who are academically at risk. High school students are provided with the opportunity to receive additional assistance in academics during a tutorial period scheduled two days per week at the end of the instructional day. Students who do not experience success through the support that these team provide may be referred for further testing to determine eligibility for special education.

Student Assistance Program

SAP and ESAP (elementary student assistance program) teams exist in each of the district's buildings. Comprised of administrators, counselors, school nurses, and teachers, the SAP/ESAP teams help identify students who have behavioral concerns or who are academically at risk and help in the referral process to county and/or private specialists.

At all levels, the Student Assistance Program provides consultative and referral services to students and parents. A multi-disciplinary approach is used, involving a coordinated effort of administrators, teachers, nurses, counselors, mental health professionals, and community agencies. The team is the liaison responsible for communication with parents, data collection related to academic and behavioral aspects of student progress, and appropriate referral to school services or outside agencies when needed. In addition, the district's wellness plan addresses both preventive and referral services in conjunction with our partnership in a Regional Coordinated Health Council. (See attached supporting documentation--Wellness Plan.)

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is active in all three buildings (elementary, middle school and high school); therefore our SAP teams serve students in grades K-12. Students may be referred by teachers, school professionals and parents. Students can also ask for assistance directly. Following referral, information is collected from all professionals who work with the

student. The SAP team then confers regarding the needs that the students present. The team recruits additional specialists appropriate for the particular needs that are evident. The team formulates a plan and intervention strategies to support the student. The team also makes referrals to outside agencies and community support systems as appropriate.

Included in the purview of this team are issues related to emotional needs, alcohol, chemical, and/or tobacco abuse.

School Social Work Services

The district contracts with Intermediate Unit 8 to provide social work services to students in need of such support. The social worker conducts home visits and counseling services beyond the scope of the guidance counselors. Guidance counselors serve as liaisons to promote utilization of social work services for families in need. Counselors and social workers also work with Children & Youth Services, Juvenile Probation, CASSP, and various mental health providers.

School Psychological Services

School psychologists help students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. They collaborate with educators, parents, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments that strengthen connections between home, school, and the community for all students. Westmont Hilltop School District's school psychologist provides services to students in grades Kindergarten through grade 12 or age 21 as appropriate. The types of services school psychologists provide may include the following:

- **Assessment**
School psychologists administer psychological and educational tests to students who are experiencing learning, social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty. Testing is often conducted as part of a Multidisciplinary Evaluation to determine whether the student has a disability that requires special education services. Re-evaluations of students are also conducted as needed once the student is identified with a disability. School psychologists also conduct evaluations of students to determine whether they are mentally gifted and in need of accelerated or advanced educational programs.
- **Consultation**
School psychologists provide advice and recommendations to parents, teachers, and other school personnel regarding children's learning or behavior problems. They help others understand child development and mental health and how they affect learning and behavior.
- **Intervention**
School psychologists work as members of student support teams (for example, Instructional Support Teams) to develop interventions and programs for students who are experiencing learning and/or behavior concerns.

- **Counseling**

School psychologists may provide individual or small group counseling to students to teach them social skills or coping strategies. They may also work with families to help them gain a better understanding of their child's learning and emotional needs.

Title I Literacy & Math

The Title I Literacy program services students in Kindergarten through Grade 4. The Title I Math program is available for students in Grades 3 and 4. Currently, our reading specialists, Mrs. Skelley and Mrs. Shoff, operate the Title I Literacy program and Mrs. Buchkovich operates the Title I Math program. Title I services are also provided at all non-public schools. These services are available to students who qualify for additional instructional support. Students are selected to receive Title I services based upon multiple criteria, including various assessment results and teacher recommendation.

Parents are notified of their child's eligibility for Title I services. Moreover, these families have the opportunity to attend a Title I informational meeting. Topics discussed at this meeting include: the assessments used to qualify students, how the Title I program will be implemented, the PA academic standards, a review of curriculum, levels of proficiency at each grade level, available parent resources, the Parent Involvement Policy, and the Home-School Compact. Active parental involvement and communication is desired and welcomed.

Title I parents are also encouraged to become members of the Parent Advisory Council, which meets annually, to revise policies and suggest improvements to the entire Title I program. A Parent Resource Center is available to all Title I parents. It is located in the Guidance Suite of the elementary school.

Nursing and Health Services

The district provides nursing services to students in each of the three buildings of the district as well as the three parochial buildings (Cathedral Catholic, Our Mother of Sorrows, and St. Andrew). The district employs two full-time school nurses and one part-time nurse. The services provided are inclusive of general nursing, immunizations, maintenance of records, and grade-appropriate health screenings along with communication of all of the above. School nurses and school physicians will monitor development and conduct regular screenings. Services include annual vision screenings, height, weight, and body mass index for grades K-12, annual hearing screenings in grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11. Physical examinations for grades 1, 6, and 9, scoliosis screening for grades 1, 6, and 7, skilled nursing assessment, treatment, and medication, and maintenance of immunization and health records, and representation by school nurses on the District's Wellness Council.

K-12 English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language (ESL) services are provided by the district LEP students. The program includes a home language survey upon entry to the district, a program of instruction, and exit criteria. The district presently employs two part-time ESL instructors who service the needs of those students identified as ELLs.

Tutoring Services

Westmont Elementary School also conducts summer tutoring classes for those who are academically at risk. Students eligible for services are identified by multiple assessments and teacher recommendations.

Westmont Middle School offers tutoring services before school for any student in grades 5-8 with Middle School staff. In addition, an after school program is available four days a week.

Westmont High School offers tutoring after school two days a week with each individual teacher. Students can arrange for additional tutoring services by contacting the high school guidance office.

Educational Programs for Parents

The district provides a variety of educational programs for parents in the district. Examples of the programs offered are Title I, English as a Second Language, Special Education, College Information, and Financial Aid for Post-Secondary Schooling.

Crossroads Transitional Program

This drop-out prevention program for students in grades 7 – 12 follows a non-traditional schedule which enables students to accelerate credit completion and can be coupled the Career and Technical Programming for students who function best in a highly structured small group atmosphere.