**Guidance Counseling Curriculum**

Introduction

**Program Overview**

The guidance counseling program at Santiago Christian School strives to shape and challenge students into being healthy and successful individuals academically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. In order to provide a holistic, effective education, it is our responsibility to educate students in all aspects of their lives. By promoting the emotional, spiritual, and social well-being of all of the students at Santiago Christian School, the level of educational success also increases.

 The guidance counseling program is comprised of several different elements. Units and goals include positive self-concept development, problem solving techniques, career exploration, study skills, community involvement, communication and interpersonal skills, and several others. These components not only help students be more successful in the classroom, but outside of it as well.

**Biblical Foundation**

God created all of us in his own image. He created us as relational beings, capable of love and compassion and commitment and the entire range of emotion and feeling. And because of God’s great love for us, He desires for us to be able to live in community, to understand ourselves and others, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to show compassion to the sick and hungry and homeless. Christ desires the best for us, desires that we be healthy and whole in all aspects of our lives. That is what we are striving for in the guidance counseling program. We are striving for health and wholeness.

**Essential Questions for Biblical Integration**

Who am I?

What makes me unique?

How do my actions affect my life?

How do my actions affect others?

How can I show others God’s love?

Who does God say that I am?

What does God want for my life?

What does it mean to love our neighbors as ourselves?

How can we show God’s love here on earth?

**Essential Questions for Disciplinary Integration**

Why is it important for me to be involved in my community and school?

What does my behavior say about who I am?

What is a problem?

How do my choices affect a situation?

What am I passionate about?

What does it mean to be a successful, responsible student?

How do I set goals for myself and follow through with them?

How can I express what I’m feeling?

How can I make wise and safe decisions?

**Pedagogical Approach**

 The guidance counseling program is comprised of two parts: responsive and preventative. The school counselors are responsible for working with students with a variety of concerns and struggles, whether that is applying to the right college, relationship issues, depression, or grief. Some students are seen on a long-term basis, helping them to overcome their various struggles. Others are met with briefly for isolated, individual incidents. Teachers, administrators, parents, and the students themselves are able to request meetings for individual students. This is the responsive component.

The preventative component deals with the holistic education the counselors provide to the entire student body. Every grade receives a weekly classroom lesson on various topics, such as respect, healthy relationships, setting goals, and conflict resolution. This provides every student with the education they need to overcome future obstacles and challenges. This way, we prevent problems before they begin.

In addition, issues such as bullying are taken extremely seriously, and are dealt with on both the responsive and the preventative level. Special presentations, meetings with students, week -long lessons, and other preventative measures are used to both educate the student body as well as prevent future occurrences.

The guidance personnel use a very holistic approach to the guidance counseling curriculum. The counselors are committed to reaching each student in all areas of their lives. We are striving to help children and adolescents become healthy, confident, caring, motivated individuals. At Santiago Chrstian School, that is the definition of a successful student.

**List of Textbooks**

No textbooks used in this curriculum