



MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

847 Mill Road, Madison, Alabama 35758

(256) 774-4690 www.mces.madisoncity.k12.al.us

Melanie Barkley, Principal Kacy McKay, Assistant Principal Cindy Davis, Counselor

Enrollment: 970 Grades: Pre-K-6 School Year: Traditional



Principal's Comments by Melanie Barkley

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

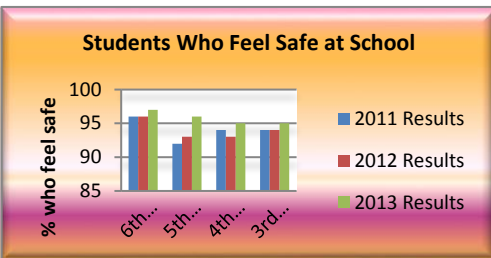
School Counseling Student Support Team

The Mill Creek SCSST's has a united mission of developing an outstanding academic environment which always places an emphasis on professionalism and open communication while serving all students and parents. Our team was formed in 2009 and is led by one full time counselor for our 970 students. She has a Master's Degree of Science in School Counseling with 23 years' experience in high school and elementary counseling. She also has her NBPTS in School Counseling. She is a member of Alabama School Counselor Association and American School Counselor Association. She was named ASCA Counselor of the Year Finalist (Top 10 Counselor in USA 2009) and 2006 ALSCA Elementary Counselor of the Year. She is responsible for managing the design, coordination, implementation and evaluation of the equitable student support system which serves all students. This year a counselor from another school assisted Mill Creek one day a week until April. The team of highly qualified collaborators consists of administrators, nurses, clerical staff, school psychologist, instructional specialist, Madison City Schools' counselors, classroom teachers, teacher aides, media center staff, Bob Jones High School peer helpers, technology staff, parent volunteers, alternative school teacher, Counselor Advisory Committee, community representatives, School Resource Officer, gifted teacher, speech/language specialist, occupational therapist, special education teachers, P.E. Teachers, cafeteria staff, art teacher, music teacher, English Language teacher, custodians/plant manager, Behavioral Specialist Coordinator, and Madison City Board members. This group of professionals holds itself to the highest standards of accountability and earned the 2011 and 2012 RAVE Award.

School Climate and Safety

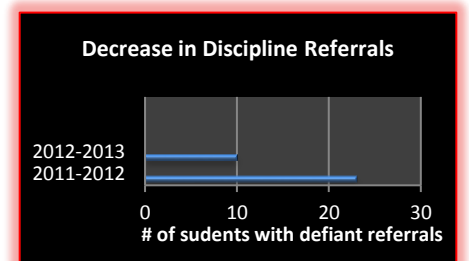
MCES's Safety Plan was created and is updated by the SCSST in collaboration with the Madison City School's Safety Officer. The plan includes the components of the PREPaRE: School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Curriculum and training. This year our school successfully implemented the Caring Schools Community program including bi-weekly class meetings focusing on creating caring classroom environments and Cross-Age Buddies program to increase student's connectedness to the school. The team's implementation of school wide programs such as the Making a Difference Team, Character Council, Red Ribbon Week, Bully Awareness Week, and Character Counts Week impacts our school safety and climate. Other activities directly contributing to our positive climate include the "Bucket Fillers" recognition program, multiple service learning projects, and our daily character education TV program ("Morning at the Mill"). Students' acts of kindness/safety are recognized with the distribution of "Blazer Bucks". The school's TV monitors display our Safe Schools Tip Hotline, 6 Pillars of Character, and violence prevention ideas. Large and small groups focus on character development, conflict resolution skills, and social skills. Madison City Police Officers teach lessons on cyber safety and drug prevention. Classroom guidance lessons cover themes of "Being Safe" and "Making Healthy Choices".

Each year the SCSST conducts a safety and climate survey because we believe that a student's academic potential cannot be achieved if the student does not feel safe. As part of survey given to 3rd-6th graders, the students are asked if they feel safe at school. The results showed that there was an increase in the percentage of the 3rd-6th graders who feel safe at school. The exceptional results of this perception survey are contributed to the increase of safety intruder drills, visibility of our School Resource Officer and the superior security system in the school.



