



RAPID CITY | Knollwood Heights Elementary School | 2018-2019
AREA SCHOOLS

SEPTEMBER

The School Counseling Scoop

Elementary Counselors Using New Curriculum with Students

Starting this school year, all elementary counselors will be implementing Sanford Harmony—a social-emotional program that builds strong classroom relationships and supportive learning communities—in all K-5 classrooms.

Over the course of five units, students will participate in engaging activities designed to enhance their abilities to learn, work, and spend time together. Information will be sent home periodically, detailing the class activities in each unit.

In addition to the five units of Sanford Harmony, school counselors will be leading lessons on safety, college, and career. Be on the lookout for more information as we celebrate College and Career Readiness month in November.



- September**
Diversity and Inclusion
- October**
Student Safety
- November**
College is for Everyone
- December**
Empathy & Critical Thinking
- January**
Communication
- February**
Problem Solving
- March**
Problem Solving
- April**
Peer Relations
- May**
Career Exploration



School counselors make a difference every day!



September: Diversity and Inclusion

This month's lessons focus on engaging students with one another in order to discover shared interests and characteristics, explore how each person is unique, build a sense of community within the classroom, and recognize how each child contributes to and is valued by the community.

Goals

- Get to know one another.
- Become comfortable interacting with unfamiliar peers.
- Discover and appreciate commonalities.
- Appreciate and learn from diversity.
- Develop an attitude of inclusion.
- Embrace a common classroom identity.
- Feel valued as an individual and as a member of the group.

Research and Relevance

A positive school climate is a key ingredient to academic success. Students who feel positive about their school environment are more likely to actively participate in learning, complete assignments, and be committed to doing well in school. A positive school climate is achieved when students foster friendships, positive connections with peers, and warm and caring relationships with their teachers. Students thrive socially and academically when they feel included in, and accepted by, their school community.



School to Home Connections

KINDERGARTEN

Ask your children:

- If they greeted anyone when they arrived at school today and what they said to each other
- If they played with anyone new today and what they did together

GRADE 1

Ask your children:

- What diversity means
- What they are good at or what makes them proud
- If something new was learned or tried at school this week, and if it was shared with someone else

GRADE 2

Have a conversation with your child regarding how family members are similar or different. For example, compare whether (and how much) each of you do or don't like the following activities, and why.

- Cleaning your room
- Eating (choose a food)
- Taking a walk
- Reading a book
- Going to bed
- Riding a bike

GRADES 3-5

Facilitate further discussion by asking the following:

- Sometimes when people are different from us, we assume that we don't have anything in common with them. For example, if someone is much older than you, like a grandparent, you may think that you are different from this person in every way. Is this true? Why not?
- Is it true that there are always differences between groups of people, such as boys and girls? Why not?



Have you ever played with someone you didn't know very well? How did you feel?

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