



West Madison Elementary School

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Dr. Daphne Jah, Principal **Stephanie Allen, Counselor**
Enrollment: 450 **Grades: K-6** **School Year: Traditional**

Principal's Comments by Dr. Daphne Jah

The West Madison Elementary School Counseling Student Support Team (SCSST) is a student-centered, data-driven essential element to our school's safety and students' academic success. As the school principal, I completely support the implementation of the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) National Standards for School Counseling by using the *Comprehensive Counseling & Guidance Model of Alabama Public Schools* (State Plan) which is the framework for this program. The SCSST is led by our school counselor and plays a vital role in promoting the academic, personal/social, and career growth of our entire student body.

School Counseling Student Support Team

The West Madison SCSST is led by one full time counselor for our 450 students. She has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Human Development and Family Studies and a Master's of Arts Degree in Counseling. Our school counselor has over 7 years of experience in counseling adolescents and children in the clinical setting as well as 8 years of experience working in school counseling programs. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor and holds a Professional Educator Certificate for School Counseling. She is a member of Alabama School Counselor Association and American Counseling Association. She is responsible for managing the design, coordination, implementation and evaluation of the equitable student support system which serves every student. The team of highly qualified collaborators consists of administrators, nurses, classroom teachers, Instructional Partners, Behavioral Specialists, social worker, school psychologists, school secretary, media center staff, English Language teacher, art/music teachers, Physical Education teachers, technology staff, Learning Academy teachers, gifted education teacher, special education teachers, occupational therapist, speech therapists, child nutrition manager, custodians/plant manager, Elementary Instruction Coordinator, School Resource Officers, parent volunteers, community agencies/representatives, and Madison City Schools Board members.

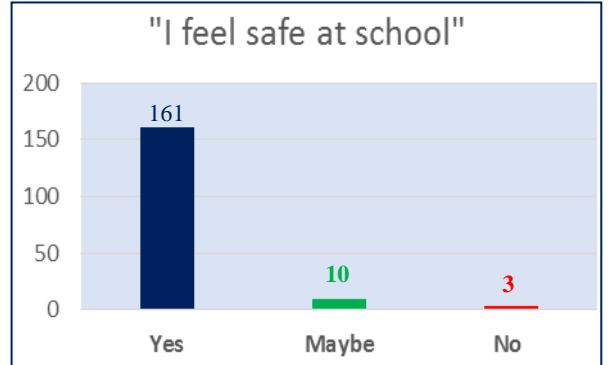
School Climate and Safety

School safety and positive school climate are extremely important to West Madison. Our school safety plan was created in collaboration of the SCSST with the Madison City School's Safety Officer. School wide programs implemented by the SCSST to promote safety and a positive school environment include: Making a Difference Team, Red Ribbon Week, SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) program, Text to Protect, Too Good for Drugs, Watch D.O.G.S., and Character Counts, Character Focus of the Month. Other activities that directly contribute to a positive school climate include a school-wide "Bucket Filling" lesson, Student Leadership Training, as well as peer helpers and student to student mentors. Weekly school-wide assemblies are held each Monday morning to create a family-like school environment where birthdays are recognized as well as special acknowledgments and awards. Weekly assemblies also give students from every grade level the opportunity to lead and interface with the school as well as commit to the character focus together. Classroom guidance lessons cover themes of "Making Healthy Choices", "Being Safe", "Conflict Resolution", and "Showing Respect." Counseling small groups focus on impulse control, anger management, peer relationships, and healthy coping skills. Members of our SCSST received training in the PREPaRE: School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Curriculum. WMES also has a threat and suicide assessment team trained to work collaboratively with at-risk students or situations. Student safety is essential to successful learning of our students. A survey was given and Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade students were asked to respond to the

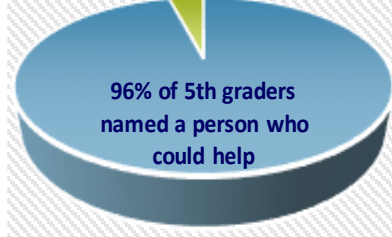
statement "I am safe at school" with responses being Yes, Maybe, or No.