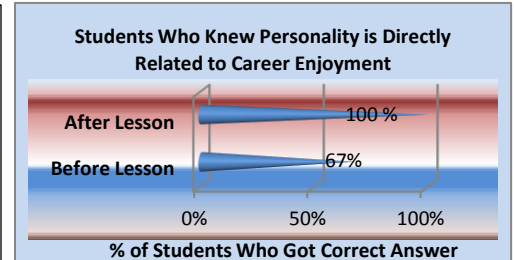
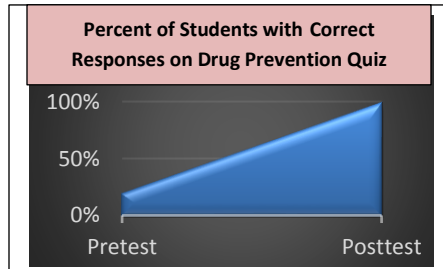
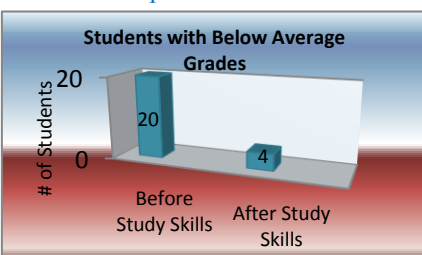
The SCSST team works to encourage a respectful, positive learning environment. In 2011-12, there were 23 students

referred to the office for defiance of authority. These students were engaged in interventions such as behavior plans, individual, small group and large group counseling and positive behavior recognition which lead to a 43% decrease in the number of acts of defiance of authority in our school.



Student Results

It is important to the SCSST that our efforts make a positive difference in the life of our students. Student data results are important in making decisions regarding the program's strengths and areas for improvement. These admirable results are achieved by our SCSST's successful implementation of ASCA's National Standards.



Academic Domain: (A:A2.4) Helping students gain knowledge to positively influence school performance is a priority for our SCSST. After the first grading period students with below average grades were invited to attend the "Super Student Club". During the small group meetings, the counselor taught students study skills, test-taking skills, and organizational tips. Twenty students participated in the program and 16 students had significantly improved grades during the second grading period. **Personal/Social Domain:** (PS.C1.8) Learning about the emotional and physical dangers of drug use is one of our emphases in the personal/social domain. On drug prevention pre-tests, only 20% of sixth grade students answered all questions correctly. After an in-depth, drug awareness lesson there was an increase in awareness as 99% of the students were able to answer questions correctly on the post-test. **Career Domain:** (C:B1.2) Identifying interest, skills and abilities, and relate them to career choices is a very important component of our program. Before a series of guidance lessons, only 67% of 5th graders knew that one's personality is directly related to enjoying a career. After the lessons, 100% realized the correlation between one's personality traits and career enjoyment.

Major Achievements

The following major achievements are a result of our SCSST's focus on improving services for students:

- ❖ Received training and implemented the Caring School Community Program.
- ❖ Earned the RAVE Award recipient Bronze Award 2011 and Silver Award 2012.
- ❖ Earned the Madison Street Festival Grant for a weather station.
- ❖ Received the Alabama Green Ribbon School Award 2012 (first in the state) for an exceptionally "green" learning environment.
- ❖ Received the Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant to build a school community learning garden (2012). The SCSST created a plan to build a pumpkin garden to provide learning experiences for student while raising money for St. Jude's.
- ❖ Implemented the "Mavastar" tutoring program which increased overall report card grades, as well as AMRT scores.
- ❖ Organized and distributed weekend snack packs to students in need at our school.
- ❖ Organized and implemented Career on Wheels for Pre-K-2 and Career Day (3-6) which increased students understanding of standards in the Career Domain.
- ❖ Provided 40% more information on guidance website.
- ❖ Received training in the PREPaRE crisis program to create a more emergency- ready school.

Our team also succeeded in meeting the "Focus for Improvement" goals set in last year's RAVE entry by (1) expanding on the knowledge and skills of our faculty and students in emergency preparedness of PREPaRE: School Crisis Prevention and Intervention Curriculum, (2) creating a "learning garden" where our students plant, harvest and eat vegetables grown in the Giving Garden, and (3) implementing the *Caring Schools Community* program which fostered a more cooperative learning environment.

