

GUIDANCE SERVICES

Primary Goal - To provide educational, vocational and personal counseling services to the end that the student might derive maximum benefit from his or her educational experience.

<u>Staff</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Cost Per Student</u>
16.94	5,614	\$2,008,020	\$358

A. STUDENT PROGRAM DATA – POST HIGH SCHOOL PLANS

Class	4 Year College	2 Year College	Other Education	Employment	Military	Other
Class of 2007	63%	31%	2%	3%	1%	0%
Class of 2006	62	33	1	3	1	0
Class of 2005	61	33	2	4	0	0
Class of 2004	57	35	2	4	1	0

The Guidance Department continues to have an ongoing commitment to building relationships with a variety of colleges, which include private and public institutions. The College Visitation Days held at Shaker High School have approximately 155 colleges and universities attend. College admissions counselors provided information to families at the Junior Parent and Financial Aid Nights.

B. STUDENT PROGRAM DATA – DISTRICT DROPOUT RATE

Year	Shaker High School
2006-07	1.5%
2005-06	1.9%
2004-05	1.1%

Sometimes Shaker students withdraw and become part of the statistics, but later re-register during the next year. They become "short-term drop outs."

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

STUDENT PROGRAM DATA – ATTENDANCE DATA

SHS Letters written by principals to parents about attendance:

	2006-2007	2005-2006	2004-2005
Letters written at 20 absences for second warning	792	491	549
Principal's letter for final notice (25 absences)	364	355	230
Number of students who lost course credit	85	94	90

The increase in the number of letters written at 20 absences was noted for the ninth and tenth grade students. The number of students who attained 25 absences remained at a similar number as the previous year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The elementary guidance program continues to be an effective developmental program. Last year, elementary counselors presented over 1,200 classroom guidance lessons. Through the instruction and support of the elementary counselors, students are able to develop conflict resolution skills, improve their self-esteem, recognize and counteract bullying and harassment, and utilize good decision making strategies.
- Elementary counselors fully understand the impact that the stresses and crises that children may have in their lives affects their ability to manage the academics and behavior expected of them in school. The great number of both group and individual counseling sessions demonstrates the significant impact that counselors have on the overall student population due to the many issues and challenges students face.
- The elementary counselors utilized the district mini-grant to purchase guidance literature to allow for the enhancement of the third grade developmental guidance program to make the program more meaningful to students.
- Excellent presenters delivered five parent evening programs. These programs addressed diverse concepts, and all were well attended.

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

- The elementary counselors plan to apply for a second mini-grant to continue to add literature to supplement the current curricula.
- The junior high and senior high counselors provide programming and career planning for students at annual reviews each year. All students are fully included in both the junior high and senior high guidance programs. Students and parents are able to make well-informed decisions regarding programming, curricula and post-graduate plans. Counselors serve as critical liaisons for students as they move through their secondary education.
- This was the third year of Instant Admissions Day at Shaker High School by Hudson Valley Community and Schenectady Community Colleges. Approximately one hundred twenty (120) students met with the admissions counselors and were accepted into the college that day. Students and their parents feel this day enabled them to have a supportive environment when working with the college admissions process.
- The high school counselors make telephone calls to students who have graduated the previous year. This activity provides data that indicates the effectiveness of counseling, the success of students, and a positive public relations “follow-up” for our most recent graduates and their families.
- 95% of the class of 2007 went on to college, which is an indication of overall guidance effectiveness.

OBJECTIVES

- The High School counselors used the Infinite Campus software program for reviewing the schedules completed by the hall principals before recommending programming changes.
- The high school transcript was revised using Infinite Campus.
- The lessons in the Character Education program at the high school were revised and delivered by model students, counselors, and teachers in ninth and tenth grade classrooms.
- The Best Buddies program was expanded to the Junior High School with the student assistance counselor as the advisor.
- The junior high counselors expanded the seventh grade annual review meeting, piloted the previous year, for all students and their parents.

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

- The elementary counselors were awarded a mini-grant to expand the third grade developmental curriculum, *Pumsy, In Search of Excellence*, to include literature on the lesson topics.
- On September 25 and 26, 2007 the junior high counselors planned and conducted a parent evening program on the topic of study skills. Counselors recruited and trained two eighth grade students as presenters.
- Lessons on respect taught by counselors and hall principals were revised and presented to seventh and eighth grade students.
- The career unit lessons on work/life balance and sex role stereotypes were revised prior to teaching in the Home and Career classes.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

At Shaker High School, two hundred two (202) students were seen individual counseling.

- 65% of these students passed all core courses
- 7% of these students passed all but 1 core course
- 9% of these students passed all but 2 core courses
- 4% of these students failed 3 core courses
- 8% of these students failed all core courses
- 7% of these students left Shaker High School, i.e., transferred, moved

At Shaker Junior High School the student assistance counselor met with one hundred fifty-three (153) students either individually or in groups.

- 85% of these students passed all block courses
- 91% of these students passed 3 of their block courses
- 90% of these students passed 2 of their block courses
- 4% of these students did not pass any of their block courses

Overall, the Student Assistance Program was effective in that it provided support for students with academic, behavioral and social difficulties. The number of referrals in each school was, once again, an indicator of the students' level of comfort with the program. Both programs have developed a positive image and students often seek the counselors for support. The counselors have skillfully collaborated with the high school and junior high school counselors. The counselors continue to be at the forefront of supporting students with acute emotional issues.

GUIDANCE SERVICES (cont.)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Student assistance counselors continue to provide individual counseling for a variety of issues that affect students' ability.
- Student assistance counselors meet with students who are suspended due to alcohol, tobacco or illegal substance abuse issues. These students are provided education regarding the dangers of their use.
- The junior high counselor facilitates groups that address topics specific to issues affecting developmental concerns for adolescents.
- Student assistance counselors periodically teach in health classes on topics relevant to that curriculum, i.e., drug and tobacco education and good decision making.
- The junior high student assistance counselor arranged for school-wide and parent evening presentations on Making Positive Live Changes, Character Building, Gang Education, and Internet Safety.