

# Peer Counseling Application for New Peer counselors



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 \_\_\_\_\_

*\*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.*

Use the following space to tell us about yourself.

1. Why would you like to be a peer counselor?

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2. What abilities, skills or traits do you possess that would make you a good peer counselor?

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3. Discuss any hobbies, sports or classes that you love to do that may demonstrate teamwork and your leadership abilities.

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**4. Please be aware that sometimes in peer counseling we discuss and deal with “tough issues,” such as death and dying, suicide and depression, child abuse, and exploited children? Why do you believe you will be able to participate in discussions and deal with these types of topics?**

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**5. Peer Counselors need to be self-motivated. Can you provide examples of how you are independent, self-motivated and responsible?**

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**6. In peer counseling we do not spread rumors or talk about anyone unless it is life threatening or illegal. Why do you think it is important to keep other student’s personal problems private?**

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## **Skills and Abilities**

### **1. Academic Ability and Tutoring (GPA 3.5 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 Counselors are expected to tutor other students. What subjects can you tutor?

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Why would you make a good tutor?

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**2. Behavior**

Have you received any detentions, referrals, 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 language do you speak? \_\_\_\_\_

Could you serve as a translator for new students? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You will need to give a group presentation and speak in front of a group the first marking period. Are you certain, you will be able to do so? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Probationary Period**

If your grades drop in any class, including Peer Counseling, to a "C" or below, you will be placed on probation. You must increase your grade by the next marking period or you may be asked to leave the program. Violating procedure and rules may also lead to a probationary period. You are a role model for other students and should strive to achieve high grades and follow procedure at all times. You will be given a contract to sign and abide by in peer counseling.



## 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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. Gradstein in the Main Office by the posted deadline. (5/10/12)**