

# **Pupil Personnel Services Report to the Board of Education November, 2011**

**Submitted by: Ed Murphy, Director of Pupil Personnel Services**

## **Counseling Services**

**Naviance:** The Naviance “Family Connection” is a web based computer program designed to complement the counseling department by offering students information tailored to their individual interests, learning styles, and goals. The freshman and sophomores are utilizing the Naviance computer program to complete specific tasks that will compile the PSLP (Personal Student Learning Plan). In addition to the assigned tasks, teachers and counselors are utilizing the Naviance system to communicate important information to students throughout the year. One of the major components of the PSLP is the requirement to fulfill “Service Learning” hours. To assist students with this requirement, Service Learning opportunities are being posted on the main page of the student log-in. As a result, students can keep abreast of different events that will be occurring and sign-up to participate directly through the posting. Service Learning hours will continue to be tracked and updated on PowerSchool so that parents and students will be aware of the hours that students have accumulated towards the requirement. The sixth and seventh grade students will be utilizing Naviance to establish academic and personal goals in accordance with the strategic plan. The students will follow the S.M.A.R.T. criteria which includes (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely) to devise and monitor their goals under the direction of the counselor and the Student Assistance Counselor. Finally, the seniors are using the program to sign up for college visits, complete a college search, create a resume, as well as complete various surveys. In a short time, Naviance has become a very integral part how the counselors assist students. One short-term goal will be to work with parents in setting up accounts so that they can follow their child’s progress and communicate easily with the school.

**Evening Programs:** On September 29<sup>th</sup>, close to 50 parents and students attended a college application workshop held in the junior/senior library. The focus of the program was on narrowing the list of colleges/universities to which students would apply as well as the process involved in completing college applications.

**SES:** The Junior/Senior high school will be hosting a Supplemental Educational Services “Provider Fair” on November 22<sup>nd</sup> during the parent conferences. Parents will have an opportunity to meet with providers and learn about the specific programs and services offered through each provider. Students who qualify for free/reduced lunch are eligible for services. Thus far, seven providers have confirmed that they will participate. Rather than have a separate event, it was decided to couple the fair with parent conferences in the hope to give parents another avenue to seek academic support through the school.

**College Trips:** The following trips have been approved and have become annual events that will occur at each level:

- Grade 4-Rowan University- Late May or early June. The trip will include a visit to the Planetarium, a tour of campus and lunch in the cafeteria. AVID 12 students will help prepare the students in advance by preparing a lesson on going to college which will highlight the journey that they have taken.

- Grade 8-Howard University-Set for March 30. The trip will include a tour of campus, Q&A with current students and a tour of the capital.
- Grade 10-College of New Jersey-Mid March. The trip will include tour of campus, meeting with admissions and lunch in the cafeteria.
- Grade 11-National College Fair-Set for April 26<sup>th</sup>. Students will have an opportunity to meet with representative from over 500 post-secondary schools.

**Standardized Testing:** The High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) was administered during the first week of March to first time 11<sup>th</sup> graders and to seniors who had not demonstrated proficiency on the assessment last year. Results will be received in late May and shared with students and parents at that time. Juniors prepared for the test in their English and math classes utilizing preparation materials furnished by the state. End of Course Algebra and the High School Biology Competency Test will both be administered in May. In addition, the NJ ASK will be administered to students in grades 3-8 in May. Teachers and students are preparing for those assessments utilizing the MAP test to gauge student growth and identify areas of deficiency.

**The Alternative High School Assessment Process:** The revised Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) formally the Special Review Assessment (SRA) is in its third year. The district is responsible for developing an “Educational Proficiency Plan” (EPP) for any student who is utilizing the AHSA as a means to demonstrate proficiency in Math and/or Language Arts. Counselors have met with the teachers and students to review strengths and weaknesses and monitor overall academic progress. Identified weaknesses will be supported through the AHSA class to help prepare students for the HSPA and the AHSA - both will be administered two times during the senior year.

### **Option II:**

This year marks the fourth year for the Option II program. Each year, the number of programs and participating students has increased – and has outperformed even the most optimistic projections from the previous year. Since 2008, Option II has reflected growth in specific areas - seemingly defined by student interest. These areas included: Independent Studies, the Future Teacher Program, and most recently Service Learning.

With well over **1000 credits** and **1500 hours of Service Learning** earned – Option II has had the ability to make a difference in the lives of over 350 students. These statistics have been embraced and celebrated within our school and community. In addition, we can now see how each individual student and their accomplishments have tied our school and community together.

In 2008, the Strategic Plan listed Option II as a bulleted item under ***Personal Achievement Plans***. Over the course of the last few years – Woodbury’s teachers, students and community have embraced the Option II program - and have given it deep value and purpose. The 2010-2011 academic school year shows that our school’s Option II programs have been woven into over **15 objectives** within our district’s guiding document. They show a variety of activity and a wide range of student involvement. They include (but are most certainly not limited to) the following:

1. Service Learning Programs
2. Personalized Student Learning Plans
3. Naviance
4. Student Volunteers for Workplace
5. Representation in local media and newspaper
6. Web-based integration of school and community activities

Although listed toward the end of our Strategic Plan, Woodbury's commitment to create partnerships with local/regional businesses and professional communities has had a tremendous impact on our high school students. The below lists some of the areas in which our Option II kids are involved in unique learning experiences and are being challenged outside the traditional classroom.

