

Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association *Newsletter*

MMSCA 2014-2015 Tentative Meeting Dates and Locations

We are excited that we will be pairing our meetings with the GSOS meetings this year!

Fall Meeting

October 2, 2014

Location: Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO

GSOS: 9:00AM –12:00PM

Lunch: 12:15

General Meeting: 1:00PM

Governing Board: 2:30 PM

Topic: Levels Sharing

Please come to learn what other school counselors in your level are doing in their programs!

Winter Meeting

December 4, 2014

Location: Columbia College, Columbia, MO

Time: 11:45AM

Administrator's Appreciation Luncheon

**More details and times to come*

Spring Meeting

March 3, 2015

Location: State Technical College of Missouri, Linn, MO

**More details and times to come*

Please RSVP to all meetings to Julie Day, day@wmri.k12.mo.us

President's News

By: Gay Baer and Susan Wolz

Greetings, Mid-Missouri Professional School Counselors. What an exciting time of year as we prepare for a new school year! We are sure that you are now getting settled into your school and anxiously waiting for the students to arrive and begin another year making a difference in the lives of your students. The Governing Board for the Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association met in June to plan a year of exciting professional development opportunities and networking with other counselors in our region to support you as you work to make that difference in the lives of your students. We hope you will choose to join us!

First, we hope you will choose to attend the three Mid MO Regional meetings. The surveys from last October's meeting were almost all in favor of pairing with the Guidance System of Support (GSOS) Meeting with our Mid MO fall and spring meetings. The fall meeting will be a day meeting hosted by **Lincoln University** in Jefferson City, Missouri, on **October 2**. The spring meeting will be an afternoon/evening meeting hosted by **State Technical College** in Linn, Missouri, scheduled for **March 3, 2015**. The governing board decided that the Administrator Appreciation meeting was better attended as a luncheon rather than breakfast so that meeting is scheduled for **December 4** at **Columbia College** at 11:45 a.m. Julie Day, president-elect, has been coordinating the details with the hosting colleges, GSOS, and speakers. She will be sharing the specific information in her president-elect article and you will receive a reminder postcard before each RSVP date that will again list the basic details.

We hope you will choose to attend the MSCA Fall Conference at TanTarA Resort November 2-4, 2014, for *Breaking Barriers Instilling Hope*. Tan Tar A is being remodeled! And so is Sunday's conference schedule; the **general session featuring the keynote speaker, Dave Pelzer, is scheduled at 1:15 Sunday afternoon**. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. and continue through the day. The Exhibit Hall will open at 12:00 and will have a hospitality area with snacks for Sunday afternoon networking.

The New Counselor Reception is also at 12:00. Breakout sessions are scheduled from 4:15 to 5:15. Hospitalities are scheduled for Sunday evening; there is a dance at 9:30. Monday's lunch will be sit down as in the past years. This year's conference project is Special Olympics; save those aluminum can tabs and bring them to the conference!

Early Bird Registration Deadline is October 3, 2014

Keynote speakers: Dave Pelzer, Sunday afternoon; Rich Linden, Tuesday morning

Mid MO needs volunteers for the Exhibit Hall hospitality Sunday afternoon as well as other times and locations.

Gay and I will be recruiting as we know more!

Mid-MO hosting hospitality Sunday evening at 8:00.

MSCA Connections Center: Room 64 open Sunday after keynote continuing through the day Monday. Get help setting up and accessing technology links for the conference and MSCA.

Our own Melissa Head is coordinating the Silent Auction and has set up a friendly completion for the regions as we participate in the auction and other fun events of the conference. She will explain details in October! We do hope you will choose to be a part of the MSCA Fall Conference: the keynotes, the breakout sessions, the Exhibit Hall, Saturday Institute, the networking, the fun social events—all make for an exciting few days of learning and rejuvenating.

We also hope that you will access the organizational web sites and publications available to us as professional school counselors. Most have been revamped; MSCA even has a new logo! The writing team has been adding/editing the guidance curriculum which is now located on the DESE site. We have a new guidance director at DESE; read Carolyn Roof's introduction of her in this newsletter. Enter each organization (DESE, MSCA, MMSCA, MCCE) in a search box and bookmark the site for an abundance of information. Watch for information regarding Missouri Connections as many exciting updates are happening. The Guidance Digest, sent out via email periodically throughout the school year from DESE, provides a wealth of information on topics related to all aspects of school counseling. Our Mid MO newsletter will be published again in November (topic: transitions) and February (topic: goal setting/careers).

