# Counselor's Corner



# Classroom Guidance Update

#### Meet Your Counselors

Amy Marshall usually works with Kindergarten and first grade. She loves spending the time with our youngest students. She has two children—her oldest starts at ABES this year! Cheri Elkins works mostly with students in grades 2 through 5. She plays the piano and has an adorable cat named Cheddar.

Just like the rest of the ABES staff, our job is to help your child get an excellent education. This includes great academics as well as social, emotional, and career skills. All of our lesson topics come from the input of parents, teachers, and students themselves.

# How can school counselors help my child?

Professional school counselors are certified and licensed educators who work to help students grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

This year, you can expect us to visit your student's classroom about every two weeks. We'll focus on healthy friendships, recognizing emotions, using kindness and empathy, making good decisions, positive work habits, and the world of work.

Along with classroom lessons, we lead small groups throughout the year on a variety of topics. When needed, we help connect families with information and resources in our community.

We also help students who are facing particular difficulties, like a changing family situation, an illness or death in the family, or an academic or social difficulty at school. Our goal is always to help kids grow to be their very best.



#### **Questions, Comments, or Concerns?**

Please feel free to contact school counselors Amy Marshall and Cheri Elkins by emailing amy.marshall@knoxschools.org or cheri.elkins@knoxschools.org or calling 689-1474.

We love talking to parents and families!

#### #highexpectations



### How can a school counselor help my child?

#### Academics

Just like all educators, our primary focus is to help your child become the best version of themselves. School counselors help kids succeed academically by teaching classroom and study skills that last a lifetime. We also work with kids and families to identify and remove barriers to learning. This year, expect to hear us talk a lot about hard work and high expectations!

#### Social/Emotional

School counselors are uniquely trained to help students develop socially and emotionally. This year, we'll be especially focused on kindness, feelings, empathy, and having and being a good friend. We teach many of these skills in classroom lessons, but we also work with small groups and individual students from time to time so all students feel confident and comfortable in their own skin.

#### Career

Think elementary kids don't need to know about career? Think again! It's never too early to learn about the world of work. For young children, we focus on career awareness, exploring lots of different types of jobs and education they may not even know exist! We also help each student learn his or her own interests and abilities and how these can lead to success later in life.

### **Resources for Families**



A professional organization for school counselors can help parents understand more about the role of the counselor and has great resources for helping children through common "ups and downs."

#### **Adrian Burnett PTSO**

Please join our PTSO! Parents, teachers, and students are the heart of our school. This wonderful promotes collaboration among all school stakeholders and works in a variety of ways to support student success.



The Family Resource Center assists schools and families by providing information, training, and other school and community resources. For more information, visit knoxschools.org and click on Family Resource Center (under Community).

#### Adrian Burnett Elementary School



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