

Rensselaer Central Middle School

Dear Advisory Council Members,

Thank you for volunteering to serve on RCMS' School Counseling Council! During the next few months, your input will be incredibly valuable as we design a comprehensive school counseling program that will help ALL students make sound choices in areas known to impact academic success, social-emotional health, and eventually, productivity in a global economy.

The members of our Council represent a variety of stakeholder groups with a broad spectrum of perspectives. The Council will participate in three discussions as outlined below. It is important that you participate in all three discussions listed below so your unique perspective is part of the discussion.

Date	Time	Location	Discussion Topic
March 22	3:30-5:00	RCMS	Program Goals
April 19	3:30-5:00	RCMS	Root Causes
May 3	3:30-5:00	RCMS	Delivery Models & Activities

Pre-Discussion Tasks

Prior to each discussion, we will send you an email with Pre-Discussion Tasks. In most cases, the tasks will involve watching a short video and reviewing student data. Our goal is for you to come to each meeting ready to engage in a meaningful data-driven discussion. Each pre-meeting task will take approximately 1-2 hours to complete. We understand that your time is valuable, and appreciate your engagement in this manner. We also believe that once you see the student data and understand our potential for helping our community's young people make better choices, you will want to spend time completing these tasks. Your first Pre-Meeting Task is described on the next page.

Redesigning School Counseling (RSC)

The planning process that we are using is called Redesigning School Counseling (RSC). RSC has helped hundreds of schools, districts, communities, and state agencies design award-winning school counseling programs. In addition to being data driven, RSC is known for significantly involving community stakeholder groups in the design and delivery of the school counseling program. RSC is a proven process. Independent research has shown that RSC schools have a statistically significantly higher percentage of students passing state tests. The video that you watch prior to each discussion will introduce the next step of the RSC process.

End Results

As a result of the School Counseling Council's work our students will participate in student guidance and counseling activities that will help ALL students make sound choices in areas that impact academic achievement, social-emotional health, and eventual productivity in a global economy.

We look forward to working together! Thank you again!

~ RCMS School Counseling Steering Team

THIS MONTH'S PRE-MEETING TASKS

Please complete the following tasks prior to attending our Program Goals discussion.

1	Watch	Council Video 1 – Intro / Goals https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIQNPMfBtQw&feature=youtu.be																				
2	Do	PROGRAM GOALS Student Choices - Summary Report TASKS: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. View the report – which is attached to the email you received.2. Either add notes digitally, on a copy you print, or make a set of notes that you bring to the meeting<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. * Star the choices that you do NOT believe all students should make at some point while enrolled at RCMS in order to raise student achievement.b. ○ Circle the data that concern you because too few students are making sound choices in those areas.																				
3	Do	PRIORITY GOALS Student Choices – Drill Down Report Go to: www.asainstitute.org/ccrs-public-data Step A: Select the most recent year (2017) Step B: Select your state and school name Step C: Click the icon next to the “Drill Down” reports that most interest you in the “Plans and Choices Column.” (There are several reports you can choose from including: Gender, Race & Ethnicity, Lunch Program Status, 21st Century Scholar, IEP Status, Parental College, and Typical Grades.) TASKS: A. Make a note of student groups who are making sound choices at a lower rate than their peers. B. Record data to back-up your beliefs. Example: “Only 17% of 7 th grade students indicated that they go to Homework Help, but 32% of 6 th grade students indicated they go to homework. I believe all students should attend Homework Help at the same rate.” <table><tr><th colspan="4">Did you participate in Homework Help this year?</th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Grade 6</th><th>Grade 7</th><th>Grade 8</th></tr><tr><td>Yes</td><td>32% (41/129)</td><td>17% (19/115)</td><td>25% (21/83)</td></tr><tr><td>No</td><td>67% (86/129)</td><td>77% (89/115)</td><td>48% (40/83)</td></tr><tr><td>Not Sure</td><td>2% (2/129)</td><td>6% (7/115)</td><td>27% (22/83)</td></tr></table>	Did you participate in Homework Help this year?					Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Yes	32% (41/129)	17% (19/115)	25% (21/83)	No	67% (86/129)	77% (89/115)	48% (40/83)	Not Sure	2% (2/129)	6% (7/115)	27% (22/83)
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Need help? If you need help with these tasks, please contact Lydia Albin at (724-713-2993) / Lydia.Albin@rcsc.k12.in.us

Next meeting: Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 22 at RCMS from 3:30 to 5:00

IMPORTANT: Please bring the Summary Data Report that has your stars and circles (or your notes) to the meeting.

Thank you again for agreeing to serve on our School Counseling Council!!