As you can see, the year is packed with exciting opportunities for professional growth and development aimed to assist both the new and seasoned counselors. It is our hope that you will join us this year and take advantage of all that this organization has to offer.

President-Elect News

By: Julie Day

Welcome back to the school year everyone! Hopefully everyone has had a relaxing summer and ready to get back into the swing of things! I'm Julie Day, this year's President-Elect for our Mid-Missouri Counselor's Association. I have been a part of MMSCA since 2010. I became an elementary school counselor at Wellsville-Middletown R-1 in 2009. Each time I start a new year I am excited to incorporate new ideas into the guidance program, as I am sure many of you are as well! I live right across the street from W-M R-1 in a brick house with four fabulous family members and two terrific dogs. I am looking forward to wonderful year with MMSCA and am honored to take on the position of President-Elect.

I am very excited that Lincoln University is going to host our October 2nd meeting. Plan on attending this meeting with our fellow colleagues and counselors, and you won't regret it. It will be a time of level sharing and exchanging ideas to enhance our programs, get and give encouraging support, as well as getting to know new faces to MMSCA.

Don't forget to RSVP to Julie Day. You can contact me by email at day@wmr1.k12.mo.us or call me at 573-754-0332 by Thursday, September 25th!

Fall Meeting Information

Date: Thursday, October 2nd

Time: GSOS 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Lunch: 12:15 p.m.

General meeting: 1:00 p.m.

Governing board meeting: 2:30 p.m.

Location: Lincoln University, Scruggs Student Center Ballroom

Topic: Level Sharing

**PLEASE RSVP to Julie Day at day@wmr1.k12.mo.us
or 573-754-0332**

RSVP BY: Thursday, September 25th, 2014

Directions to Lincoln University:

820 Chestnut Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101

From U.S. 54 WEST:
Follow US 54 to Jefferson Street in Jefferson City
Turn right onto Jefferson Street
Take the first right onto Stadium Blvd.
At traffic circle, take the first exit onto Leslie Blvd.
Turn left onto Chestnut Street
Lincoln University on the left

From U.S. 54 EAST:
Take the Tanner Bridge exit toward Stadium Drive
Turn a slight left onto Christy Drive
Turn right onto Stadium Blvd.
At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto Leslie Blvd.
Turn left onto Chestnut Street
Lincoln University is on the left

Missouri Welcomes New Director of Guidance

By: Carolyn Roof

The Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association would like to welcome Dr. Rene Yoesel as the new Director of Guidance and Counseling for the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Dr. Yoesel joins the department with 32 years experience as a K-12 school counselor, the last 24 years with the public school system; she served as an elementary counselor in the Orchard Farm School District.

Dr. Yoesel received her education degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia in Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis. Also, she completed her graduate counseling degree from Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, MO.

Dr. Yoesel comes to DESE with a diverse background in counseling. In addition to K-12 school counseling she has served as an adjunct professor at Lindenwood University, a family/adolescent therapist at Catholic Family Services, K-8 counselor in a small parochial school, and as a batterer's group facilitator and pre-sentencing/post prison rehabilitation/support therapist for McGuire Counseling.

Dr. Yoesel is married to her husband, Phil, a retired educator and they live in Warrenton, MO. Rene has two children and one grandchild. Her daughter, Rachel is a practicing attorney with her own law firm in San Diego, CA. Rene's son, Josh owns/operates his own business in Warrenton. Rene loves spending time with her children and granddaughter Lola.



