

“Notes From School”

NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK: FEBRUARY 5-9

The Wisconsin School Counselor Association (WSCA), in conjunction with its parent organization, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) will celebrate National School Counselor Week from February 5-9. The theme for 2018, "School Counselors: Helping Students Reach for the Stars" will help the public focus attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within US school systems and how students are able to attain their full potential as a result of what school counselors do.

School counselors are highly qualified practitioners that have tremendous impact in helping students achieve school academic success, personal/social development, and career development so they are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. Professional school counselors are certified, experienced educators with a Master's Degree in Guidance & Counseling. The combination of their training and experience makes them an integral part of the total educational program. There are more than 100,000 school counselors nationwide that we should call attention to for the myriad of benefits that a comprehensive school counseling program provides.

School counselors implement the comprehensive School Counseling Program, a vital part of the educational process for all students as they meet the challenges of the 21st century, by providing:

- Academic skills support
- Organizational, study, and test-taking skills
- Postsecondary planning and application process
- Career awareness, exploration, planning, and the world of work
- Education in understanding self and others, including strengths and weaknesses
- Coping strategies
- Peer relationships and effective social skills
- Communication, problem-solving, decision-making, and conflict resolution skills
- Substance abuse education
- Multicultural/diversity awareness
- Individual and small group counseling
- Individual/family/school crisis intervention
- Peer facilitation
- Consultation, collaboration, and teaming

As part of its celebration of National School Counseling Week, thanks go out to the School District of Mondovi School Counselors, Aaron Hass and Faith Erickson for all they do throughout the year. Parents or community members with specific questions or concerns about school counseling programs should contact the school counselors at their local schools.