

Counselor's Corner
February 2024
Ms. Jennifer Weber

- **High School Transition Update:** After visiting Highlands last Friday, we had four students express an interest in applying. Ms. Weber has been working on completing their application packets this week and gathering recommendation letters for each student. Mr. Duty will submit our students' packets this Friday, so that they may be involved in all of the freshman orientation and scheduling activities if they are accepted for the 2024-2025 school year. The date for the Newport High School visit has been finalized for February 27th. Mr. Duty, Mrs. Hansman, and Ms. Weber also attended a meeting with the Bellevue administrative team to discuss the progress of former Southgate students who are now attending Bellevue High School. This meeting helped us join the two school teams to ensure that our students' needs are being met and that they are thriving at the next level. Once a lion, always a lion 😊
- **Mental Health/Trauma-Informed Grant Updates:** Ms. Weber attended the monthly grant steering committee meeting at NKCES last week. Southgate has done an excellent job fulfilling the requirements of the grants and using the funds to provide wrap-around mental health services for our students. Because of the grant monies, we have been able to hire Mr. Ray, our full-time school based therapist, who provides individual therapy, group therapy, and behavior supports to our students during the school day at no cost to our families. We have also used the grant funds to purchase mental health resources and to provide social-emotional learning opportunities for our students like the visit from television personality Brandon Saho last month. Working with NKCES and participating in the grant partnerships has allowed us to “make a good thing better” by increasing the number of students and families we can reach and offer additional supports. Addressing mental health needs leads to increased academic achievement, decreased behavior problems, and a more positive school culture overall.
- **Portrait of a Learner:** Ms. Weber, Mrs. Hansman, Mr. Duty, and Mrs. Landrum attended an informational session led by Kentucky's Next Generation Learning Committee to begin creating our own profile of the “Portrait of a Southgate Scholar.” In the coming months, this team will join the middle school teachers to determine the qualities essential to a Southgate Scholar and to develop ideas for presenting the portrait to our school community.