Woodbury Public School District (Service Learning)

- High School Love your Library
- Parent/Teacher Conference

Evergreen

- PTO
- Book Fair
- Box Top

Woodbury Public School District (Future Teachers)

- Woodbury Junior/Senior High School
- Evergreen
- Walnut
- West End

Woodbury Public Library (Service Learning)

- "The Monday Thing" Club

City Of Woodbury - Office of Economic Development (Community Internships)

- Website development
- Video production
- Site photography

Woodbury Main Street, Inc. (Service Learning)

- Part of interview project with Donovan Rypkema, Revitalization Expert
- Committee Members
- Community Activities

Underwood Memorial Hospital (Service Learning)

- 5k Race Down Broad Street
- 1 Mile Kids Fun Run

Center for Independent Living (Service Learning)

- Office and staff support

Woodbury YMCA (School-to-Careers)

- Child Care

Area Restaurants (School-to-Career)

- Country House
- Marlene's
- Gia Nina's

### *Student Assistance Counselor (SAC)*

Since its introduction, Mix-It-Up Day continues to be a great success. This year will be the fifth that Mrs. Lacovara will execute a pre-lesson to the entire sixth grade so they understand the purpose of the event. Students will enjoy an afternoon lunch with high school facilitators as they dine in the cafeteria adorned with table covers and decorative flowers. We look forward to have teachers and administrators again join us in this celebration. Mrs. Lacovara will again prepare a Power Point presentation to share feedback at the following sixth-grade Town Hall meeting based on the writing prompt she will have them complete immediately following the event. Buy-in continues to increase with this program. Mix-It-Up Day also connects to our Week of Respect theme from October.

This year the SAC took on the additional role of the Anti-Bullying Specialist (ABS) for grades 6-12. The SAC has been working diligently at interviewing and reporting possible Harassment, Intimidation, and/or Bullying incidents with a focus on trends. In addition to presenting the New Jersey HIB law to all students at September Town Hall meetings, the SAC has created a presentation for junior high students and presented to them again during their October Town Hall meetings. Since that time, HIB referrals have begun to decrease. In addition to working with the students at the Jr.-Sr. High School level, the SAC is also assisting the elementary school anti-bullying specialists work through the process.

This year the SAC played an integral role in the planning and execution of the newly mandated Week of Respect. She enlisted the help of the S.U.R.E. club members to help reinforce the message through work on bulletin boards around the building. The Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office came and presented to the Jr.-Sr. High School on the impact and dangers of posting on the internet.

A Municipal Alliance grant was obtained to cover the expense of "I am Dirt," a one-man show that focuses on the dangers of drug and alcohol use for Red Ribbon week. Money was also acquired to support an anti-bullying program at Evergreen Avenue School.

Our Halloween Safety program under the direction of the SAC was a success again this year. Four Student Council student representatives visited each elementary school to present safety tips to the students for trick-or-treating. Each student received a glow-in-the-dark safety bracelet or pencil along with a Halloween Safety coloring page.

The SAC maintains strong working relationships with fellow counselors and teachers to address issues at hand. She continues to utilize Bryn Mawr Hospital for their pre-prom "Boozin' Not Cruizin'" program. This worthwhile and heartfelt presentation is sure to reach many of our students and help them to understand the dangers of substance abuse.

Finally, two students have been referred out for substance abuse testing this year, both testing positive. Mrs. Lacovara continues her work with these students through the use of SASSI and counseling.

## **Health Services**

The Health Care Reform Act of 2008 mandates all children age 18 and under have health insurance. In accordance with a recommendation from the state, the district changed registration information to include a family health insurance. The information is gathered along with the general family information that is obtained at the beginning of each year as new students enroll. Student contact information will once again be shared with the state, as required, thus enabling the state to contact parents who signed a consent waiver directly concerning NJ Family Care.

The Gloucester County Health Department held a Flu Clinic at the Junior/Senior High School on Tuesday, November 1. The Clinic served students, parents, faculty and the general community. By the end of the evening 569 people were vaccinated against both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 strain.

On November 7, 2011, the nurses were each presented with a plaque from the “Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey” acknowledging each school as “Asthma Friendly”. Mr. Jones, Mr. Gwalthney and Mr. Toole were also present for the presentation which took place at the Evergreen Avenue School. The designation is presented to schools who can verify the following six requirements: 1. Indoor Air Quality, 2. Sign a No Idling Pledge, 3. Maintain a Nebulizer, 4. Employ School Nurses, 5. Asthma Treatment Plans on file for Students, and 6. Staff Training. Each step supports the efforts of New Jersey schools to be in compliance with New Jersey Laws for asthma management and good indoor air quality. The award recognizes a school’s efforts to enhance the quality of education for students and staff who face the challenges of asthma.