

**Counselor's Corner**  
Ms. Jennifer Weber  
July 2024

- **Summer Professional Learning:** Ms. Weber, Mrs. Melville, and Coach A will attend the Kagan Social-Emotional Learning workshop on July 29-30. This workshop is designed to teach educators strategies that promote empathy and relationship skills, improve the classroom climate, and reduce bullying and disruptive behavior. Kagan learning techniques are easy to implement and can be shared with the entire staff. Mr. Carrier also attended the Kentucky Behavior Institute Conference in Lexington on July 15-16. We are excited for him to share his learning with us at the start of the school year as well.
- **Social-Emotional Curriculum:** Ms. Weber has explored resources to use with our middle school students next year to teach SEL skills and complement the “Portrait of a Southgate Scholar” profile we are currently working to develop. One program called *Imago* offers an online platform that includes video-based lessons and embedded classroom activities that teach students “soft skills” like empathy, communication, and problem-solving. *Imago* is also research-based and could be purchased with our Trauma-Informed grant funds. Ms. Weber has requested a demo of the program and plans to share it with the leadership team and middle school staff to see if it might be a good fit for our needs.
- **Grant expenditures:** Ms. Weber and Mrs. Hansman have continued to collaborate with the staff to purchase items with our SBMH and TISS grant funds. This month, we placed an additional order for SEL items for our preschool classes and our special education department. We also received confirmation that we can pay to bring therapy dogs/animals into the school building throughout the year. Ms. Weber will communicate with local animal therapy providers to gather more information about costs and options. You may see some new furry faces in our halls this fall!