**Please email Jessica Schumacher at jschumacher@nc.k12.mo.us for any questions or comments about the current or future MMSCA newsletters.*

Membership

By: Amy Spence

Welcome back school counselors! I hope everyone has had a fantastic summer. I am very excited about the 2014 - 2015 school year! Please remember to fill out your membership application online or you can fill out the one enclosed in this newsletter and return to us at our first meeting. Remember that you can join online through PayPal on our website: <http://www.mmsca.us/>

*Become a Member of Mid-Missouri
School Counselor Association!
Register and pay online by clicking
[HERE.](#)*

Register for the MSCA Fall Conference
[Here!](#)

[Breaking Barriers: Instilling Hope](#)
Fall Conference 2014
Tan-Tar-A Resort
November 2-4, 2014

[Register by October 3, 2014 for the Early Bird discount!](#)

MID-MISSOURI SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATION (MMSCA)

The Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association (MMSCA) is one of the twelve district organizations within the Missouri School Counselors Association (MSCA), and has a rich, proud tradition. MMSCA serves twelve counties in central Missouri. The purpose of MMSCA is to help counselors to help people – and we have been doing this well for the past 46 years!

We are hoping that you will decide to join MMSCA and begin a wonderful relationship with Mid-Missouri counselors!

Want to save paper and time? Join online!

You can join MMSCA online by going to www.mmsca.us and filling out this form (under the Documents tab). If you fill out the online form, there is no need to send in this membership form. Thanks!

2014-2015 Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association Membership Form

(Please keep a copy for your records)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

All Members – Fill out this section

E-mail Address: _____

Address for mailings: _____

City: _____ *County: _____ * Zip: _____

Telephone Number: (____)- ____ - _____

Membership Type and Dues

- Professional (Currently a school counselor) - \$15
- Regular (Not currently a school counselor) - \$15
- Student - \$5
- Emeritus (Retired) - free
- Affiliate - \$15
- Online Registration (PayPal) - \$18

For Professional Members Only – Everyone else may skip these questions

What school do you work at? _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's E-mail: _____

Second Principal's Name (if more than one): _____

Second Principal's E-mail (if more than one): _____

What level do you work at?

- Elementary
- Post-Secondary
- Multi-Level
- Middle/Jr. High
- Private/Business
- High School/Secondary
- Agency

Is this your first year as a counselor in Mid-Missouri?

- Yes
- No

Make Checks Payable To:
Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association

Mail Membership Form and Check to:
Jeanine Mielke
24609 Cutter Ct
Boonville, MO 65233.

Would you be willing to serve as a mentor to a new counselor?

- Yes
- No

Meeting Minutes

By: Lillian Hoell

MMSCA Summer Governing Board Meeting
June 16, 2014

A summer planning meeting for the MMSCA Governing Board was held in the community room of the Hawthorn Bank in Jefferson City on June 16, 2014. Susan Wolz, Co-President, began the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Members in attendance: Janet Bagby, Jennifer Boyer, Diane Clayton, Julie Day, Melissa Head, Lillian Hoell, Becca Mehmert, Carolyn Roof, Sarah Sadewhite, Jessica Schumacher, Amy Spence, Dave Teeter, and Susan Wolz.

Meeting began with introductions.

Gay and Susan have several goals for this year including providing quality PD, increasing membership, providing an interest display at every meeting to provide info (ex- in October present the book from the MSCA Fall Conference Speaker).

Discussed whether or not to continue including GSOS with meetings. Decided to continue because survey was favorable.

Janet explained the GSOS region. The location for meetings needs to be convenient for people from the GSOS region and the MMSCA region. We especially want the fall meeting to be easily accessible by all.

Past locations include: Lincoln, Westminster, Linn, Columbia College, Stephens

Fall Meeting

Date possibilities: October 2, 14, 16

Time: GSOS 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Lunch 12:15, General meeting 1:00 p.m., Governing board 2:30 p.m.

Location: Lincoln University

Topic: Level Sharing

Newsletter articles due: August 1, 2014

Newsletter topic: Data Driven Practices

Newsletter article suggestions include: How you collect and use data, how you use data to select students for groups (attendance, etc), why to collect data, the types of data and the benefits of each, PROBE, pre/post surveys

Administration Appreciation Meeting

Date possibilities: December 4, 11

Time: Governing board 10:30 a.m., Lunch 11:45 a.m.

