



J. B. Pennington High School

81 College St., Blountsville, AL
205-429-4101 cmillwood@blountboe.net



Brian Kirk, Principal Stephen Bryson, Assistant Principal Connie Millwood & Brittany Copeland, Counselors
Enrollment: 592 Grades: 7-12 School Year: Traditional

Principal's Comments by

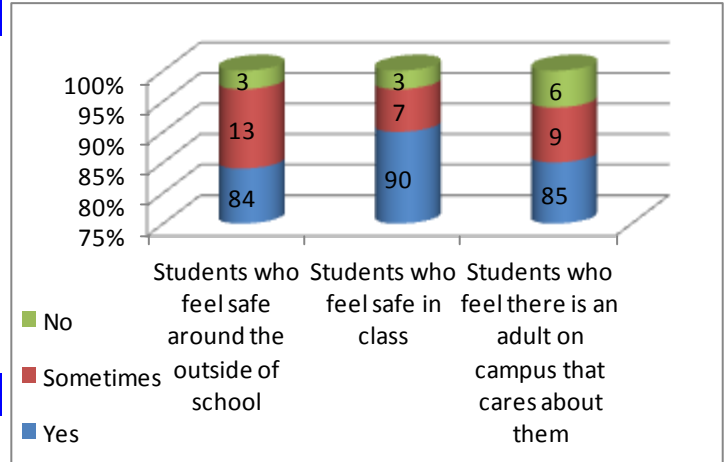
The J. B. Pennington High School Counseling Student Support Team (SCSST) is a data driven, student-centered essential element to our school's safety and students' academic success. As the leader of this school, I completely support the implementation the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) 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, led by our counselors, plays a vital role in promoting the academic, personal/social and career growth of our entire student body.

School Counseling Student Support Team

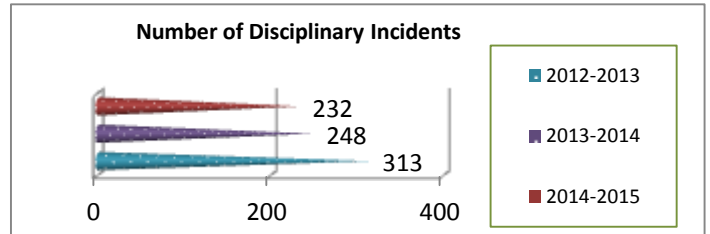
The J. B. Pennington SCSST's has a united mission of developing an outstanding academic environment which always places an emphasis on professionalism and open communication, while serving all students and parents. Our team was formed in 2013 and is led by one full-time and one part-time counselor for our 592 students. Our full-time counselor has a Master's Degree of Science in School Counseling with 26 1/2 years' experience in Education, 14 years as a high school counselor. Our part-time counselor also has a Master's Degree of Science in School Counseling with 9 years experience education, 2 years as a junior high counselor. She is currently working on her EDS in School Counseling. They are both members of the Alabama School Counselor Association and American School Counselor Association. They are responsible for managing the design, coordination, implementation and evaluation of the equitable student support system which serves all students. The team of highly qualified collaborators consists of administrators, nurses, clerical staff, career coach, school social worker, instructional specialist, Blount County Schools' counselors, classroom teachers, teacher aides, media center staff, PHS Peer Helpers, technology staff, parent volunteers, alternative school teacher, Counselor Advisory Committee, community representatives, School Resource Officer, speech/language specialist, occupational therapist, special education teachers, P.E. teachers, cafeteria staff, music teacher, English/Language teacher, EL teacher, custodians, Blount County Board Members. This group of professionals holds itself to the highest standards of accountability.

School Climate and Safety

J. B. Pennington's Safety Plan was created and is updated by the SCSST in collaboration with the Blount County Federal Programs Coordinator. There are many programs at PHS, such as Red Ribbon Week and Best of the Best, which impact our school safety and climate. There are other programs that directly contribute to our positive climate. Some of these include the "Bucket Fillers" program, daily character education, and multiple service learning projects. Students are publicly recognized for their acts of safety and kindness. Posters and brochures displaying the Safe Schools Tip Hotline, 6 Pillars of Character, and violence prevention ideas can be found in the counselors' offices. Both counselors initiate small and large group sessions that promote safety, violence prevention, self esteem and how to treat others. Classroom guidance lessons include bucket filling, self esteem, school pride, the consequences of violence and drugs and making healthy choices. Each year the District Attorney addresses the entire student body with a focus on bullying and cyber bullying. Furthermore, the District Judge addresses the student body on drugs and the negative consequences. Safety and climate surveys are conducted because we believe it is imperative that students feel safe at school and this will in turn enhance student academic achievement. As part of the survey given to 7th – 12th graders, the students are asked if they feel safe at school. The results showed that 90% of the students at J.B. Pennington feel safe in class. This is a result of increased safety drills, the visibility of our School Resource Officer, and enforced security in our school. Our SCSST team works diligently to encourage an appropriate learning environment that is positive and engaging.



