

Post Oak Middle School-School Counseling Department

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is my child's counselor?

A:The POMS School Counseling Staff

Mr. Drew Flenard-all 7th grade, A-L 6th grade- dflenard@spotsylvania.k12.va.us ext. 6425

Mrs. Sarah Mathena-all 8th grade, M-Z grade- smathena@spotsylvania.k12.va.us ext. 6423

Mrs. Maureen "Mo" Lynch-Registrar mlynch@spotsylvania.k12.va.us ext. 6421

Mrs. Mary Guthrie-School Social Worker mguthrie@spotsylvania.k12.va.us ext. 6430

Q. How do I schedule an appointment with my child's school counselor?

A: Contact the counseling office or e-mail the counselors to schedule an appointment to meet with your child's counselor. As the start of the year is always a bit busy, we do our best to return phone calls as soon as possible, often within 24 hours, but it is not always possible, rest assured that communication with parents is very important to us. We thank you for your patience.

Q How does my child schedule an appointment with their school counselor?

A: The POMS School Counselors do their best to make themselves available to students throughout the day. Students can fill out a counselor request form available in the counseling office.

Q: What is the primary function of the School Counselor?

A: School Counselors serve children through the use of a comprehensive program that implements preventative services and intervention. The program is developmental in nature and focuses on the academic, career, and personal/social needs of children. School counselors collaborate with teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, community members and other professional personnel to meet the needs of students. Here at Post Oak, we are members of a team that works, learns, and grows together to prepare our students for their future (POMS, 2014)

Q:What is the primary function of School Social Worker?

A:School Social Workers in Spotsylvania County Public Schools are the Home-School-Community link. This is accomplished by providing mental health support and referral for students, families and schools, promoting home, school and community connection, supporting and working with school staff, providing crisis intervention, and connecting families with community resource.

Q:How do I track my child's progress? How do I know if my child is missing assignments?

A: The **ParentVUE** system includes a photo of your child, attendance, **gradebook** as well as other personal information. **Each Parent/Guardian who has educational rights for the students will have a unique activation key.** We believe that the safest method to provide your activation key is face to face. You will need to have a photo ID to pick up the activation key.

Q: What is the best way to stay in contact or discuss concerns about my child's academic performance and/or behaviors?

A: TEACHERS, TEACHERS!! Our teachers are most readily and immediately available via email.

You may also contact the main office to leave a message for teachers. Teachers will have information on their course syllabi in regards to the best way to contact them. If you are having a difficult time for whatever reason in contacting your child's teacher please call or e-mail your child's counselor for assistance. **Please keep in mind that depending on when a teacher has a planning period there is the very real possibility that calls may not be returned the same day.**

Q: Who should I talk to if I think my child's grade is unfair?

A. Parent's first should contact the teacher to discuss the concern and determine how the grade was calculated. If a parent is not satisfied with the teacher's explanation, then the parent should contact Karen Foster, Principal.

Q: How do I get my child's assignments if he/she is absent from school?

A. As a service to our students, the Front Office is happy to facilitate the process for homework requests. It is our policy to allow parents to request homework assignments for students who will be or have been absent for three or more days. All requests must be given 24-hour advance notice prior to the scheduled delivery of assignments. Parents are requested to call the front office (ext. 6401).

Q: Who should I contact to discuss my child's schedule change?

A: Parents should contact your child's school counselor to discuss reasons that a student's schedule may need to be changed. Schedules changes are done only for academic reasons, such as scheduled for an incorrect course, or did not successfully complete a prerequisite for a course.

Q: Can my child request certain teachers?

A: No. Students and parents cannot request specific teachers. The master scheduling process works to meet the needs of all students and ensures that students get classes they must have to graduate. Due to class sizes and budgetary constraints, it is not possible to build a schedule that accommodates everyone's personal requests.

Q: Where can I find out about POMS rules, requirements, and policies?

A: Students will receive a copy of the Post Oak Middle School Student Handbook and Spotsylvania Code of Conduct. It is also available on our school website.