Location: Columbia College

Topic: Crisis Incident Response power point (Perhaps invite Katie Henry. Carolyn Roof volunteered to help and present with Sarah Sadewhite, MMSCA CIR chair, if Katie is unavailable)

*Have cards with resource information printed on them available as a take-away, possibly have crisis manuals available, sample letters to use in a crisis

Newsletter articles due: November 10, 2014

Newsletter topic: Transitions

Newsletter article suggestions include: transitions between grade levels or school buildings, the impact of transitions on academics and socialization, success stories of strategies counselors have used to help with transitions

*Will also include information about the new Director of Guidance at DESE, Dr. Rene Yoessel. Carolyn will write an article about her and the other changes at DESE—Tom Schlimpert is new Assistant Director, MCCE moving curriculum to DESE website

Spring Meeting

Date possibilities: March 3, 12

Time: Governing Board 12:30 p.m., GSOS 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., General meeting 4:45 p.m., Dinner 5:00 p.m. Recognition of award winners

Location: State Technical College of Missouri (formerly Linn)

Topic: Mental Health Issues in the Schools—Chris Maglio from Truman State?

Newsletter articles due: February 1, 2015

Newsletter topic: Goal Setting/Careers

Newsletters

-Bigger board positions have more articles.

-It's okay to ask someone to write your article if you know someone with expertise to contribute

-First newsletter will be moved up to August this year

-The newsletter topic is meant to help focus articles and avoid repetitive information. If Governing Board members have information pertaining to their position they are welcome to write on that topic instead.

-When submitting articles to the newsletter chair, include "MMSCA article" in the subject line

Discussion was had about the time for the ad-

ministrators appreciation meeting. After some debate it was decided to move it back to lunch.

MSCA Fall Conference November 2014

Volunteers are needed to help with exhibit hall hospitality

This year's conference project is a portion of the Special Olympics that focuses on socialization and includes a curriculum.

Can tabs will also be collected for the Ronald McDonald House charity.

hospitality position for the governing board and that two people share the position. The individuals in this position would buy or collect donated food for the conference, help set up at the conference, and provide personal contacts to members during the year as needed. Jessica Schumacher volunteered to help with this IF food was donated.

districts and will keep track of who is contacting which districts. The question "why did we lose you?" would collect helpful information. Phone calls should also encourage counselors to join/rejoin.

Professional Development

Carolyn Roof reported that 3 or 4 years ago we updated our nomination forms to mirror the state forms in many ways. Now the state is not getting applications. Carolyn plans to have hard copies of those forms ready at the recognition meeting and then follow up electronically

Technology

Amelia is working on the website.

Meeting Minutes, cont'd.

By: Lillian Hoell

Membership

Discussion was had about the electronic form including the benefits and challenges of signing up online. Amy Spence will work with Jennifer Boyer this summer to make this process less confusing. They will also try to set the form to send a notification to Amy when a form is submitted. They will then work with Amelia Fagiolo to upload the form to the website in hard copy and electronically.

Personal contacts were suggested to increase membership. Susan Wolz will send a list of districts to Amy Spence. Amy will ask people to contact other counselors in our region.

Melissa Head reported on a competition to encourage participation in the different parts of the conference. Points will be awarded for participation in events such as hospitality, providing a silent auction basket, having the highest selling basket, participating in the golf tournament, percentage of region attending, etc. A rubric is being developed and prizes will be awarded.

MMSCA will again partner with Northeast for a Mexican themed hospitality room.

Last year we asked MMSCA members to donate items. After discussion it was decided to ask people to sign up to donate at the first meeting in October. Susan Wolz and Sarah Sadewhite volunteered to each donate 5 pounds of ground meat.

Discussion was had about how overwhelming it is for our presidents to coordinate hospitality in addition to their other duties at the Fall Conference. It was suggested that we create a was donated.

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Jennifer Boyer reminded the group that MMSCA is two years in to a five year contract with GoDaddy. She asked about trying to get money back or using that to maintain our web address. Diane Clayton suggested using a shortcut web address to make it shorter and easier to remember. Jennifer and Amelia will work together to develop a long range plan for the website and web address.

Bylaws

"District" needs to be changed to "Region"

Critical Incident Response

Sarah Sadewhite reported that the CIR Team hasn't been utilized much in recent years; districts are handling crises internally. Sample letters are the most requested resource. Sarah welcomes suggestions for the team.

