#### School Counseling Mission

School counselors have the responsibility and privilege to touch the lives of children. As student advocates, we work to ensure that student needs are at the heart of all that we do. Therefore, each day at SCES is seen as an opportunity to build meaningful relationships that empower our gators.

#### SCES School Counseling Philosophy & Belief Statements

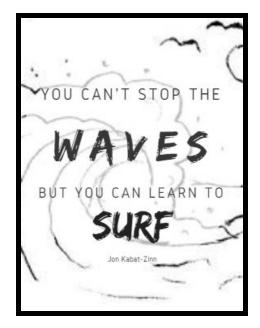
All students can learn and should be given the opportunity to do so.

Learning involves the education of the whole person and is a continuous lifelong process.

All students have the right to participate in the school counseling program.

Learning requires the active participation, mutual respect, and individual accountability of students, teachers, staff, parents, and community members.

Diversity is to be respected and appreciated as we foster unity among our students, faculty, staff, and community.



# What does a school counselor do?

Today's school counselors are vital members of the education team. They help all students in the areas of academic achievement, personal/social development and career development, ensuring today's students become the productive, well-adjusted adults of tomorrow.

-America School Counselor Association -

# Swift Creek Elementary

# School Counseling Department

# Contact Information



#### Mrs. Sarah Bazemore

Full-Time School Counselor (Caseload: grades 3-5) Sarah Bazemore@ccpsnet.net 804-739-6305 (Ext. 4116)

## Miss Sarah Steppacher

Part-Time School Counselor (Tu,W,F)

(Caseload: grades K-2)
Sarah Steppacher@ccpsnet.net
804-739-6305 (Ext. 4142)

Find out more about us at: http://scesschoolcounseling.weebly.com/

#### Elementary School Years

The elementary years are a time when students begin to develop their academic self-concept and their feelings of competence and confidence as learners. They are beginning to develop decision-making, communication and life skills, as well as character values. It is also a time when students develop and acquire attitudes toward school, self, peers, social groups and family.

Comprehensive developmental school counseling programs provide education, prevention and intervention services, which are integrated into all aspects of children's lives. Early identification and intervention of children's academic and social/emotional needs is essential in removing barriers to learning and in promoting academic achievement.

The knowledge, attitudes and skills students acquire in the areas of academic, career and social development during these elementary years serve as the foundation for future success. -ASCA. 2017



## Classroom Lessons

We will visit your child's classroom throughout the school year to deliver classroom lessons on a variety of topics.

Some include:

- Mindfulness
- Understanding of the Brain & Emotions
- Goal Setting and Growth Mindset
- Kindness
- Empathy
- Academic skills support
- Education in understanding self and others
- Peer relationships and effective social skills
- Career awareness, exploration and planning
- Multicultural/diversity awareness
- Test Anxiety

## Individual Counseling

Students can access individual counseling through self-referrals, staff referrals, and/or parent guardian referrals.

If you would like to discuss individual counseling supports for your student please contact your child's assigned counselor via email or phone.

# <u>Groups</u>

Groups will run throughout the school year on a variety of topics. Group counseling sessions typically run 30-45 minutes in length and meet 5-8 times total. Groups are powerful and help students realize that other students experience similar challenges. Students listen and learn from each other and gain greater insight as a result. Additionally, groups develop friendships, social skills, and a sense of community.

Topics are selected each year based on student needs and teacher input.

Possible Academic Success Topics: Study Skills, Attention and Focus, and Goal

Setting

Possible Personal/Social Topics:

Grief Counseling, Friendship Skills, Self Esteem, Self- Control, Changing Families/Divorce, and Managing Uncomfortable Emotions

