

Counselor's Corner

December 2023

Ms. Jennifer Weber

- **Winter MAP Testing:** The second round of MAP testing began this week and will continue through Friday. The schedule was reorganized some this year to allow for all students to test in their own classrooms in the morning. We will see how a revised testing schedule affects the students' scores. Ms. Weber helped the teachers set goals for their students for this round of testing by accessing the goal setting worksheet for each student and sharing the suggested growth numbers prior to the test. After the classes have completed the winter test, Mr. Duty, Mrs. Hansman, and Ms. Weber will meet with each student individually to go over his/her KSA scores from last year and set goals for the spring state test that align with the projected proficiency report from MAP.
- **Mental Health Opportunities for Students:** Ms. Weber has collaborated with Coach A to provide two mental health opportunities for students in the coming months. First, a therapy dog (Koda) will be at Southgate on Tuesday, December 19th to visit each class and spend time with select small groups of students. Secondly, we have scheduled a presentation with Brandon Saho, former sports broadcaster and host of the podcast "The Mental Game," to visit our 4th-8th grade students to talk about his mental health journey. Mr. Saho is an inspiring individual whose experiences are relatable for anyone who has faced emotional challenges. We are excited to bring Brandon to Southgate to encourage our students to talk openly about their feelings and seek help when they need it. Mr. Saho will host a question/answer session following the presentation, and he will gift every student with one of his patented "Therapy is Cool" t-shirts. These should be two fun events for our students!
- **Staff Crisis Training:** At the professional development day on January 3, Ms. Weber and Mrs. Watson will host crisis intervention training for all Southgate staff. Ms. Weber will present the de-escalation strategies, and Ms. Watson will instruct the staff on the physical holds. This training provides crisis prevention certification for every staff member which will ensure that we are properly equipped to safely deal with crisis situations when they arise at school.