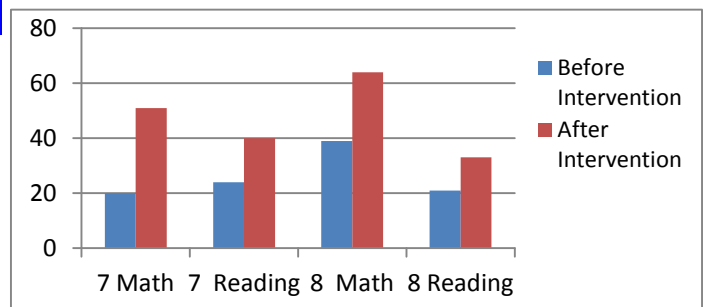
In 2012-2013 there were 313 incidents where discipline was involved. That number decreased in 2013-2014 to 248, and then dropped even lower in 2014-2015 to 232. These students have been engaged in different interventions such as small and large group counseling and positive behavior recognition. This accounts for the drop in number of incidents over the last two years.



Student Results

Making a positive difference in the lives of our students is the main goal of the SCSST. We use data results to make decisions about the program's strengths, weaknesses, and specific areas of improvement. The outstanding results of the following were achieved by our SCSST team's implementation of intervention and the ASCA's National Standards.

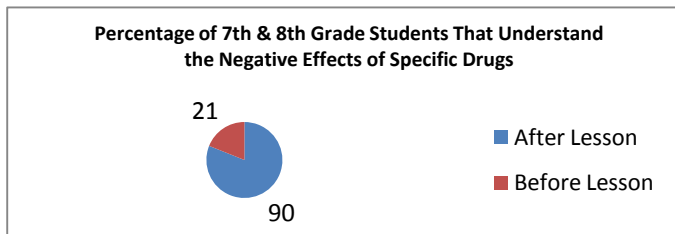
Figure 1. Percentage of students who benchmarked on STAR tests before and after intervention.



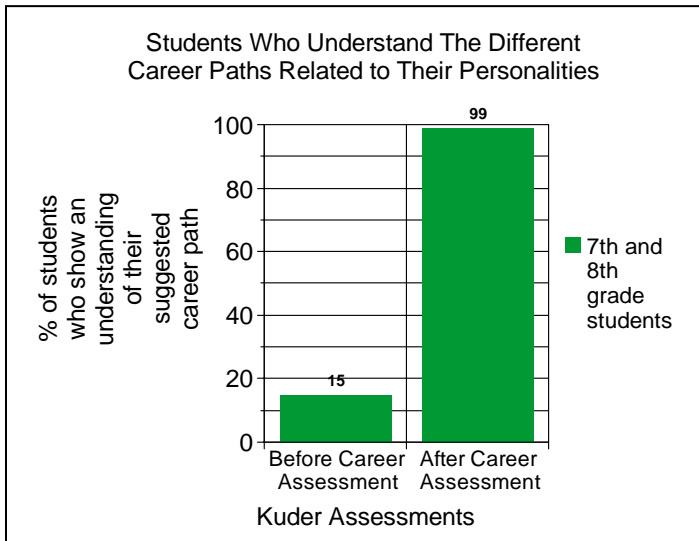
Academic Domain: (A:A2.4) At PHS our SCSST team strives to help students gain knowledge in order to improve school performance. After the first STAR tests were administered in 2014, students were grouped into urgent intervention, intervention, on watch, or benchmark. The students who ranked in urgent intervention were placed into an intervention class with professional teachers who worked to increase the math and reading skills of the students. At the end of the year, the gains were evident and impressive. The Blount County benchmark score is 50 percent; however, at PHS we increased our benchmark score to 50% in 2014-2015, making the benchmark harder to reach. The above graph is evidence of true student achievement.

Personal/Social Domain: (PS.C1.2) In this domain, one of the things our students learn is the negative effects of drug use. On a "Learning about Drugs" pretest only 21% of 7th and 8th graders answered the questions correctly. The junior high counselor administered an in-depth study on specific drugs and their effects, and then the students were given a post test.

The post test showed that 90% of the students were able to correctly answer the questions.



Career Domain: (C:B1.2) Our program emphasizes the importance of relating interest and abilities to career choices. During a guidance lesson, only 15% of 7th and 8th graders knew the career path that was most related to their personality, interests, and abilities. After doing the Kuder Career Assessments, 99% of our students were aware of their suggested career field. By doing this, our students realized the importance of carrying over personality and skills into the work force.



