

Counselor's Corner

Ms. Jennifer Weber

May 2024

- **KSA Testing:** State testing season is officially upon us! The students in grades 3-8 test this week and will also enjoy a variety of activities to help encourage their efforts and recognize their past success. Ms. Weber took a group of students who achieved all proficient/distinguished (or distinguished and no novices) to Jimmie's Roller Dome to enjoy a morning of roller skating last Friday. We also accompanied the entire 7th/8th grade classes to a movie at Regal Cinemas on Tuesday to celebrate their blue status on state testing last year. Mr. Duty hosted a KSA pep rally to build up the students' excitement before the first day of testing, and the classroom teachers and administrative team met individually with each student to set goals and talk about test-taking strategies. We feel confident going in to the assessment window, and we have worked hard to infuse a little FUN into what can be a grueling week for the kids.
- **8th Grade Transition:** We have received word from the local high schools, and we are happy to report that all our 8th graders have a high school home for next year! Some of the students are still deciding between two schools, but everyone has at least one school of acceptance. Ms. Weber will work with the counselors and enrollment staff at each high school to help the families complete the registration, select the students' schedules, and make connections to be part of the schools' summer sports and activities. We are so proud of our graduating class.
- **SBMH/TISS Grant Updates:** Ms. Weber and Mrs. Hansman met with the grant coordinators from the co-op and our finance director to send invoices for the funds we have spent thus far this year. We also met with Mr. Ray (our grant mental health therapist) to discuss summer learning opportunities for him and for our staff. We hope to purchase a new SEL curriculum for our middle school classes that will coordinate with our "Portrait of a Southgate Scholar" initiative, and we have explored other mental health resources that we want to purchase for the students for 2024-2025. More updates will be forthcoming in the summer months.