Student Representatives

Governing Board members with connections to the schools with counselor education programs will find representatives.

Mentoring

Betsy Jones requests that she be informed if any members know of new counselors so she can reach out to them.

New Business

Susan Wolz will make any necessary corrections to the directory and email it to the Governing Board.

The 2014-2015 budget was presented. MMSCA currently has a working balance of \$1,993.47 although a few small checks have not yet been withdrawn.

Closing comments were made encouraging all Governing Board members to talk to other counselors about the value of MMSCA—professional development, networking, etc. Many long-time counselors have moved on and their replacements haven't yet connected with MMSCA.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lillian Hoell

Who You Are Makes a Difference!

By: Melissa Head

It is time to start thinking about those Advocates and Guidance Directors that just “Rock”!!! At the December MMSCA Meeting, we will be recognizing Administrator/Counselor Advocate of the Year. So I know that there are several of us who have administrators and guidance directors that are fantastic and totally support our programs. This is our opportunity to recognize their attributes and support of the Model Guidance Program. Nomination packets are available on the MMSCA website <http://mmscaofficial.wordpress.com/> and due by November 15th to Melissa Head (mhead@nc.k12.mo.us). We all know that we have supporters of our guidance programs that “Who they are makes a Difference!” So please take the time to recognize those advocates that support your programs!

Technology Update

By: Amelia Fagiolo

Our website has moved! Check out the new and improved MMSCA Website at www.mmscaofficial.wordpress.com. The site is a work in progress and **we welcome any and all feedback!** As I write this, I’m working to add PayPal and links to the contact information. Feedback can be sent through the website’s “Contact Us” link or by emailing Amelia Fagiolo directly at afagiolo@columbia.k12.mo.us.

We’ve also created a Twitter and Facebook account. Please follow us at @MMSCAOfficial on Twitter and "Like" the Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association on Facebook.

**Please email Jessica Schumacher at jschumacher@nc.k12.mo.us for any questions or comments about the current or future MMSCA newsletters.*

Career Guidance News

By: Janet Bagby

I hope you had a wonderful summer and your first days back to school have been smooth. It is always terrific to start back and begin working with students. As your Central Region College and Career Consultant (CCC) I am excited to work with you this year in advancing career education in your schools. The CCC Mission is to empower school districts to enhance their K-12 instructional process leading all students to a successful post-secondary experience through the development and implementation of a rigorous and relevant personal plan of study. There are several upcoming career development opportunities to participate in. Please feel free to email or call me for any needs that you have.

Guidance System of Support (GSOS) meeting is October 2 at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. Registration information will be sent by email.

Career event assistance available. I have limited grant money available to assist schools with having a career awareness event. The focus is for elementary/middle/and high school students to explore and learn about High Tech careers, which will assist with their education/career decisions. Please email if you are planning an event. I would like to share your success stories in future MMSCA newsletters. There are great things happening in Central Missouri every week and it is important to share it. Possible events include

- STEM Career Center students bring STEM hands on activity fair to upper elementary/middle school students.

- Middle School monthly luncheons for girls. Girls learn computer coding and have guest speakers.

- High Tech Careers Workshop for 7th -9th graders

- Career Fairs

Jackie Coleman has **Missouri Connections Fall Workshops** scheduled in our region as listed below. You are welcome to attend the one that best fits your schedule. There are morning and afternoon sessions for each date. To register for the Missouri Connections Fall Workshops provided by Jackie Coleman go to www.missouriconnections.org:

September 25 – Columbia

September 26 – Jefferson City

October 7 – Sedalia

October 8 - Rolla

I can be available to work with you before or after the Missouri Connections training if you are interested in extending your work session to work on your **Programs of Study, Personal Plan of Study, Career and Education Planning Guide, Guidance Calendar/Goals or implementing Missouri Connections** in your school. A lot has happened over the past few years and now is the time to be sure you have all the pieces in great working order. I am also available to provide resume workshops with students and to provide teacher PD on using Missouri Connections in the classroom. Please email me if you are interested in a work session.

