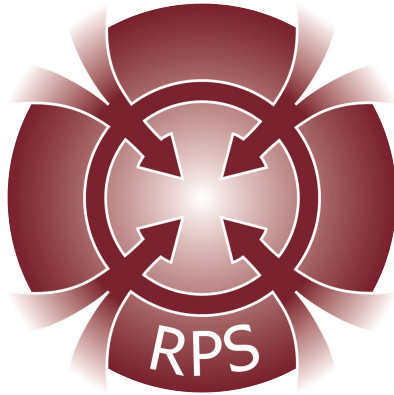


# Ridgewood Public Schools Elementary Guidance Update



Year Two Update  
Ridgewood Public Schools  
April 12, 2021

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# Why elementary counselors?

The elementary school years set the foundation for developing the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for children to become healthy, competent and confident learners. Elementary school counselors have an impact on these years by implementing a school counseling program and collaborating with school staff, parents and the community to create a safe and respectful learning environment. By providing education, prevention, early identification and intervention, elementary school counselors help their students achieve academic success and develop social-emotional skills in response to issues they face.

*The American School Counselor Association, 2019*



# The 2020-21 School Year

- Second year of elementary guidance counselors at RPS (3 between 6 schools)
- Provided school counseling services
- Coordinated I&RS and 504 committees
- Created virtual events for school community building
- Implemented classroom lessons



# K-12 Initiatives

## School Based Mental Health

- Our 3 elementary counselors shared between 6 schools are part of the K-12 Multi-tiered School Based Mental Health Model
- Support for parents and families
- Developmental guidance for parenting elementary aged students
- Connection for outside or crisis supports



# Supporting Students, Teachers & Parents

- Students

- Peer education, leadership opportunities, academic support, school avoidance, general anxiety, behavioral management, social-emotional support

- Parents

- Parenting support, interpretation of assessment information, coordinate outside referrals and insurance navigation, coordination between teacher/parent for I&RS, 504 cases

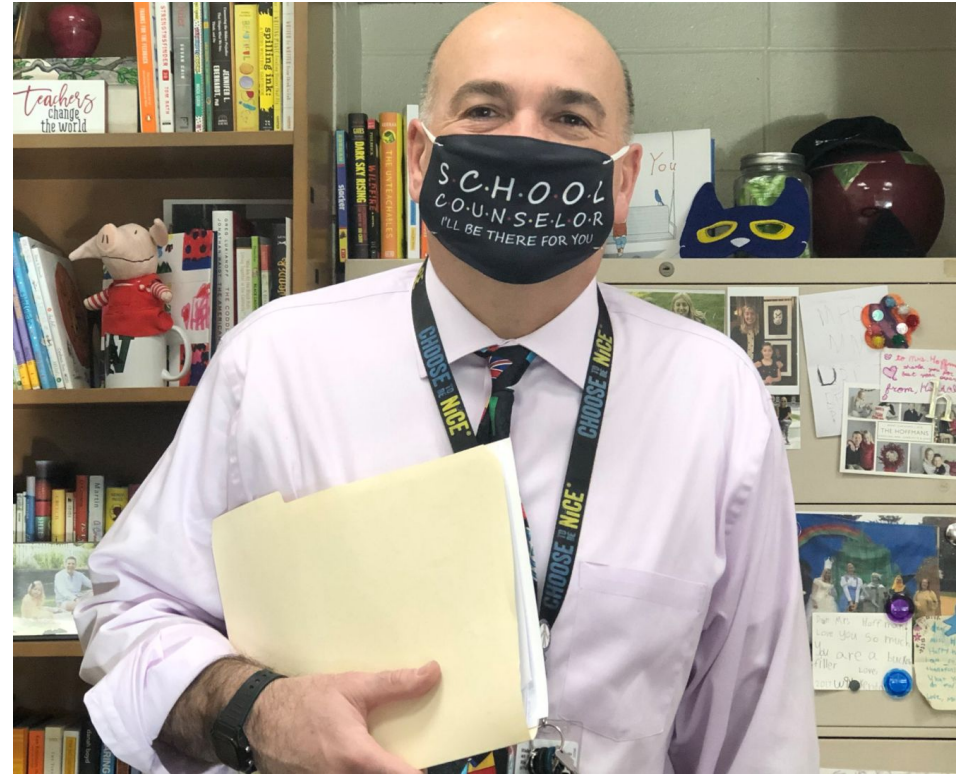
- Teachers

- At-risk student identification and intervention, classroom lessons, behavioral management, social-emotional groups



# By The Numbers...A Year in Review

- I&RS & 504 Services (340)
- Parent/Family (322)
- Student Supports (435)



# Long Term Planning

## *A Comprehensive K-5 Vision*

- Support the transition of students back full-time in Fall 2021 to meet the specific needs of each building
- Create and implement a comprehensive K-5 social-emotional learning program
- Enhance school culture and climate to reflect diversity, equity and inclusion
- Continue to develop social skills supports for lunch & recess
- Offer tiered supports and interventions for all students (Tier 1, 2, 3)
- Provide consistent, daily support for students in crisis and/or at-risk students
- Support teachers with students who are struggling socially, emotionally and/or academically
- Continue to teach students about identifying and regulating their emotions
- Lower caseload to be more in line with the ASCA recommended ratio (current ratio 786:1; state average 425: 1; recommended ratio 250:1)
- Establish an online counseling platform to share resources and provide a point of contact for parents
- Streamline I&RS and 504 procedures across the district for K-5

“School counselors are the first line of support for students. Students can’t achieve academically when they can’t cope with social and emotional problems. School counselors can help guide students in their journey through childhood and adolescence.”

~ *Richard Wong, Executive Director  
American School Counselors Association*

