

## School Counselors' Philosophy Statement

The School Counseling Program at Central Kitsap High School (CKHS) will promote and enhance the learning process for all students. As school counselors, we focus on the relations and interactions between students and their school environment with the expressed purpose of reducing the effect of environmental and institutional barriers that impede student academic success. CKHS fosters conditions that ensure educational equity, access, and academic success for all students.

**Statement of Purpose:** We believe that school counselors are ideally positioned in schools to serve as advocates who create opportunities for all students to define, nurture, and accomplish high academic aspirations. The purpose of the School Counseling Program is to impact specific skills and learning opportunities in a proactive and preventative manner which ensures students can achieve school success through academic, career, and personal development experiences. School counselors assist students in their academic, social, emotional, and personal development and help them to define the best pathways to successfully achieve their dreams. School counselors serve as leaders as well as effective team members working with teachers, administrators, and other school personnel to make sure each student succeeds. School counselors empower families to act on behalf of their students by helping parents/guardians identify student needs and shared interests as well as access available resources.

**Academic Development:** The academic standards serve as a guide for CKHS's Counseling Program to implement strategies and activities that support and maximize student learning.

- Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school across their life span.
- Students will complete school with the academic preparation essential to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options, including, but not limited to, college, vocational/trade school, internships, apprenticeships, or military enlistment/appointment.
- Students will understand the relationship of academics to the world of work and to life at home in the community.

**Career Development:** Program standards for career development serve as a guide for CKHS's Counseling Program to provide the foundation for acquiring the skills, attitudes, and knowledge that enable students to make a successful transition from school to the world of work.

- Students will acquire the skills to investigate the world of work in relation to knowledge of self and to make informed career decisions.
- Students will employ strategies to achieve future career success and satisfaction
- Students will understand the relationship between personal qualities, education and training, and the world of work.

**Personal/Social Development:** Program standards for personal/social development serve as a guide for our School Counseling Program to provide the foundation for personal and social growth, which contributes to academic and career success.

- Students will acquire the attitudes, knowledge, and interpersonal skills to help them understand and respect self and others.
- Students will make decisions, set goals, and take necessary action to achieve goals.
- Students will understand safety and survival skills.

The achievement of these standards requires a concentration on issues, strategies, and interventions that will assist in closing the achievement gap between students for whom schools have been the least successful and their more advantaged peers. Measurable success resulting from these efforts will be documented by increased numbers of these students, as well as other students, completing school academically prepared to choose from a wide range of substantial post-secondary options.