

J. F. Drake Middle School

School Counseling Program



**Joanne Smith &
Adam Keel,
Counselors**

DEAR PARENTS

We are all ready to continue a great year at Drake Middle this year! We are so pleased to have you and your child(ren) as a part of our super teams. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and explain the many services offered by me at DMS.

As a school counselor, we are here to assist all students in having a positive and productive experience at school. This brochure will acquaint you with the variety of services offered by the counseling program. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with this very important component of your student's school experience. Feel free to contact us by email (preferred) or by phone! We look forward to working with you and your student!

Sincerely,
Joanne Smith and Adam Keel
School Counselors
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awkeel@auburnschools.org

CLOSING THOUGHTS

We are excited to be a part of the DMS family, and we are so eager to be working with you and your student. We stress the importance of information concerning your child to be kept confidential (unless there is danger or possible danger involved). Also, we ask you share with us any items that can help us serve your student as best we can! Whether it be to share exciting news or just for an adult to listen to them, we hope we see your student this coming

Drake Middle School

Joanne Smith

(Leopards & Panthers)

Adam Keel

(Cosmic Cats, Pumas, & Tigers)

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FAQs

WHY DO KIDS NEED SCHOOL COUNSELING?

- Children learn best when they feel good about themselves and their relationships with others.
- Children who understand their feelings are better able to control their behavior.
- We know that stress can affect focus and learning, but its impact can be reduced with proven self-regulation strategies.
- Schools, parents, and communities that communicate and collaborate provide the most effective support to children.
- Attitudes formed during elementary school shape future attitudes towards learning, self, and society.

WHAT DO MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELORS DO?

During the middle school grades, counselors' concerns shift to the changing needs of the young adolescent. Middle school counselors focus on helping students to establish, identify, and balance academic, career, and personal/social goals. Efforts begun in elementary schools are continued and expanded, although an emphasis is placed on the transition into high school.

In addition, middle school counselors help students integrate knowledge of their interests, aptitude, and academic skills into the formation of a high school four-year educational plan and educational/career planning portfolio for high school and beyond.

WHAT KINDS OF COUNSELING SERVICES DO YOU PROVIDE?

- Classroom guidance lessons
- Individual counseling
- Small group counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Consultation with parents & teachers
- Coordination with outside agencies & therapists
- Referrals for community services

HOW ARE YOU DIFFERENT FROM A THERAPIST AT AN OUTSIDE AGENCY?

Although we do often help with family problems and behavior, my primary role is to deal with school-related problems. At times, an issue is better handled more intensively in a therapeutic setting, and with greater direct parental involvement. Contact me for more information and potential resources.