

A LETTER FROM THE COUNSELOR

APRIL 2010

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Meet the New Counselor



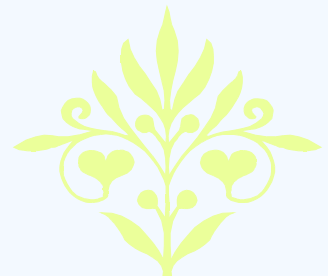
MS. ISABELL WILLIS HAS A BACHELORS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK FROM COLUMBIA COLLEGE

Hello,
My name is Isabell Willis. I have recently obtained a bachelor's in Social Work from Columbia College where I was able to gain skills and experience in working with children from infancy to age 13. Dur-

ing my educational career I developed essential group facilitating and individual counseling skills through my internships at Alcorn Middle School and The Nurturing Center. At Alcorn Middle school I co-facilitated an empowerment group aimed to increase and promote self confidence, leadership skills and social interaction between young women. This group also focused on the Four C's of Columbia College Leadership, which are commitment, confidence, courage, and compe-

tence. Through The Nurturing Center and volunteering with Columbia College's Club House Gang I developed my passion to positively influence the lives of children, their families, and communities. These internships have provided me the opportunity to interact with and counsel at risk youths and families, collaborate on multidisciplinary teams, and establish the ability to build and maintain positive and professional relationships with clients and school personnel. Through my code of ethics, guidance from

the Columbia College Human Relations Department, and moral upbringing, I am a reliable and ethical social worker and professional. I am planning to further my education by attending the University of South Carolina for a Masters Social Work. I am very excited about the opportunity to work with the wonderful staff and bright students at CSI. Thank you.



Why do we need elementary school guidance counselors?

Elementary school years set the tone for developing the knowledge, attitudes and skill necessary for children to become healthy, competent and confident learners. Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, school counselors work as a team with the school staff, parents and the community to create a caring climate and atmosphere. By providing education, prevention, early identification and intervention, school counselors can help all children achieve academic success.

What do elementary school guidance counselors do?

Elementary School Counselors Collaborate with:

Parents for:

Parent education
Communication/networking
One-on-one parent conferencing

Teachers for:

Classroom guidance activities
Academic support, including learning style assessment and education to help students succeed academically
Classroom speakers
At-risk student identification and implementation of interventions to enhance success

Administrators for:

School climate
Behavioral management plans
School-wide needs assessments
Student data and results
Student assistance team building

Students for:

Peer education
Peer support
Academic support
School climate
Leadership development
Community
Crisis interventions
Referrals
Support groups
Career education

Responsive Services

Individual and small-group counseling
Individual/family/school crisis intervention
Conflict resolution
Consultation/collaboration

Referrals

Individual Student Planning
Academic planning
Goal setting/decision-making
Education on understanding of self, including strengths and weaknesses
Transition plans