

Counselor's Corner

August 2018

- **Camp Joy Leadership Outing:** Ms. Weber accompanied Mr. Duty and the 8th grade class on a field trip to Camp Joy on August 20th. The students participated in a variety of team-building activities at the camp including a ropes course, zipline, and problem-solving challenges. It was a wonderful day for the students!
- **Suicide Prevention:** Ms. Weber provided suicide prevention training for all middle school students and teachers. The free curriculum provided by the Jason Foundation, Inc. included facts about suicide, warning signs, and ways to get help. This training is vital to students' social-emotional learning and is required annually by the state of Kentucky.
- **Edgenuity Online Courses:** Ms. Weber has worked with professionals at the Edgenuity company to enroll select Southgate students in online learning courses. Ten 8th grade students were chosen to pilot courses in Spanish 1 and Algebra 1. With Ms. Weber's assistance, the students have recently begun their courses in the afternoon during their elective time. Updates to follow!
- **High School Visits:** Ms. Weber is working with staff at Highlands, Bellevue, and Newport to schedule informational sessions with our 8th grade students. Our goal is to schedule counselors and/or principals from each of the schools to visit during the month of September. After these informational sessions, we hope to take the students on campus of the respective schools to aid in their high school planning. Staff from Highlands are scheduled to visit Southgate on Friday, September 14.
- **MAP Testing:** Ms. Weber again provided the green goal cards for each student for the first round of MAP testing. She also assisted in the computer lab as needed to oversee testing sessions.
- **School-based Therapy:** Ms. Weber has collaborated with DCCH to hire a school-based therapist for the 2018-2019 school year. Ms. Tawny Turner comes to Southgate on Thursdays to provide more intensive counseling services for select students. Ms. Weber and Ms. Turner have worked together to begin building the therapy caseload. DCCH and Ms. Turner bill their services directly through Medicaid or private insurance so that services can be provided for Southgate students at school free of charge.
- **Kindergarten Classroom Guidance:** Ms. Weber is providing classroom guidance to all kindergarten students twice per week as part of their specials class rotation. Ms. Weber is using the Second Step curriculum for these classes. The students are currently learning about attending skills (eyes watching, ears listening, voice quiet, body calm). Ms. Weber is also incorporating calming techniques into these weekly sessions. The students have learned how to "sit still like a frog" and how to calm their bodies through "shark breathing." They are making progress every day!