

MSMS Counseling Dept



SEMESTER 1 RECAP



TIME FLIES!



Can you believe we've made it through the first semester?! I think we all underestimated some of the challenges that come with merging 2 buildings into one. Thankfully, our staff and our students are resilient and we're working through these challenges as best we can. Our staff is focused on "controlling the controllable," and here in the Counseling department- we say this mantra to our students often.

So what CAN you control?

- Preparing for class: Is your device CHARGED? Do you have a pencil/books?
- Using class time WISELY. Most teachers give you time in class to complete your work - use it!!
- Asking for help. Chances are that someone else has the same or similar question. Your teachers WANT to help you!
- Checking Skyward often.. Keep track of your grades and missing assignments so that you don't fall behind.

Let's work to have a successful 2nd Semester!!

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

In the fall, every grade had a classroom guidance lesson delivered by their grade level counselor. The topic? RESPECT.

Middle School is a time when students naturally become more autonomous. As a result, students may also begin to push more boundaries. Students are also learning about code switching: ie, being able to discern the behavior expectations depending on their environment. We know that our students all know what respect looks like- and now we'll be continuing to challenge them to demonstrate what they know.

MEET OUR NEW SOCIAL WORKER!



Hi, I'm Mrs. Brecht, the new School Social Worker at Moss Side Middle School!

Although I am new to Gateway, I am excited to be starting my 8th year as a school social worker. Before school social work, I worked as a child therapist and a high school special education teacher in Harlem. I love music! And I love meeting new people- so please stop by and introduce yourself to me in the counseling office. I am excited to meet everyone!

KINDNESS MONTH

Student Council has declared October "Kindness Month" for the last several years. This year, all students were invited to enter in a Kindness Art contest (winners to be announced). Also, Student Council members made & hung Kindness posters in the hallways & designed a google slideshow that was shown during lunch periods.

MSMS also celebrated Unity Day on Oct 22. Students & staff wore orange to show that Gateway Gators are united against bullying. In homerooms, students signed parts of the Unity Day pledge & received an orange bracelet to show their commitment to stand against bullying. Our Unity Chain is hanging in the cafeteria as a reminder of our pledge!

STAY CONNECTED:

There are lots of ways to reach us and to stay informed!

Rich Taylor: 412-373-5798

rtaylor@gatewayk12.org

Betty Howard: 412-373-5799

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Karen Brecht (SW): 412-457-0654

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*Check out our

[Counseling Department website](#) throughout the year to catch up on newsletters, request meetings, access resources, and to see what we're up to here at MSMS.

LOOKING AHEAD...

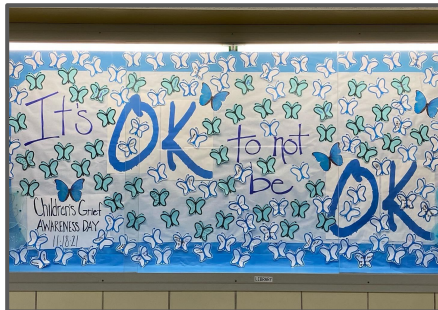


Career classroom lessons have already begun in January, and Counselors will continue to deliver these lessons during the 3rd quarter. Additionally, the department will partner with Forbes Rd CTC to share presentations about the programs available to Gateway students in high school. Stay tuned for more information!

Counselors and our Social Worker continue to meet with students individually and meet with students for groups as needed. Our doors are always open!



Unity Chain in cafeteria



CGAD Hall Display

"IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK"



Every November, we celebrate Children's Grief Awareness Day, an initiative by the Highmark Caring Place to recognize the impact of grief and loss on students. This year's theme was "It's OK not to be OK." To honor this day, students and staff were encouraged to wear blue. Also, students wrote the names of lost loved ones on paper hope butterflies, and these were displayed in the hallway. This was a powerful visual reminder of the loss experienced by our students (and staff), and a tribute to their resilience and strength.