

# THE ADVOCATE

HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Monthly Newsletter

September 2019

## New This School Year!

Watch for our monthly newsletter, **The Advocate**, at the beginning of each month. Here, our school-based counselors and [HCPSS School Counseling Department](#) will share helpful information about nationwide efforts ([In Our World](#)), county initiatives ([In Our County](#)), school programs ([In Our School](#)), and home-school connection tips ([In Our Homes](#)) in the areas of academic growth, social-emotional development, and career exploration. We will also share some little-known [Fun Facts](#) about the role of school counselors in today's educational world!

## Fun Fact!

The term *guidance counselor*, which historically referred to "guiding" high school students toward career or college paths, has evolved to better reflect today's role. The term **school counselor** is now used to identify individuals that are "certified/licensed educators who improve student success for ALL students by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program" ([ASCA](#)). Please click [here](#) to view an infographic about the role of today's ~~guidance counselor~~ school counselor!



## In Our WORLD

Welcome back to the 2019-20 school year! Each school year starts off with world-wide efforts in regards to suicide awareness and prevention. Click the links below to learn more about these mental health efforts!



[World Suicide Prevention Day](#) (Sept. 10th)

[National Suicide Prevention Week](#) (Sept. 8-14th)

## In Our COUNTY

All HCPSS certificated staff are participating in **student suicide prevention and safety training**. This training addresses MSDE's adopted COMAR (13A.07.11) regulation, which supports House Bill 920 (Chapter 335), to ensure that all certificated staff:

- (1) understand and respond to youth suicide risk;
- (2) understand and respond to student mental health, student trauma, student safety and other topics related to student social and emotional well-being;
- (3) and identify professional resources to help students in crisis.

Please visit the [MSDE website](#) to read more about this regulation.

## In Our SCHOOL: We Like You Just the Way You Are! Hammond Elementary School

**School Counselor: Maggie Kennedy:** [Margaret\\_Kennedy@hcpss.org](mailto:Margaret_Kennedy@hcpss.org)

Throughout September, we will be working to set routines and structures that will help lay the groundwork for a successful school year. Mrs. Kennedy will be (re)connecting with each classroom (K-5) to remind students about the resources and supports available through their school counselor. We will also be discussing habits and behaviors of resilient, successful learners.



## In Our HOMES

In light of September's mental health efforts, you may be wondering what you can do to help. A known protective factor for mental health is **resilience**. Click [here](#) to learn more about building resiliency at home. Additionally, check out these [children's books](#) (organized by age range) that you can read with your child(ren) at home!