

Merrick Union Free School District
K-6 Guidance Program

The Merrick Union Free School District has developed a guidance program that addresses both the cognitive and affective issues that affect our students. The following objectives are the core to the program.

1. Guide students in making the right decisions regarding their academic efforts and personal behavior.
2. Teach students how to remain safe from strangers and substances that can be dangerous to their physical and mental well-being.
3. Assist students and their parents if they are having problems with attendance, academic performance, behavior or any adjustments due to life events.
4. Teach students that they should not be victims of any form of abuse, albeit mental, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.

Activities

1. Students will participate in content area lessons that address safety issues, substance abuse issues, and physical abuse issues. Programs that may address these objectives that are examples but not all inclusive are:
 - i. Safety Town
 - ii. Bully Proofing our Schools
 - iii. Stranger Danger
 - iv. Caring Ambassadors
 - v. Buddy Programs
 - vi. Monthly Character Education Focus
 - vii. Social/Emotional Curriculum
 - viii. Diversity Curriculum
 - ix. Bucket Fillers
2. Upon enrollment every family is given a student handbook and meets with the principal or designee regarding rules and procedures for their expectations as a student in the district. In addition, each school holds a code of conduct assembly each fall.
3. All students who may experience any attendance, academic, behavior or adjustment problems are referred by their teacher to the Instructional Support Team (IST). This group of educators examines all student data and creates a plan to address the needs of the student. The plan is monitored for progress and a staff member is assigned as the case manager.
4. The psychologist and social workers works with individual students who are classified with an IEP to help address issues they may have.
5. Our social workers design individual and group programs to address the needs and concerns of our students. An example of a type of program is Banana Splits to help students with the adjustment in their lives due to their parents separating or divorcing.
6. Classroom teachers counsel students daily in reading, writing, and math workshops if the students are experiencing any academic

problems and will have conferences to discuss any misbehaviors or poor life choices.

All parents are expected to be an integral partner in this process. Parent communication through participation in meetings, workshops, conferences and agenda book notes is a major component of the plan.

Each staff member has progress monitoring records that establish successful interventions to our program and adjust programs accordingly and then look for research-based programs whenever necessary for additional interventions.