Major Achievements

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

- Received training and implemented the Advisor/Advisee Program (PRIDES).
- Implemented the 7th and 8th grade math and reading intervention classes which increased students' skill base and increased grades.
- Coordinated the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program where students in grades 10 -12 mentored elementary students at our feeder school.
- Started planning the Best of the Best Program, an anonymous program used to uplift, edify, and encourage.
- Used Blount County Education Foundation Grant to purchase binders for all 7th and 8th graders to keep counseling information.
- Several teachers received grants to purchase items to help supplement their classroom activities.
- Provide grade and credit recovery for students who are behind educationally.
- Senior High Counselor continually informs students about scholarships, special events, and testing dates through social media and email.
- Senior High Counselor meets individually with students in grades 9-12 to discuss, college and career plans.
- All students in grades 9-12 use the Kuder System to complete interest inventories, research careers, write resumes and create a 4-year plan.
- Implemented soccer and cross country opportunities to get more students involved and create a ring of accountability.
- All 12th graders participate in the Wallace State College Fair.

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: Helping students gain knowledge to positively influence school performance is a priority for our SCSST. After the first STAR test is administered, students who do not benchmark in math and reading are placed in an intervention program. During the intervention meetings, the math and reading teachers work diligently to reinforce the basic skills of each subject. When students benchmark they exit the remedial program. Academic achievement levels of students are

identified by the Aspire exam by ACT. This test is given to all 7th, 8th and 10th graders in the spring of each year. STAR testing is administered in the fall and spring for students grades 7-12. In the spring, ACCESS tests will be given to the ELL students. In February, WorkKeys is administered to all 12th graders. Guidance lessons on study habits/skills, test taking, and learning styles are taught by the counselors, to all students. Teachers use classroom data to determine the needs of their students. Special Education teachers administer assessments in order to determine the gap between students' abilities and achievements.

Career Domain: 7th and 8th graders take interest inventories to identify their interests and personality type. The junior high counselor provides a guidance lesson to all 7th and 8th graders on the benefits of using Kuder to explore careers. We use pre and post tests to determine the effectiveness of the lessons. The senior high counselor uses the Kuder reports to help students in grades 9-12 research and explore careers and all 10th graders attend a Career Expo held at the county's Agribusiness Center.

Personal/Social Data: The school nurse conducts vision, hearing, and scoliosis screenings in order to identify physical needs that can impact student success. Student information about health problems and family problems can be found in attendance records. The school social worker, along with the school counselors, is on watch for signs of abuse. Climate surveys show areas within our school that need improvement.

Community Partnerships/Resources

The collaboration of the SCSST with the Blountville community and surrounding areas have greatly contributed to the success of students and provide valuable services to our families and staff.

Academic: J. B. Pennington High School Tutors/Mentors assists students and teachers, PHS Peer Helpers tutor struggling students in all academic areas, 10 -12 English classes perform bullying skits for the elementary students, Big Brothers/Big Sisters read to the elementary students, PHS Ambassadors assist with the Special Olympics each Spring., Blount County Education Foundation provides grants to teachers to purchase materials for classes.

Career: Forty local business professionals participate in the Career Expo at the Blount County Agribusiness Center. All 7th and 8th graders use the Kuder Career Exploration Program.

Personal/Social: Home Town Bank, Peoples Bank, and Cadence Bank sponsor athletic and extracurricular programs. The Lions Club sponsors students to attend a Summer Leadership Conference.

Parent/Guardian Involvement

Parents/ guardians are welcomed and encouraged to become involved in assisting our student/focus program through invitations at the Alumni Association Meetings, emails, website announcements, newsletters, Remind 101, and One Call announcements. They are vital to the success of our school community through their involvement in the following: 7th and 8th grade orientation, Top Ten Banquet, field trips, Counselor Advisory Committee, career day, and service learning projects. Parents and volunteers are encouraged to contact Connie Millwood at 205-429-4101, cmillwood@blountboe.net or Brittany Copeland 205-429-7663, bcopeland@blountboe.net.

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 collective needs and climate survey data.

- The SCSST will continue the implementation of all aspects of the revised ASCA National Model.
- The SCSST will organize and host a "Preparing for Middle School" Night for the parents of the sixth grade students.
- The SCSST will implement the Best of the Best Program (BOB) to encourage students to become leaders, therefore improving the school climate.

Keeping You Informed

Keeping You Informed: The PHS 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, orientation, Alumni Association meetings, faculty meetings, Blount County Board meetings, grade level meetings, monthly large group guidance lessons, small group lessons

Electronic Emails, phone calls, school announcements through newsletters and One Call phone system, school website, faculty websites and links, INOW, listserve, Facebook account, and attendance phone call system

Print: Bulletin boards throughout the school, pamphlets, school sign, and brochures located in the main office and in counselors' offices.

