

Burlington Township School District
Secondary Counseling Department
Beliefs, Mission, and Vision

Our Beliefs...

We believe in meeting the ***personal/social needs*** of students by:

- Facilitating the development of critical time management skills for students
- Providing students opportunities to learn to effectively work cooperatively within a team
- Fostering work readiness skills, such as being on time, completing a task, face-to-face communication skills, appropriate Language, and general etiquette
- Fostering an understanding of how to set goals and develop plans to achieve goals
- Imparting the value of life-long learning
- Fostering resourcefulness and resilience
- Imparting coping skills
- Fostering initiative in students

We believe that a ***culture of mutual respect***:

- Can be promoted through guidance programs and services
- Can be developed through counselors skillfully facilitating meetings and conversations between teachers, students, parents, and administrators
- Is facilitated by developing and expressing high expectations for respect, and through adults modeling respect
- Can occur when students develop an understanding of balance in their life activities
- Is promoted through developing an understanding and acceptance of differences
- Is facilitated by effectively and efficiently addressing and preventing bullying, and educating the entire school community about the negative effects of bullying on students and the school climate

We believe in meeting the ***career preparation needs*** of students by:

- Providing exposure to career options and an understanding of the path necessary to enter a given career
- Providing opportunities for career exploration, such as career and interest inventories, job shadowing, and internships
- Assisting students to select courses based on career interests to prepare them for a given career or program of higher education
- Developing critical technological skills and aptitudes
- Making a direct connection between school experience and career preparation

We believe ***that engaging parents/guardians & community members:***

- Is our responsibility
- Requires counselors to build relationship with parents/guardians, students, and community members
- Is essential for the academic, career, and personal and social development of students
- Is accomplished by providing resources and support for parents/guardians to be meaningfully involved in their child's college and/or career planning process
- Can effectively occur through educating parents/guardians and actively soliciting feedback from them regarding guidance services and programs

We believe a ***developmentally appropriate school counseling program:***

- Prepares every student for life beyond high school
- Challenges and encourages the positive development of students
- Must be age and grade appropriate
- Addresses the social and emotional development of students at each of their developmental stages
- Assists students with developing coping strategies and problem-solving skills
- Provides developmentally appropriate career awareness and preparation
- Promotes good citizenship

We believe in meeting the ***academic needs of students*** by:

- Collaboratively developing a program which maximizes the student's academic abilities and capitalizes upon student's interests and passions
- Helping parents/guardians understand the school curriculum and actively engaging them in the development of programs for their children
- Setting high expectations for achievement
- Fostering independence for students in different areas of their lives
- Encouraging students to take responsibility for their own learning
- Developing knowledge, skills and attitudes to be an effective learner in school and throughout their lives
- Counselors playing an active role in the refinement of academic programs and practices

Our Mission ...

The Burlington Township School Counseling Department, in collaboration with the community, will provide a comprehensive school counseling program that addresses the **academic, career, and personal/social needs** of all students.

Our Vision ...

The Burlington Township School Counseling Program will address the academic, career and personal/social needs of all students through:

- Employing **developmentally appropriate school counseling principles and practices** in all buildings and communications
- **Engaging parents and community members** in collaborative discussion and partnerships
- Fostering a **culture of mutual respect** between students, staff, parents and all community members