

DMIS Counseling Corner

MEET THE COUNSELORS

Elizabeth Cranford, M.Ed., NCC

Ms. Cranford is entering her 9th year as a school counselor and her 4th year at Daniel Morgan Intermediate as the 5th grade school counselor. She has a passion for her students, affectionately calling them her "love bugs!" She aims to provide a soft place to land for students and family who are in need of a listening ear. Her door is always open.

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Bill Gomke, MSW, LCSW

Mr. Gomke will be joining the DMIS family on September 6 as the new 6th grade school counselor. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from the mental health field, most recently working as a clinician at the Timber Ridge School. We are excited for him to bring his passion for working with students and families to the halls of DMIS.

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EMPOWER 2025 & SCHOOL COUNSELORS



As part of the WPS EMPOWER 2025 Strategic Plan school counselors across the district are tasked with implementing the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) standards and become a Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP).

ASCA supports school counselors' efforts to help students focus on academic, career, and social/emotional development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society.

The DMIS School Counselors are interested in hearing your feedback about the school counseling program and what we can do to reach all students. One of the ways we receive this feedback is by hosting an advisory council twice a year. If you are interested in joining us, please email Elizabeth Cranford at cranforde@wps.k12.va.us



DMIS School Counseling Mission & Vision

The Daniel Morgan Intermediate School Counseling Department is diligently working to become a Recognized ASCA Model Program. One of the very first steps we had to take was to define our school counseling department's beliefs and then create a vision and a mission.

Beliefs

DMIS School Counselors believe:

- All individuals will be treated as an individual with value, worth, dignity, and respect.
- All students will have access to a high quality education that fosters high-quality learning and thinking; while also providing students a variety of opportunities to learn while their academic and social-emotional strengths and areas of growth are being supported.
- All students will have access to and the opportunity to participate in a school counseling program, provided by a state licensed school counselor, which is planned and implemented with students' needs in mind, following state standards and the ASCA model.
- All students can be successful in and outside of school and deserve to feel like they belong, in every way.
- The school counseling program will use ongoing assessments and data to design, implement, evaluate, and improve the school counseling program and counselors, themselves.
- The school counselors have a responsibility to be lifelong learners both through their education and participation in professional development, which ensures they are aware of current best practices in the school counseling field.
- The school counselors will work with the elementary schools and the middle school to ensure a connecting transition to and from Daniel Morgan Intermediate School.

Vision

Every student at DMIS is a confident, empathetic, lifelong learner who embraces others, opportunities and life enthusiastically. Our students thrive in the world by cultivating healthy relationships and their passions, while also being able to pivot with life's changes and challenges. They are bold enough to pursue their dreams and encourage others to do the same with care, understanding, and joy.

Mission

The mission of the Daniel Morgan Intermediate School Counseling program is to empower students to embrace rigorous challenges, navigate personal pathways, and enrich their civic communities through an engaging, inclusive, safe environment. By participating in the DMIS comprehensive school counseling program, all students will have access to learning opportunities that will assist them in developing academic confidence, a dream for their future, and social-emotional skills. The Counseling program will be delivered using a multi-tiered approach that ensures all students' needs are met in a developmentally appropriate manner, regardless of the level of service needed.

Upcoming Events

COUNSELOR INTROS

All homerooms will have had a visit with a school counselor by September 7th to discuss how to request to see a school counselor, the limits of confidentiality, and what services the school counselor offers.

Students were also encouraged to help keep our school safe by saying something if they see or hear something in person or online that indicates someone or the school is in danger.



SETTING YOUR STUDENT UP FOR SUCCESS

- Students 9-13 years old should be getting approximately 9-11 hours of sleep every night.
- Monitor digital activities to ensure your student is safe online.
- Increase screen-free family time.
- Encourage your student to use their DMIS agenda to write down school work and due dates.
- Maintain contact with your student's teachers and counselor through phone, email, canvas, or talking points.
- Request parent powerschool access from Ms. Karen Gyurisin, DMIS registrar, to monitor your student's grades and progress.

At DMIS we very much believe in the importance of a school-family partnership. As school counselors we want to help remove any barriers that may be impacting your student's success here at school and as they grow into responsible adults. Please reach out if you ever have any concerns. We are here to help.