

THE ADVOCATE

HCPSS Elementary School Counseling Monthly Newsletter

September 2019

New This School Year!

Watch for our monthly newsletter, **The Advocate**, at the beginning of each month. Here, our school-based counselors and [HCPSS School Counseling Department](#) will share helpful information about nationwide efforts (*In Our World*), county initiatives (*In Our County*), school programs (*In Our School*), and home-school connection tips (*In Our Homes*) in the areas of academic growth, social-emotional development, and career exploration. We will also share some little-known **Fun Facts** about the role of school counselors in today's educational world!



Fun Fact!

The term *guidance counselor*, which historically referred to "guiding" high school students toward career or college paths, has evolved to better reflect today's role. The term *school counselor* is now used to identify individuals that are "certified/licensed educators who improve student success for ALL students by implementing a comprehensive school counseling program" ([ASCA](#)). Please click [here](#) to view an infographic about the role of today's ~~guidance counselor~~ school counselor!

In Our WORLD

Welcome back to the 2019-20 school year! Each school year starts off with world-wide efforts in regards to suicide awareness and prevention. Click the links below to learn more about these mental health efforts!



[World Suicide Prevention Day](#) (Sept. 10th)

[National Suicide Prevention Week](#) (Sept. 8-14th)

In Our COUNTY

All HCPSS certificated staff are participating in *student suicide prevention and safety training*. This training addresses MSDE's adopted COMAR (13A.07.11) regulation, which supports House Bill 920 (Chapter 335), to ensure that all certificated staff:

- (1) understand and respond to youth suicide risk;
- (2) understand and respond to student mental health, student trauma, student safety and other topics related to student social and emotional well-being;
- (3) and identify professional resources to help students in crisis.

Please visit the [MSDE website](#) to read more about this regulation.

In Our SCHOOL

West Friendship Elementary

School Counselor: Leslie Schnebly <leslie_schnebly@hcpss.org>

Throughout September, we will be working to set routines and structures that will help lay the groundwork for a successful school year. Mrs. Schnebly will be connecting with each classroom (K-5) to remind students about the resources and supports available through their school counselor. We will also be discussing habits and behaviors of resilient, successful learners.

In Our HOMES

In light of September's mental health efforts, you may be wondering what you can do to help. A known protective factor for mental health is **resilience**. Click [here](#) to learn more about building resiliency at home. Additionally, check out these [children's books](#) (organized by age range) that you can read with your child(ren) at home!

