

What is a School Counselor?

Guidance counselors are state-certified professionals with a master's degree in counseling. Counselors continue their professional development by attending workshops and conferences on an ongoing basis.

The role of the guidance counselors is to help all students fully develop their academic, career, personal, and social abilities. The counselor is an educator who delivers a comprehensive guidance program in the school as recommended by the American School Counseling Association (ASCA).



The mission of Douglas Anderson's school counseling program is to support all students through a comprehensive and developmental approach by addressing the academic, career and personal/social skills necessary to achieve quality learning and lifelong success. This is accomplished through the counselors' delivery of guidance and counseling activities as well as through a collaborative effort between the home, school and community to further Douglas Anderson as the leading public arts high school in the nation.



Guidance Office Team

Kathy Mortensen, School Counselor
Department Chair
Last Names A—L

Vera Bussey, School Counselor
Last Names M—Z

Brenda White, School Counselor
Scholarships

Lashanta Holliday, Administrative Liaison

Gerry Freeman, Support Staff

Deloris Edwards, Support Staff

Guidance Department



*Guidance counselors point you
in the right direction.*

How Can a Student Contact the Counselor?

Self-referral by student

Teacher, administrator, or staff referral

Parent referral

Peer referral

Counselor observation

Counselors see students by appointment.
Come to the Guidance Office to schedule a
time.

Douglas Anderson School of the Arts
2445 San Diego Road
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904)346-5620 x191
www.da-arts.org

What Does a Guidance Counselor Do?

- Coordinates the development of a comprehensive guidance plan based on campus needs
- Teaches classroom guidance lessons to all students
- Counsels with students individually and/or in groups
- Assists students in crisis situations
- Helps to identify individual student needs
- Refers students and/or parents to services and agencies outside the school
- Conducts conferences with parents
- Links students with school and community resources
- Advises students on individual, school, college and career plans
- Coordinates with colleges and universities to provide information to students

Counselors adhere to strict ethical and legal standards in the performance of these duties.

What is a Guidance Program?

A Comprehensive Guidance Program

consists of **four** major areas.

Classroom Guidance—Counselors lead small and large group addressing basic life-long skills identified as essential for academic and personal success. These skills include responsible behavior, conflict resolution, goal setting, and career planning, among others.

Individual Planning—Counselors help students to select appropriate courses, plan for transitions (i.e., middle to high school), high school planning and provide to students and parents information on careers and post-secondary education and training.

Responsive Services—Counselors assist students with an immediate personal concern, a crisis, or a problem that may be affecting their achievement in school. The counselor may provide short-term individual sessions or in a small group with other students that face similar challenges.



System Support—The school system includes many programs designed to support students. Counselors assist in the referral process of students to appropriate support programs and services provided both within the school setting and to outside agencies.

System Support has two components:

1. Educating the staff about the Comprehensive Development Guidance and Counseling Program
2. Supporting the staff with professional development, consultation and assisting with community outreach.