

Counselor's Corner

Ms. Jennifer Weber

September 2024

- **MAP Testing/Terrace Metrics:** MAP testing began this week for all students. All the homeroom and special education teachers are using the MAP online platform to organize and run their own testing sessions. Training the teachers to set up their testing sessions has allowed more flexibility in testing schedules, makeup tests, and providing testing accommodations for students. Ms. Weber has been extremely proud of how well the teachers have transitioned to proctoring the tests themselves, and she has continued to provide troubleshooting help and support as needed. In addition to MAP, we will administer the Terrace Metrics Risk and Resiliency Screener to all students in grades 3-8 beginning the last week of September. This assessment helps us flag students who are struggling with social/emotional issues and to arrange additional mental health services for students in need.
- **CPI Training:** Ms. Weber and Mrs. Watson will attend the Crisis Prevention Institute training in Lexington, KY, September 17-19. This training will certify us to train the Southgate crisis team to intervene with at-risk students who need verbal de-escalation, crisis management, and (in rare cases) physical restraint. Prior to the in-person training next week, Ms. Weber and Mrs. Watson will also complete an additional 3-hour online training module. These skills are imperative for our staff, so we can provide safe, compassionate care to our students in crisis.
- **Mental Health Team:** Our mental health team is growing! Because of the SBMH and TISS grants, we now have a comprehensive team of mental health professionals who bring unique expertise and skill sets to our school. The members of our team include Ms. Weber (school counselor), Mrs. Melville (elementary behavior specialist), Mrs. Lisa (preschool behavior specialist), Mr. Ray (LPCC, mental health professional), Ms. Emily (CSW, school-based therapist), and two school counseling interns, Ms. Adamson and Mr. Ryan Rankine. Our first ever mental health team meeting took place on September 6, where we shared concerns and discussed strategies to help our students. Ms. Weber is proud to guide this group of caring individuals to ensure that each student is matched with the team member who best fits his/her needs. We will be collecting student data throughout the year that can assess the overall impact of the mental health team, and we will share this data with all stakeholders.