Measurements

The SCSST coordinates the following assessments and the results are used by the entire staff and parents to manage and enrich the learning environment. **Academic Data:** The following are used to identify the academic achievement levels of students and make improvements to the action plan: Alabama Reading and Mathematics Test (ARMT), Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT), Alabama Science Assessment (ASA), and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). The Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State to State for English Language Learners (ACCESS) is used to gather information about the students' language needs. The ASPIRE exam by ACT was given to all 3rd and 4th grade students. Guidance lessons on test taking, study skills and learning styles are taught to all students. Informal classroom data and Harcourt theme tests are used by teachers to identify students' needs within the classroom. Special education assessments are used to provide data about discrepancies between the students' ability and achievement. **Career Data:** 6th graders take an interest inventory to identify their personality type and researched careers that complement their personality. Career Day speakers visit all 2nd -6th grade classrooms and evaluations are given to identify what students learned about each career. Careers on Wheels provide career experiences to our K-2 graders. Career guidance lessons include pre-tests and post-tests to determine effectiveness of lessons. **Personal/Social Data:** BASC (Behavior Assessment System for Children) is used to collect data on students exhibiting behavior problems. Vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings are conducted by the school nurse to identify students who have physical needs that can impact academic success. Stop Child Abuse and Neglect evaluations are given to identify students who are being abused. Attendance records provide information about students who may have health and family problems. Student/teacher needs and perception assessments are given. Climate surveys show areas that need improvement within the school.

Community Partnerships/Resources

The collaboration of the SCSST with the Madison community and surrounding areas has greatly contributed to the success of students and provide valuable services to our families and staff. **Academic:** Bob Jones High School Education Class students assist students and teachers, BJHS Peer Helpers perform skits on violence and drug prevention, Lowe's staff assists in creating our learning garden, Bob Jones Spanish II students teach Spanish lessons to 2nd graders, School Supplies Kids Project provide school supplies for underprivileged students, Famous Joe's Pizzeria, Pie in the Sky, Red Robins, and Papa John's provides student and teacher awards. **Career:** Publix, WAFF TV station, Madison Fire Department, local farmers, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Madison City Police Dept., NASA engineers, and 20 local professionals participate in our annual Career Day and guest speakers' bank. **Personal/Social:** The NOVA Counseling Center provide free individual and family counseling for our students with ALL KIDS Health Insurance, First Commercial Bank and our local food pantry provide our needy students with "weekend snack packs", Cornerstone Pediatric doctors teach our maturation classes, Dublin Park/Recreation Center host our 3rd grade swimming lessons, Asbury United Methodist Church, local banks and Inside/Out Ministries provide food for our families in need, SCAN (Stop Child Abuse and Neglect) provide lessons on child abuse, Lions Club provide glasses for deserving children, Alexander Marshal Arts teach lessons on self-defense during PE classes, Boy Scouts of America complete physical projects for the school and the District Attorneys' office who teaches the Gang and Intervention and Violence Prevention.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Parents/guardians are welcomed and encouraged to become involved in assisting our student-focused program through invitations at PTA meetings, emails, website announcements, and newsletters. Volunteers are vital to the success of our school community through their involvement in the following: Continuous Improvement Leadership Team, service learning projects, Team of the Month, Career Day, Field Day, Counselor Advisory Committee, new family tours, field trips, and Breakfast with the Principal. At the end of the year, we honor our volunteers at a special Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast with entertainment and gifts. Parents and volunteers are encouraged to contact Allison Willis (PTA) at 256-774-4690 or pawillis@knology.com or Cindy Davis (counselor) at 256-774-4690 or cvdavis@madisoncity.k12.al.us for more information about ways to become involved at Mill Creek.

Focus for Improvement

The SCSST is committed to the continued improvement of our program and its alliance with the school's improvement plan through goals based on collected needs/climate survey and evaluation data.

1. The SCSST will continue the implementation of all aspects of the revised ASCA National Model.
2. The SCSST will create a "THINK" Before You Speak section on the counselor's webpage.
3. The SCSST will organize and host a "Preparing for Middle School" night for the parents of our 6th graders.

Keeping You Informed

The MCES staff, parents, students, and community are kept well informed through a variety of mediums in each family's primary language. **Personal Contact:** Home visits, school tours, parent conferences, MCES Open House, PTA meetings, Breakfast with the Principal meetings, faculty meetings, Madison City board meetings, grade-level meetings, large group guidance lessons monthly to all 970 students and small groups. **Electronic:** Emails and phone calls returned within 24 hours, school's announcements on TV monitors, school's website, announcement on school's morning show, faculty's websites and links, INOW, Listserv, Channel 71 on Knology, school's Facebook and Twitter accounts, PTA's Facebook page, and attendance phone call system. **Print:** *The Huntsville Times*, *The Madison Record*, *The Madison Weekly*, newsletters, information on bulletin boards throughout the school, stickers placed on students' shirts as they leave, pamphlets, signs placed along the carline driveway, and brochures located in the main office.