This is going to be a terrific year with many exciting opportunities for students to explore career options. I look forward to getting to work with each of you. Feel free to contact me anytime.

Janet Bagby / jbagby@cpsk12.org / 573-424-3150



MMSCA November Newsletter Focus:

Data-Driven Practices

Please enjoy the following articles that offer strategies and resources that you can implement in your program.

Data in Elementary

By: Sarah Sadewhite, Elementary Vice-President

There are many different types of data that you can incorporate into your school counseling program. The following are the different types that we use in Columbia Public Schools, taken from our school counseling department.

PROCESS DATA

Process Data Report (Annually)- This includes information such as each building's total number of students, number of guidance curriculum lessons taught, number of small groups, number of individuals seen, number of crisis referrals, check ins, CICO, parent contacts, teacher contacts, home visits, hotline calls made, family services visits, buddy packs given out, outside agency information, time spent on 504s, gifted education, MAP coordination, etc.

PERCEPTUAL DATA

Individual/Small Group Student Feedback– Administered to all students on caseload annually. We have an online form and a paper copy and either can be used to gather feedback from the students worked with over the school year.

Parent Feedback– Sent to all parents of individual counseling students and/or the parents of the students in small group counseling. Distributed via hardcopy or email.

Teacher Feedback- (all teachers every three years)

IIR – Internal Improvement Review Document- Completed annually using the electronic Excel document.

RESULTS BASED DATA *

Responsive Services - Individual or Group Counseling (1 or 2 students)
MSIP Requirement

- Identify individual or group based upon a high number of office referrals
- Gather baseline data at beginning of

work with individual or group

- Collect multiple data points to measure impact of Responsive Services
- o Suggested data: Friday Folder Ratings; Behavior Plan; Self-Assessments; Office Referrals; Buddy Room or Recovery Room visits;
- Chart change in behavior or impact of student support, and include a narrative to explain data.

- Submit electronically to Elementary Counseling Coordinator

PROGRAM RESULTS

Program Results- Share end of the year building data report with building administrators.

*Results Based Data Project

Individual or Group Counseling

Step 1: Identify the problem behavior

- Why is the student being referred for services?
- What specific behavior is the target?

Step 2: Collect background information (baseline data)

- What is the student doing now (before we change anything)?
- Examples: SWIS data (referrals), Friday Folder checklist, teacher report, attendance, observation, student interview, parent report

Step 3: Choose appropriate interventions and measurement tool

- What does the student need?
- If counseling is appropriate, consider what strategies, when, how often, etc.
- o Quick Check
- o Mentoring
- o Lunch Bunch
- o Behavior Plan
- o Individual or Group Counseling
- How will I know if student behavior changes?

- o Behavior Plan
- o Individual or Group Counseling
- How will I know if student behavior changes?
- o Choose a measurement tool- SWIS data, Friday Folder, attendance, behavior plan, your own (such as Temper Thermometer), self- assessment

- o How often will you collect this information?

Step 4: Implement Intervention Plan

Step 5: Monitor Progress- Collect, Analyze, Evaluate, & Share Outcomes

- Collect Data / Document any changes that might impact progress
- Analyze data- Chart using Excel (or other method) and include a narrative to explain reason for results.
- Evaluate intervention - Did the student's behavior improve?
- o If so, what (if any) level of intervention should continue?
- o If not, what can we try next?
- Share results with students, as well as parents, teachers, and administrators.

“24”: A Number Worth Working Towards

By: Diane Clayton , Secondary Vice-President

Gathering data, whether it is formal or informal, can be a daunting task, and when asked by your district to use data to drive your programs, or better yet to prove your current programs worth, it can be quite difficult. At JCHS, several years ago, the administrative team set a goal of “24” meaning that as a school we were going to use this number to drive our efforts. Twenty- four home visits were to be made by counselors and administration, twenty-four greetings were to take place each week to the student body, and then we took on the task of praising our students that earned a twenty-four on their ACT by hanging banners in our cafeteria with the names of students who had earned a composite score of 24 in an effort to encourage more students to take the ACT, as well as possibly raise scores.

