

Sumter County Middle School

Professional School Counseling Services

Welcome!

Welcome to the school counseling program at Sumter County Middle School! We are so happy to meet you and hope we can get to know you better!

The purpose of this brochure is to explain who we are and what we do; and to answer some questions you may have about school counseling services here at Sumter County Middle School.

After you read the brochure, we will be happy to answer any other questions you may have.

We hope your experiences at Sumter County Middle School are positive ones. Middle School is a major transition. However, at Sumter County Middle School we offer a challenging yet rewarding experience in your educational life. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Contacting Us

The professional school counselor is available both by appointment and by walk-in. We encourage parents to call for an appointment to avoid waiting for service.

To reach the counseling office, call (229) 924-1010, Monday through Friday, 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM.

We also encourage students to make an appointment with the school counselor as needed. However, students may come in on a walk-in basis if in crisis, during breaks or when referred by a school staff member.

If you need services that we cannot provide, we will help you find someone who can help you.



**439 Bumphead Road
Americus, GA 31719**

**Office: (229) 924-1010
Counseling Center: (229) 931-8895
Fax: (229) 928-5571**



*Sumter County Middle School
"Go Panthers!"*

Information about Privacy

We make every effort to follow the school counseling guidelines contained in the American School Counselor Association Code of Ethics. This means we will keep the information you share with us confidential—unless you give us permission to share it, or unless we are required by law or school policy to share it.

Examples of when we must share your information.

- When you give us permission to share information.
- When we are required to release information by a school policy, state law and/or the code of ethics for counselors. For example:
 - If we believe you are at risk of harming yourself or others.
 - If we believe someone is trying to hurt you.
 - If a judge orders us to provide information in court.
 - If a law is broken.

What Does A Middle School Counselor Do?

The Middle School Counselor . . .

- Assists parents and teachers helping children
- Conducts classroom guidance activities
- Provides individual and small group counseling
- Coordinates school-wide guidance activities
- Academic scheduling

A child may see the counselor for . . .

- Study skills
- Bullying
- Academic planning and career exploration
- Issues with friends
- New situations
- Difficult decisions
- Success & Accomplishments
- Family Concerns
- Happy occasions
- Dealing with grief, loss, or illness
- Any other area of concern that may fall under the guidelines of our expertise/direction

How can a student see the counselor?

- Student support team referral
- Teacher referral
- Administrative referral
- Parental referral
- Self-Referral

About our Counselor

Mrs. Sherri J. Nance believes her role as a professional school counselor is that of facilitator, empowering students to explore options and make choices that will lead to fulfillment and success of their needs without infringing on the rights of others. She likes to help students identify and use their personal strengths and support services within their families and communities as tools in improving their lives. Mrs. Nance emphasizes the concepts and methods inherent to various therapeutic models. Mrs. Nance has Bachelors of Speech Communication, Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy, Post Masters Certification in School Counseling and over 10 years of work and field experience in the public sector and private practice in counseling.