**Dunbar Creative and Performing Arts Magnet School**

**School Counseling Plan**

This is intended to present information to staff and parents about what the School Guidance and Counseling Program provides to help assist in meeting student needs. This is by no means comprehensive of every service provided.

**Overview of the Dunbar’s Guidance and Counseling Program**

* The Guidance and Counseling Program is comprehensive in nature, striving to provide education for ALL students in three areas: academic, personal/social, and career.
* The Guidance and Counseling Program is proactive and preventative – helping students develop critical skills to achieve academic, social, and behavioral success.
* The Guidance and Counseling Program provides classroom lessons, student planning, responsive services, and system support.

**Classroom Lessons**

* The School Counselor provides education to ALL students though the Social Studies classes. This provides consistent learning, language, and skill development. It allows the counselor to observe and evaluate classroom and student needs.
* Lessons often cover these topics: character, teamwork, conflict resolution, bullying, responsibility, personal safety, career interests and choices, and problem solving.

**Student Planning**

* The School Counselor works with students to develop their schedules for the current school year and future years. This is done by examining standardized test scores, transcripts, and discussing students’ interest and aptitudes.

**Response Services**

* Consultation: the School Counselor will consult with teachers, administrators, support staff, special education staff, social workers, parents/guardians, and community agencies regarding strategies to help students and families. The School Counselor will serve as a student advocate in all consultation situations.
* Individual and Small Group Counseling: the School Counselor will provide counseling for students expressing difficulties dealing with relationships, personal, and/or academic concerns.
	+ Counseling is intended to be short-term to help students identify problems, causes, copying skills, and develop goals to take appropriate action.
	+ **I do NOT provide clinical counseling services.**
* Crisis Counseling: the School Counselor provides prevention, intervention, and follow-up.
	+ The School Counselor provides counseling to students and families facing emergency situations.
	+ The School Counselor serves as a member of the district’s crisis team process.
* Referral: the School Counselor will use referral sources to handle suicidal ideation, violence, abuse, mental health issues, and family difficulties.
	+ Referral resources may be to a mental health agency, social and/or community services.
	+ Any and all suspected cases of child abuse will be referred to the Department of Human Resources.

**System Support**

* Professional Development: the School Counselor will continually update and share his/her professional knowledge and skills through in-service training and staff and/or parenting meetings.
* Collaboration on Teams: the School Counselor is a contributing member to many groups and teams such as:
	+ Problem Solving Team
	+ 504 Facilitator
	+ Safety Plan Team
	+ School Leadership Team

**Confidentiality**

* The School Counselor will develop confidential relationship with students. This means that information gathered through meetings with students and parents/guardians will be shared on a **“need-to-know”** basis only.
* The School Counselor will work to maintain the privacy of students and their families. When information needs to be shared; the counselor will assess who needs to know and what information needs to be known to best help the students and their families.

**Referral for Counseling Services**

* The School Counselor will prioritize the needs of the students of the students based on referrals from:
	+ Teachers, administrators, and support staff
	+ PST
	+ Parents/Guardians
	+ Students (self-referral or other students)