

Hello Parents,

My name is Christi O'Neil. I am the counselor at Columbia Middle School. I want to introduce myself to you and provide an overview of the services offered to your child. Each service is aimed at helping children develop academically, socially, and emotionally. My goal is to ensure that you and your child have a successful school year.

If you have any questions or wish to see me about your son or daughter, please contact me in one of the following ways.

Phone-592-2181

Email-OneilC@myeagles.org

Office Hours- 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Attached is a copy of my disclosure statement. This will highlight the services offered within the school counseling program.

The counseling program at Columbia Middle School is designed to assist your child make the most of his or her educational experiences. As your child's counselor, I am concerned about his or her emotional well being, academic progress, and personal and social development.

My master's degree in School Counseling was completed in December of 2005. I will be graduating from Eastern Michigan University. My graduate program is accredited by the American Counseling Association's Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP), the nationally recognized accrediting agency for counseling graduate programs. I am a certified school counselor by the state of Michigan. In addition to my graduate degree, in 1998 I graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in the areas of secondary health and history.

Before beginning my position as a counselor at Columbia Middle School, I have held several positions within the school district. I was a teacher at Columbia Options High School in 1999-2001. In the 2001-2002 school year I transferred to the High School where I taught Health and Senior Transitions. Throughout the first several years of my employment at Columbia Schools I served on many committees. I am the Safe and Drug Free School Coordinator and have also coached cheerleading and softball among many other commitments.

In September of 2005, I began my current position as the middle school counselor. In addition to my counseling roles and responsibilities, I lead other school activities for kids. I am the Builders Club advisor, coach the after school Girl Quest program, and run the after school game club. Working with students in our district has always been fulfilling.

The counseling program offers the following specific activities:

***Individual counseling-**Students are encouraged to use the counseling office for any academic, emotional, or social needs. Please note, this is short term counseling. In some cases, long term or external counseling is recommended to parents.

***Group counseling-**Academic support/study skills, divorce or changing families, anger management, friendship issues, grief support, etc. are some of the topics we cover during groups.

***Grade level guidance activities-**

6th grade- Friendship groups, bullying and sexual harassment education.

7th grade- Girl Quest, creating an educational development plan on Career Cruising.

8th grade-Career awareness, continuation of the educational development plans on Career Cruising, preparation for high school scheduling.

*Periodic classroom guidance lessons related to positive personal growth and development.

***After school activities sponsored by the counseling program that include-**

Girls Quest- A 10 week program for seventh and eighth grade girls that uses physical activity and fun invigorating exercise to teach specific, well defined social and personal skills.]

After School Game Club- See the parent letter in the downloadable documents section for more information. Students in any grade level can join at any time throughout the school year. The club meets on Thursdays after school.

Reasons that I might contact parents regarding their children include, but are not limited to, the following:

*Assistance is needed from parents in specific areas to help their children achieve success in school.

*Child may indicate depressive behaviors such as harming oneself or suicide.

*Child may indicate a desire to harm someone else.

*Referral is needed for your child to obtain long term counseling or other services not provided by the school.

Confidentiality is honored for all students except for the reasons listed above.

Unfortunately, I am not able to provide the following services to your child or to parents:

*Testifying in court in child-custody matters.

*Providing intensive *long-term* counseling services when they are needed by a child.

Your child will be participating in the school counseling program on a regular basis. In the event you have questions about the counseling program, please call me at 517-592-2181. I sincerely look forward to working with you in the coming year to help your child have a successful experience in our school.

Sincerely,

Christi O'Neil
School Counseling Department
Columbia Middle School