

Laurel Springs Guidance Department

September 2020

Welcome Back Laurel Springs Students and Families!

My name is Julie Knipfer and I am so excited to start my thirteenth year as the school counselor at Laurel Springs School. However, all those years could not have prepared me for the new experience that the 2020-21 school year has brought upon all of us. Regardless, I know that even under these circumstances we will work together to meet the educational and emotional needs of all of your children.

The goal of the counseling department is to provide support in a variety of ways, including classroom guidance lessons, individual, and small group support. As all of our students are using different educational platforms, I wanted to make all of you aware of how to utilize the counseling services available at Laurel Springs.

Classroom guidance lessons will be provided both during hybrid sessions at school and on-line for remote learning. There are many available resources provided on-line for social-emotional learning. You can access the link to the virtual classroom at the following website:

<https://www.laurelspringschool.org/parents/parent-resources/> . Make sure you scroll down to Guidance Resources and look at available rooms in the Counselor Corner section. I will also be updating the virtual classrooms throughout the year to provide various resources that could be used with your children to meet their social and emotional needs, so continue to check in often to see what has been added.

Often parents have asked me what individual and group counseling services are provided at school. The short answer is that my goal is to ensure that each of our students are successful both socially and academically. Therefore, sessions will vary based on the needs of your child/children. Some examples of areas that I can support your child would be with self-esteem, social skills, emotional regulation, or organizational skills. With your children spending a lot of time learning at home this year, you may be the first resource to alert your child's teacher or myself that your child is struggling. I want you to know that we are here to help.

Teachers and/or parents can recommend that a child be seen for counseling sessions. If sessions are teacher recommended, parent permission would be required before any sessions would start. Due to the current circumstances, most sessions will be provided individually and most would be provided via the Google Meet on-line platform depending on your child's school schedule. If you feel your child would benefit from counseling sessions, you can reach me at any time by filling out the google form located at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1s1MlowPyVrz_rmT4lQkk9FnJLR6j1Dk7vxqQGI3Po24XLw/viewform .

Hopefully this will provide you a brief overview of how counseling will be provided this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time. I am looking forward to a fantastic school year.

Sincerely,

Julie Knipfer -Laurel Springs School Counselor (856-783-1086)

