

Mid-Year Reflections for New School Counselors

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So far this year...

- What are some of the key experiences you've had?
- What have you learned?
- What is the story of the year for you?
- Where have you spent your time?
- Have you developed a relationship with your teachers?
- Have you met with your administration team to share how your program can support the school's mission & vision?



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- What was your greatest SUCCESS during first semester?
- What was your greatest CHALLENGE during first semester?
- What is your greatest NEED as you enter second semester?
- What do you need to KEEP doing, START doing, and STOP doing this semester to reach your goals?

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

What can you do to enhance and promote your program as you move towards the end of the school year?

Opportunities



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DATA OPPORTUNITIES

- CCRPI
- School Climate Survey
- Testing Data...Georgia Milestones, PSAT, ITBS/COGAT
- 1st Semester Accountability Report

PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

- Newsletter Frequency
- Webpage on school's website
- Bulletin Board
- Sharing Calendar

Where are you with...



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Elementary

- Grade Level Cluster Activities
- 5th Grade Career Portfolio
- 2nd Semester Small Groups
- 5th Grade Transition
- Incoming Kindergarten Parents

Middle

- Move On When Ready (Feb. 1...sharing information with students and parents)
- Career Related Activities
- 2nd Semester Small Groups
- 8th Grade Transition
- Incoming 6th Grade Initiatives

High

- Move On When Ready (Feb. 1...sharing information with students and parents)
- Course Registration 16-17
- Incoming 9th Grade Initiatives
- Credit Recovery

All: Advisory Council

2016 National School Counselors Week

February 1-5

Celebrate

School

Counselors

National School Counseling Week: Feb. 1-5, 2016



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Celebrating Means Educating

- Sweet Treats: Provide something for the staff; include a thank you note for supporting school counselors.
- Display a bulletin board in a prominent place in the school that outlines all the services school counselors offer.
- Speak at a school staff meeting about the work you do with students. Share data.
- Board Presentation—So often school counselors wait to present at board meetings until they know that their job is on the line. Present during this week or month and make sure that you include results about how your program is making a positive difference and how that aligns with the district's mission.
- Visit ASCA's website to get scripts that can be read during morning announcements...use students to read announcements
- Counselor Spotlight on morning announcements...Have a student leader or yourself introduce you and tell a little about your interests.
- Wear a special shirt—you can have counselor shirts made and wear one day during week
- Visit ASCA's website to get certificates that you can give to staff members who support your counseling program
- And hopefully your school, especially your administration, will do something to show you how special and important you really are



Transitioning Students to the Next Level



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Elementary

• Kindergarten:

- Develop a flyer about what to expect for Kindergarten parents
- Visit PreK classes to read a story and do an activity
- Host a Summer Camp to provide students with a preview of what it is like to be in a school and typical activities that happen in a school

Middle

• Incoming 6th Graders:

- Tour of School (students & parents)
- Showcase your clubs & activities
- Counselor/Teacher Swap
- Parent Night: Add a twist and let a parent and a student speak about their experience
- Summer Camp (lockers can be a big deal)
- Shadow –a- Student

High

• Rising 9th Graders:

- Tour of School
- Showcase your clubs & activities
- Counselor/Teacher Swap
- Parent Night: Add a twist and let a parent and a student speak about their experience
- Summer Round Up

- Job Skills Seminar
- College Survival Skills

Graduates

April: The Month of Testing



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- Get you a good pair of comfortable shoes
- Treats for the Teacher
- Snacking for Success (Students)
- Breakfast Club
- Test Talks
- Core Curriculum Lesson...What to Expect When You're Testing
- Small Group on Test Anxiety
- Individual Sessions with students who are constantly absent or tardy to school to encourage being on time
- *ULTIMATELY, What can YOU do to make it a POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE at your school during the week of testing?*



We've "lay"ed out the schedule and given great tips. Now sit back and relax and enjoy some tasty chips.



You are one smart cookie!

Blow that test away!

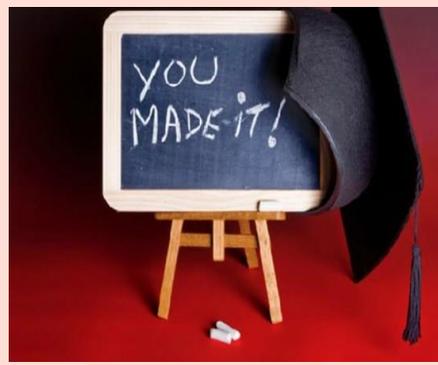
Kiss those testing jitters good-bye!

You're o"fish"ally done with testing!

Treasure Chest of Test Taking Tips

- A **treasure chest** or a **basket**
- A **pencil**– This reminds students to have a #2 pencil.
- A **clock**– This reminds students to use their time wisely.
- **Cake mix**– This reminds students to follow the directions.
- A **pillow**– This is to remind the students to get a good night's rest.
- **Glasses**– These remind the students to keep their eyes on their own papers or computer.
- **Checkers**– These remind the students to check over their work.
- **Cereal**– This reminds the students to eat a good breakfast.
- A **hanger**– This reminds the students not to give up – just "hang" in there!





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- You're almost in for the home stretch. Let's explore some loose ends you will have to tidy up:
- Needs Assessment or Program Evaluation
- Documentation
- Data: Share your report with your administrators. Begin discussing your vision for your program for next year.
- Plan for 2016-2017

February Webinars

February 10:
ALL Levels...
Understanding the
Counselor's Role in
Building School
Morale
2:00 PM

Feb. 17:
New Elem
Counselors...Using
Art in Your School
Counseling
Program
2:00 PM

Feb. 17: New
Middle School
Counselors...Acade
mic Achievement
Initiatives
11:00 AM

TO REGISTER:
Click on the blue hyperlink.

Feb. 24:
Middle School
Counselors...
Empower &
Inspire to Avoid
the Drama
11:00 AM

Feb. 24:
New High School
Counselors...
College Entrance
Exams Resources
for Your Students
2:00 PM

2016:

MAKE

things

Happen

Q & A