

September 2021 Newsletter



School Counselors:

- **6th grade counselor:** Mrs. Crystal McFadden
- **7th grade counselor:** Mr. John Heiser
- **8th grade counselor:** Mrs. Kristen Martz

School Counseling Secretary/Registrar:

- Mrs. Patricia Arey

School Psychologist:

- Mrs. Mary Stuart Kempton

School Social Worker:

- Mrs. Siobhan McDaniel

Pupil Personnel Worker:

- Dr. Rodney Roundtree

School Counseling Mission Statement:

To provide age-appropriate counseling and activities that allows each student to achieve his/her full potential in all areas including academic, personal/social and career education while serving as advocates for our students and liaisons between teachers, parents and our community.

Attention 8th Grade Parents/Students:

Magnet Information Sessions/Application: SAVE THE DATES!

All 8th Grade students were mailed an information letter from the AACPS Magnet Office. Students and Parents should take time to learn about the five different Magnet Programs that AACPS offers: International Baccalaureate (IB), S.T.E.M, Bio Medical and Allied Health (BMAH), Performing Visual Arts (PVA), and Center of Applied Technology-South. Applications for these programs open October 11, 2021 at noon and November 22, 2021 at noon. Virtual events are planned for families by the Magnet Schools with possible additions as events unfold this fall. For more information, please visit the AACPS Magnet Website to explore specific Magnet Programs and their upcoming events: <https://www.acps.org/magnet>

8th Grade CAT-South (Career and Technology) OPEN HOUSE & Field Trip

***See FLYERS Attached for CAT-South OPEN HOUSE EVENT OCTOBER 6th from 6-8PM!!!!**

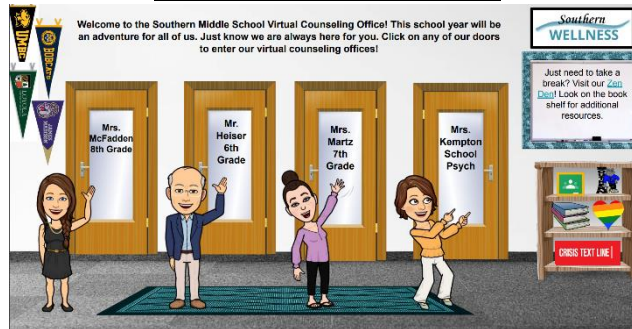
*We are excited to announce that our 8th grade is tentatively scheduled for our CAT-South Field Trip on November 16th! *More Info to come!*

1st MARKING PERIOD INTERIM REPORT: 10/11/21

Please continue to encourage your student to excel academically by completing all required assignments, maintain organization, attend class each day on time, utilize tutoring resources (FLEX Time & After School help days) and prepare for tests and quizzes. We, as you do, want your student to reach their goals and be successful!

*If you have any questions about a specific class, please *contact the teacher directly* as teachers are consistently updating grades.

Student Services Website:



- Our Student Services Team has several resources for Families and Students including our New [Student Services Tab](https://www.acps.org/Page/8609) on Southern Middle School Website: <https://www.acps.org/Page/8609>! If you have not done so already, please take some time to explore our Student Services Tabs which include “Family AND Parent Resources”, “Student Resources”, “Wellness Resources” as well as “Academic Support Resources”.
- Check out our [Southern Middle School Virtual Bitmoji Counseling Office](#) which can be found under the Student Services Website Tab. From our Virtual Counseling Office, you will be able to enter a staff members office and explore various resources! You will also have access to check-in with us as well! We would love to hear from YOU!

Student Advisory Block

During the **Student Advisory Block**, students are engaging in relationship building through Community Building Circles and our *Second Step* social-emotional learning curriculum. During *Second Step* this month, students are engaging in lessons designed to help them develop a growth mindset and apply goal-setting strategies to their lives.

****Ask your student to share with you what they are learning during Advisory which was designed to support social-emotional needs!**

The Children’s Guild: Counseling Services @ SMS

Southern Middle School has a School Based Mental Health Clinician through The Children’s Guild who is available to help children and their families address emotional and behavioral challenges. If you are interested in possibly receiving this service for **FREE**, please contact your child’s School Counselor for more information.