**The Role of the School Counselor**

*What does an elementary school counseling program look like?*

    The elementary school counseling program is part of the total school program, and complements learning that takes place in the classroom. The program encourages students to grow in these core areas: academic, social, and emotional.

*What does a counselor do?*

    The purpose of the counselor is to meet the needs of the students. This can be done in many ways. The counselor provides classroom lessons on topics, such as conflict resolution, self esteem, organization, and friendship. The counselor can also meet with students individually to address a specific issue, or in a small group setting if a common theme is present in several students. The counselor is also available to meet with parents if they are concerned about their child's behavior. The counselor consults with the teachers and administration in order to ensure best practice.

*How does my child meet with the counselor?*

    A student can request to see the counselor at any point should an issue the student cannot resolve on their own arises. A teacher or parent can also suggest that the student talk with the counselor. However, if a parent wants his or her child to meet with the counselor on a more regular basis, the parent would sign a consent form indicating that he or she wants the child to meet with the counselor, and then return the form to the school. The counselor will then be able to meet with the child weekly and terminate those meetings when appropriate. The counselor can email the parents weekly updates about how the sessions went, in order to keep the parents in the loop. The parents are allowed to terminate the weekly counseling sessions at anytime.

*What are the benefits for students after meeting with a counselor?*

The benefits of counseling are endless. To name a few, the child can leave counseling with a better understanding of self, learning how to cope when things do not go their way, taking responsibility for their own behavior, establishing effective study, organizational, and time management skills, and building effective ways to communicate with others. When students work through their social and emotional issues, with the help of their parents and counselor, they are able to devote attention and energy to the academic tasks at school.

*How can I reach out to the counselor?*

The best way to contact the counselor is by email gcoleman@holyfamilydalecity.org. You can ask her a question, set up a meeting, or ask that she check in on a child.

I look forward to an exciting school year at Holy Family Catholic School!  Ms. Genny Coleman

*Holy Family Catholic School*

*14160 Ferndale Road*

*Dale City, VA 22193*

*Telephone: (703) 670-3138*

Date:

Dear                                                                        ,

Your child has expressed an interest in visiting Ms. Coleman, our school counselor. Please return the attached form at the bottom to indicate that                                                                                      has your permission to meet with Ms. Coleman in her office.

Sincerely,

Sarah Chevlin

Principal

Dear Mrs. Chevlin,

**I give permission** for my child,                                                                                                  , to meet with Ms. Coleman, the school counselor.

Parent's signature                                 Date

**I do not give permission** for my child,                                                                                      , to meet with Ms. Coleman, the school counselor.

Parent signature                                Date