

Student Services Team



Ms. Brown-Joseph
8th Grade
Counselor



Ms. Ambers
7th Grade
Counselor



Ms. Loftstrom
6th Grade
Counselor



Mr. Selagea
School
Psychologist



Ms. King
School Social
Worker



Ms. Lyles
School Social
Worker

Students Services Also Helps with:

- Food pantries/banks
- Health Clinics Information
- Shelters
- Mental Health Services
- Services for families in crisis
- Advocacy

Contact us and we will do what we can to support our students and their families!

Where We Are Located



Office Of Student Affairs

**15732 Beth Shields Way
Ruskin, FL 33573**

Student Services Department at Shields Middle School

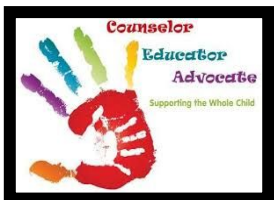


School Counselors:

Mrs. Gia Lofstrom- 6th Grade
gia.lofstrom@sdhc.k12.fl.us
813-672-5338 ext. 242

Ms. Twila Ambers- 7th Grade
twila.ambers@sdhc.k12.fl.us
813-672-5338 ext. 247

Ms. Mary Brown-Joseph- 8th Grade
mary.brown-joseph@sdhc.k12.fl.us
813-672-5338 ext. 245



School Counseling at Shields Middle School



Counseling Services

What is a School Counselor?

A School Counselor is:

- A specially trained educator with a Masters degree in counseling
- A provider of social emotional, academic, and post-secondary life skills to students
- An encourager and advocate for student success
- A resource for parents and guardians

Ms. Ambers, Ms. Brown-Joseph, and Ms. Lofstrom are available to provide academic and social-emotional support to students, parents, and teachers. While School Counselors are trained to counsel students, it is only on a short-term basis.

Your Shields Counselors are available to meet with students and parents to determine the level of counseling needed and to discuss ways to handle difficult situations typically experienced by students in middle school.

Classroom Lessons

Lessons addressing topics such as bullying, study and academic skills, decision making, resolving conflicts, college and career readiness, and cyber safety are provided as needed.

Small Group Counseling

Small groups are a great way for students to address academic and social concerns and learn there are others struggling with similar issues.

Groups offer students the opportunity to learn and practice new skills for healthy personal development.

Individual Counseling

Students may request to see a counselor or member of student services for emotional or academic support. Sessions are confidential however, students are strongly encouraged to share their concerns with their family. In cases involving student safety, the family will be contacted to discuss the action recommended to address student needs.

Parent Conferences

Your Shields Counselors can help when parents have questions about family situations, behavior, or academic issues related to their student. Please call or email to schedule an appointment.

Attendance

Hillsborough County Schools expect families to ensure their students are in school and on time every day, all day. Research shows a high, positive correlation between a student's attendance and achievement. A student who misses even one day a week misses 36 days of school. That is equal to 20% of the school year. When your student is absent, they are missing valuable classroom instruction and the daily experience and connection of being part of the class. Students who stay home have a hard time coming back to school because they feel lost as the instruction and classroom life has moved on without them.

Students who have a fever or are throwing up should, of course, stay home. However, parents and students with late night routines who have a difficult time getting up in the morning or students who have emotional issues that make coming to school a challenge should contact Student Services to discuss strategies for improving attendance.