In 2013, we were able to offer the PLAN test to all sophomores. This year our goal is to administer the ASPIRE to all incoming sophomores. The end result is to show students that might have not even considered taking the ACT that the score they receive on the ASPIRE is a way to gauge what they might score on the ACT, as well as show the areas that need improvement in order for them to make more informed choices when selecting their personal plan of study.

The data we gather from these two assessments are driving what our high school does in regards to the upcoming requirement that all juniors take the ACT. Last year in an effort to improve our scores, JCHS sent five core teachers to be trained to offer free in-house ACT prep classes. It is the goal for our school to not only improve our test scores, but also show students who may not have believed they could attend a two year/ four year post-secondary school that yes, they do have the ability.

In the upcoming months, administration, counselors and teachers will continue to use the data that is readily available to us to create opportunities for our students to improve in all areas of their education. ACT is just one of those areas.

Attendance Determines Excellence in Middle School

By: Jessica Schumacher

Attendance is not a new word to us as school counselors, but new meaning has definitely been given to in the past few years. With the goal of 90% of students having 90% or better attendance in a school year, more focus has been put on making sure our students are in their seats on a daily basis.

Our school stepped up the plate and tackled this before any student was able to drop so far below. The school participated in a weekly competition where each class's attendance percentage was poster in the school cafeteria. The top two winners of the week each received school reward tickets for contributing to the top percentage. If their class reached 100% for the week, they would get double the student reward tickets.

In addition, weekly we would run an attendance report and monitor any students that was falling below the 90% attendance mark for the year. We would then meet with these students individually to delve deeper into the issue of why they were missing school. We would also be in contact with their parents on days when they were in attendance and they had a good day at school. If students were showing a dramatic drop, they were placed in a group where they would check in with a particular teacher at the beginning and end of each day to ensure a positive school relationship was being built.

Overall, students responded in a positive way and data showed that we were able to improve or maintain student attendance with the close monitoring system.

Data Practices at the College Level

By: Becca Mehmert, Post-Secondary VP

State Technical College of Missouri is a member of Partners in Prevention (PIP), Missouri's higher education substance abuse consortium dedicated to creating healthy and safe college campuses. This coalition is made up of 21 public and private college and university campuses across the state. Each campus implements the Missouri College Health Behavior Survey (MCHBS) each spring. The data collected from this online survey provides information on the behaviors of college students across the state as well as for each individual campus. Data collected includes information on high-risk and underage drinking, high-risk driving behaviors, problem gambling, suicide ideation, tobacco use and other issues that affect college students. The data is then used by each campus to write and implement a strategic plan in order to decrease and/or prevent problematic health and safety behaviors on campus and in the surrounding community. State Tech has implemented Drive Safe Drive Smart, Ask Listen Refer, and prescription drug take back events among others (typically offering some sort of giveaway). These events have been positive influences on campus as evidenced by the reduced the number of high-risk activities indicated on the MCHBS.

Google Forms and Their Benefit

By: Gay Baer

As I look to the beginning of another school year, it is very exciting to make plans and goals for the year. I always reflect over the past years regarding what worked well and areas that I would like to improve on. One area that I hope to expand for the upcoming year is the use of Google forms in order to provide data and documentation regarding the services that are provided to my students. Just this past school year, I was introduced to Google forms in a teacher in-service and then learned more about how other counselors were using this tool. Over the past year, I have created forms in which I can log information regarding individual meetings with students, document parent contact, document resources provided to students, and conduct follow up surveys with students. The information included on the form can easily be accessed in an excel spreadsheet to be utilized when advocating for my program.

Even though I still consider myself a novice at using technology in this manner, I would be happy to share the forms that I have created. I am looking forward to utilizing this tool in expanded ways during the school year. Please feel free to contact me at gbaer@pilotgrove.k12.mo.us if I can ever be of assistance to you.

Resources and Links:

Mid-Missouri School Counselor Association

www.mmscaofficial.wordpress.com

Missouri Center for Career Education

www.missouricareereducation.org

Missouri School Counselor Association

www.moschoolcounselor.org

American School Counselor Associa- tion

www.schoolcounselor.org

**Please email Jessica Schumacher at jschumacher@nc.k12.mo.us for any questions or comments about the current or future MMSCA newsletters.*