



## In-School Counseling Services Providing One-to-One Student Support

### Overview

St. Joseph's Villa's In-school Counseling service is an extension of the Villa's Dooley School. This educational service provides 1:1 support in the public school setting and is available to schools in the metro-Richmond area. The objective is to increase student success so as to prevent the need for a more restrictive placement. A trained counselor provides academic tutoring and ensures consistent behavior management for exceptional education students. The service is appropriate for students who may be at risk of more restrictive placement as well as students returning to public schools following private day school placement, hospitalization, or other residential setting.

### Goals

- Identify, understand, and resolve emotional conflict.
- Develop effective peer relationship skills, adaptive behaviors, coping skills, and communication skills.
- Increase academic, pre-vocational, and/or vocational skills.

### Features

#### Personal Counselor

Each student is assigned a personal counselor who accompanies him/her throughout the school day and supports his/her education through behavior management, tutoring and individualized assistance. Counselors experienced education professionals who receive ongoing training including First Aid, CPR, and Therapeutic Options of Virginia (TOVA) strategies.

#### Students

In-school Counseling may be appropriate for the exceptional education student experiencing difficulty in collaborative, resource, or self-contained settings in the public school. Student challenges include but are not limited to: emotional disturbance, mental retardation, autism, specific learning disability, and other health impairment.

#### Team Collaboration

A team approach including the In-School counselor, the In-School Program Manager, and the home school's special education team assures formulation of appropriate behavior plans and monitoring of student progress. In-school counselors receive frequent visitation and feedback from Villa staff. Licensed clinical staff provides support as needed when students do not respond to initial programming.

#### Supervision

In-school counselors are jointly supervised by the In-School Program Manager and the student's home school classroom teacher. The Program Manager serves as a liaison with the participating public school and local education agency and attends Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, child study meetings, manifestation hearings, and FAPT meetings.

### Educational Strategies

#### Individual Assessment

Each counselor helps to implement goals written in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP). Ongoing assessment through data collection and written observations provide information essential to program monitoring and modification.

### **Behavior Management**

The In-School Counseling Service employs a behavior management system based on students accepting responsibility for their actions and behaviors through incentives and consequences. The counselor, together with the classroom teacher, identifies and implements non-aversive interventions for the behavior issues, based on the student's Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA) and Behavioral Intervention Plan. Successful strategies for the student's integration into the community are evaluated.

### **Wrap Around Services**

Numerous services are available to students and their families to facilitate success at school and in the community. Wrap-around services available through St. Joseph's Villa include the following:

- In-home Counseling (Medicaid funded)
- Day Treatment services (Medicaid funded)
- After School Support
- Weekend Respite
- Youth Emergency Shelter
- Homeless Shelter for Women and Children
- Donation Center (clothes, home furnishings, school supplies)

Additionally, Dooley staff work closely with local school divisions and Family Assessment and Planning Teams (FAPT) to ensure that the needs of each child are addressed.

## **For More Information**

For more information regarding St. Joseph's Villa's In-School Counseling, please call Hattie Porter, Admissions Coordinator, at 804 553-3241.

## **St. Joseph's Villa**

Established in Richmond in 1834, St. Joseph's Villa is metro-Richmond, Virginia's oldest and largest continuously-operating children's nonprofit organization. The Villa is located on a spacious 82-acre campus in Henrico County and builds stronger children, families and communities. The Villa serves more than 600 children and families daily, through the delivery of six major day and residential programs that include: special and nontraditional education; education/housing services for homeless children and their families; respite, summer and after-school care for children with disabilities; emergency shelter for children in crisis; and, housing for adults with disabilities.

St. Joseph's Villa admits clients of any race, color, gender, age, religion, disability or national origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accepted or made available to clients at St. Joseph's Villa. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policy, St. Joseph's Villa is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and retaliation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other agency-administered programs. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any U.S.D.A. related activity should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.