The results showed 92.53% of West Madison K-2 students feel safe at school. The excellent results of this survey are attributed to the positive school climate including school-wide anti-bullying

education, character education, school safety drills, and school-wide security system. In alignment



5th Graders who named a resource for help



with the ASCA National Standards (PS: C1.6), the SCSST seeks to ensure all students can identify resources and at least one trusted adult who can offer help in case a difficult situation such as bullying or peer conflict arises. Following a "Bullies are a Pain in the

Brain" lesson, 5th grade students were asked to identify at least one trusted adult they could talk to about conflict or bullying at school.

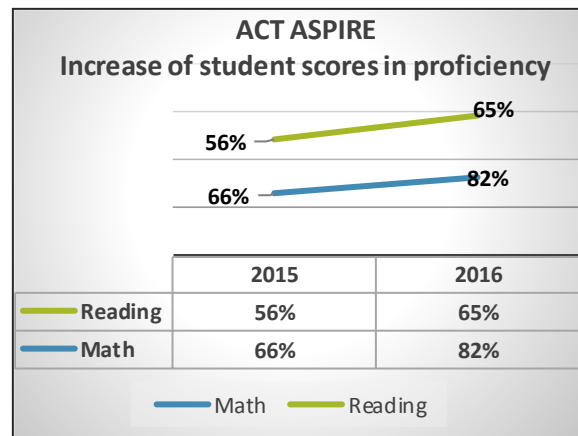
96% of 5th graders who participated in this lesson named an appropriate resource to seek help. Students are encouraged to seek help from a trusted adult at school and are also provided an anonymous way to report through the Bully Box and services like Text to Protect along with guidance lessons on bullying.

Student Results

Part of the mission of the SCSST is to make a positive difference in the lives of students at West Madison. Student data is essential to assess the school counseling program and identify strengths and weaknesses. ASCA standards are implemented by the SCSST to achieve substantial results.

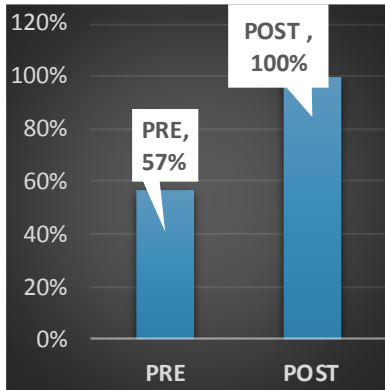
1) Academic Domain:

A: A1.5 – One focus of the SCSST is to assist students in identifying attitudes and behaviors leading to successful learning. This was achieved through research-based classroom instruction, West Madison tutoring program, parent involvement in trainings to support student growth, and specific guidance lessons on student study skills and developing a growth mindset. Of 5th grade students taking the ACT ASPIRE in 2015, 56% scored proficient in reading and 66% proficient in math. Students in 6th grade in 2016 showed growth in both areas, with 65% scoring proficient in reading and 82% proficient in math.



2) Career Domain:

C: CI.1 – The SCSST wants students to understand the relationship between educational achievement and career success. Career development guidance lessons are given to

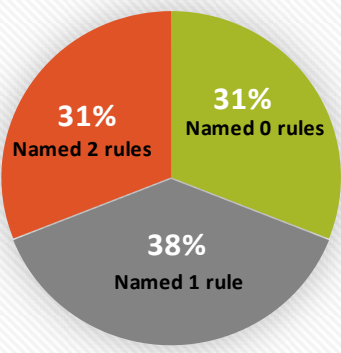


students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Before the *What Shoes Will You Wear?* Guidance lesson, 57% of 2nd graders showed understanding that doing well in school will help in career success. After the lesson, 100% of students agreed school achievement was linked to school success.

3) Personal/Social Domain:

PS: CI.4: The SCSST team strives to teach students about making healthy choices and ensuring their safety while online. 6th grade students were taught a guidance lesson on “Being Safe in Cyber Space”. Prior to the lesson, students were asked to identify 3 rules of online safety. On this Pre-test, 31% of students named 0 rules of online safety; 38% of students named 1 rule of staying safe, 31% named 2 rules, and 0% of students were able to identify 3 rules of online safety. Following the lesson on cyber safety, 100% of students could name 3 rules of online safety.

