

Peer Counseling Application for Returning 7-8th Graders



2012-2013

Date Due 5/10/12

Fidelity...Commitment...Excellence

Name _____ Team/Grade _____
 Address _____ Fl. Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email address: _____
 Parent permission to apply to peer counseling:
 Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Per.	Subject	Teacher	Room #
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

*** It is important to emphasize that due to the overwhelming number of applicants meeting the criteria for the Peer Counseling Program and the limitation of class size, a lottery system will be used to determine final placement.**

1. Use the following space to tell us about your accomplishments in peer counseling this past year.

2. Why would you like to return and what would you like to achieve in peer counseling next year?

Please comment about your performance on the following assignments?

3. Your Time Card record:

4. Daily signing in and out to job assignments and rotation (Following Procedure)

5. Tutoring students (How many, how often, what subjects?)

6. Conflict Mediations (Did you reach agreement?)

7. New Students (Tours and Check-ups)

8. Rotation Responsibilities: What did you do and what did you learn?

9. Composition Notebook: What grade should you receive on the organization and updating of your composition book?

10. Participation in class discussions

11. Assisting teachers, teams, staff members and administrators.

12. Your comments: What do you hope to accomplish next year?

Skills and Abilities Page

1. Academic Ability and Tutoring (GPA 3.0 or Higher)

Please include a copy of your last report card. Staple to this form.

Please check all that apply:

Current Grade in Math _____ Level _____

Current Grade in Language Arts _____ Level _____

Current Grade in Social Studies _____ Level _____

Current Grade in Science _____ Level _____

Peer Counseling: 1st Marking Period _____ 2nd MP _____ 3rd MP _____ 4th MP _____

How many clients did you counsel or tutor this year? _____ What subjects did you tutor?

What will you be able to tutor next year?

2. Behavior

Have you received any detentions or suspensions this past school year? _____

If so, please explain:

Have you been involved in any bullying situations during this past year where you bullied another student? _____ If so, please explain:

3. Computer and Technology Skills

Please check any that you are able to do well. Please add any other skills involving technology that you can do that are not listed.

_____ MAC computer	_____ Digital Camera	_____ Websites
_____ IPOD	_____ Scanning	_____ PC Computer Format
_____ Video Camera	_____ Downloading	_____ PowerPoint
_____ Key Note	_____ Video Editing	_____ Word
_____ Tables/Charts	_____ Excel	_____ Garage band
_____ Other (please list) _____		

4. Artistic Ability

In the space below, please check everything you can do well.

_____ Drawing	_____ Lettering	_____ Using scissors	_____ Calligraphy
_____ Painting	_____ Writing	_____ Photography	
_____ Sketching	_____ Bulletin Boards	_____ Other	_____

5. Presentation and Linguistic Ability

_____ Comfortable speaking in front of groups and presenting projects

_____ Comfortable participating in group discussions about sensitive issues

Can you speak a foreign language fluently? _____ What languages do you speak? _____ Could you serve as a translator for new students? _____



Peer Counseling

The Peer Counseling Program is utilized throughout Broward County, using the peer-to-peer approach to support prevention and intervention efforts in schools **ensuring students feel safe and connected in order to succeed academically.** Advocates for Youth research (Washington, D.C.) suggested that students are more likely to hear and personalize messages, and thus to change their attitudes and behaviors, if they believe the messenger is similar to them and faces the same concerns and pressures. Numerous studies have demonstrated that their peers influence youth's health behaviors in regard to violence and substance use. Trained **peer counselors are a more credible source of information** for some youth than adult educators because they communicate in readily understandable ways and serve as positive role models while dispelling misperceptions that most youth are engaging in inappropriate behaviors.

The focus of the Peer Counseling curriculum is preventative. It addresses a multitude of social, individual, school and family concerns. In the fall of 2010, a sampling of peer counseling coordinators in middle and high schools were asked to list their top three areas addressed through peer counseling in their school communities. As a result, the top three areas noted were: violence prevention/intervention, substance abuse prevention/intervention and academic challenges as the most common referrals.

In order to assist school with their area of concern, trained peer counselors act as conflict mediators and academic tutors, provide classroom presentations on teen issues, welcome new students, and promote violence prevention, which includes anti-bullying programs in schools to address the individual/group needs of students. During the past school year, trained **peer counselors conducted over 2600 conflict meditations, individual counseling, and academic interventions/tutoring sessions** across the District in middle and high schools. A variety of intervention strategies are employed to educate and motivate students or to involve trained professionals, when needed. The results can be a more positive and safer school climate, healthier students and staff with lower stress levels, and a better utilization of school and community resources.

At Westglades Middle School, Peer Counseling is open to upcoming 7th and 8th grade students. A committee consisting of teachers, guidance counselors and administrators will select peer Counselors. Selections are based upon academic performance, leadership, and a strong desire to help others.

Students who wish to become Peer Counselors should be socially mature and well adjusted, have excellent behavior, possess strong refusal skills, and be able to handle and discuss difficult subjects. In order to achieve success in the program, students are expected to be disciplined in time management, maintaining client records, turning in class assignments, meeting deadlines and be able to adhere to a strict privacy code. This purpose of this class is for students to assist others. Even though it may help strengthen self-esteem, it is not viewed as a class to deal with personal problems and issues.

It is important to emphasize that due to the overwhelming number of applicants meeting the criteria for the Peer Counseling Program and the limitation of class size, a lottery system will be used to determine final placement.

A student who wishes to become a peer counselor should download the application from this website. All completed applications should be submitted to Mrs. Rioux in 131 by the posted deadline. (5/10/12)