Pre Test on Cyber Safety



Post Test



Major Achievements

The following major achievements are a result of the SCSST’s focus on making a positive difference in the lives of students:

- Distribution of weekend food/snack bags, “Paw Packs”, to students in need on a weekly basis
- Implementation of eS2S peer program and one of first elementary school to be trained in the state
- Honors assembly for Military Children
- Partnership with Bob Jones High School S2S peer tutoring program for students in need
- Community Christmas giving for needy families
- School-wide behavior incentive structure with Funtastic Friday behavior celebration celebrations
- Increase parent involvement with Coffee with the Counselor seminars
- Implementations of Watch D.O.G.S. program

Measurements

The SCSST coordinates the following assessments and the results are used by the entire staff and parents to enrich the learning environment.

Academic Data: Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) is administered to Kindergarten through 2nd grade students to identify literacy needs. Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) is administered to all students to acquire data for foundation skills improvement. Accessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State (ACCESS) is administered to English Language Learners to identify levels of skills and needed service. ACT ASPIRE standardized testing is administered to students grades 3-6 to assess college and career readiness in areas of reading, math, and science. **Career Data:** ALL students participate in career

awareness lessons and activities. Outside community workers are invited in to share job information.

Personal/Social Data:

The school nurse is able to conduct regular health screenings on school campus. The school system social worker and SRO assist the SCSST in assuring personal welfare with home visits and resources. Sight Savers conducts vision screenings to identify visual impairments. Data is also used from those who qualify for Free/Reduced meals at school to offer other personal resources.

Community Partnerships/Resources

The collaboration of the SCSST with the Madison community has greatly contributed to the success of West Madison students and provides important resources to our school. The We Care team is a team of school system counselors, social workers, and local agencies, businesses, and individuals committed to serving needs of our students.

Academic:

High School peer buddies and Watch DOGS mentors work with at-risk students. Local churches and organizations such as SS Kids and Kroger provide school supplies for students. Scholarships for field trips are available due to donations from community members.

Career:

Watch D.O.G.S. and other community volunteers provided career lessons for students. The Safe House, Pediatric Dentists, and Southwest Dairy Farmers provide learning experiences that enhance students’ understandings of career fields.

Personal/Social:

A local church food closet provides weekend snack bags to students on a weekly basis throughout the year. The Rotary Club provides meal boxes to families. Local churches and charity groups sponsor families at Christmas. The Caring House provides at school grief counseling and Children’s Advocacy Center promotes personal safety through school training.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Parents/guardians are an essential part of the success of the SCSST. Involvement is encouraged through our PTA meeting and volunteer opportunities, website, emails, Back to School Community outreach, WMES Open House, Watch DOGS program, Counselor’s Corner e-newsletter, Coffee with the Counselor, school tours, Principal’s Blog, and social media outlets such as Twitter and the PTA Facebook page.

Parents/guardians volunteer for classroom activities, lunch supervision, field trips, field day, advisory committees, PTA board, Fun Run, and many more. Parents/volunteers can contact Ricki Swartz, PTA President at wmespresident@gmail.com for ways to become involved at West Madison.

Focus for Improvement

The SCSST is committed to continuous improvement based on needs identified by relevant data:

1. The SCSST will implement utilizing interactive notebooks in guidance classes to better accommodate various learning styles and observe student growth throughout the year.
2. The SCSST will increase communication with parents and stakeholders through digital newsletters, social media, and improving the counseling website.
3. The SCSST will increase collaboration with other school counselors and SCSST groups at other elementary schools.

Keeping You Informed

The WMES faculty, staff, parents, and community stay well informed with a variety of communication outlets in the primary language.

Personal Contact: School tours, home visits, parent conferences, PTA meetings, faculty meetings, Madison City Schools Board meetings, WMES weekly morning assemblies.

Electronic: Emails and phone calls, school website, school announcements (Notify Me, REMIND, emails), school sign, Principal’s Blog, Twitter (@WMESCounselor), PTA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WestMadisonElementaryPta/>).

Print: Newsletters, Parent/teacher forms, bulletin boards and various displays throughout the school, signs on fences and in carline, flyers, reminder stickers on students, *Madison Record* articles.