

Title of Session: School Counselors' Corner - Resources for Competencies and Benchmarks

Moderator: BJ Berquist for Barbara Muller-Ackerman

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Room: School Counselors Group

BJB : let's start with introductions, please. Tell me where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

BonnieLC : I'm a school adjustment counselor in a k-8 school in Massachusetts

BJB : glad you could join us, Bonnie!

DanielleNR : I am Danielle, currently a student majoring in child developmental psychology, I would like to teach 1st or 2nd graders.

BJB : The topic this month is Resources for competencies and benchmarks for students that fit not only into school counseling curriculum but all school curric...thru health, char ed programs, ed awareness programs this month that schools feature, and the career stuff.

BJB : the resources should meet both Bonnie and Danielle's classroom needs

BJB : unfortunately, Barbara has a very ill grandchild and is currently at the hospital with him...

BJB : but she did send me quite a few resources to share with you

DanielleNR : So is there no discussion, just resources you will be giving us?

BJB : so, I'm going to start hurling urls ;-) Since I'm not a counselor, I'll let you decide if the resources are useful to you...

BJB : heck, Danielle, I hope you'll give feedback on the urls and how you might use them

DanielleNR : Oh ok, I can do that

BJB . o O (otherwise, I would just post a list of urls!)

BJB : a reminder that you may need to hold down the shift or CTRL key on your keyboard to override pop ups when you click on the urls

BJB : http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/dailylp/dailylp/dailylp028.shtml

BjB : any comments about this site?

DanielleNR: I think that the lesson plan is a great idea. I think children, all ages, should see how different people celebrate such holidays, and a lesson plan like this would open their eyes and give them a chance to truly be thankful for things they most likely take for granted day to day

BjB : that site has a little bit of everything! There are even lessons for VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

BonnieLC: this looks like a good activity for service learning. We have something we call "School Families". A cross section of the school population is grouped with one staff member. We meet on our early release days to do community service projects. This would be nice for that.

BjB : cool, Danielle and Bonnie. Ready for the next resource?

BonnieLC: yes, thanks!

BjB : it's a Thankfulness Wreath

DanielleNR: yes

BjB : <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/thanksgiving/thankfulwreath/>

BjB : might also make a nice decoration to be shared with a local nursing home

BonnieLC: I have not used this site as a counselor yet, but it was a great standby when I was a brand new teacher. I didn't think about using it for group projects.

DanielleNR: I did something like this as a kid, and to my surprise found it difficult at first to figure out what I was really thankful for. I think another good way to do this would be to see what someone else might be thankful for, such as going to a nursing home and asking the people living there to tell the students what they are thankful for.

BonnieLC: I like that there is a monthly activity section.

BjB : that would make a nice intergenerational activity, Danielle

BjB : the next site is for older kiddos and delves into the thankfulness a little more deeply

BjB : Attitude of Gratitude PowerPoint

BonnieLC: I agree- what a nice way to connect/share ideas with others.

BjB : http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/techlp/techlp045.shtml

BonnieLC: okay, why am I so scared of powerpoint? Really; it's something I have to face.

BjB chuckles...the kids probably will have less of a problem than you, Bonnie!

BjB : but, does the lesson have to be a ppt? could it be a book? or a class book? or posters?

BonnieLC: nice, they could teach me. I like that.

DanielleNR: I think that the kids would get a kick out of finding pictures to put with what they are thankful for

DanielleNR: I think any kind of visual rather than written presentation would be the same

BonnieLC: that's true. It could easily be adapted to another type of visual project.

BjB : might also ask the art specialist for help

DanielleNR: I think if you wanted to use this with younger kids a picture book would be the same or even a collage

BjB : it would be fun to scan the pictures and make a ppt for the class, too

DanielleNR: Then you could get the parents involved as well

DanielleNR: to help the students pick out pictures from home

BonnieLC: good ideas.

BjB : The next resource is on kindness...always a good topic

BjB . o O (and any time you can incorporate parents, go for it!)

BjB : From College to elementary, lesson plans and ideas on kindness campus wide

BjB : <http://actsofkindness.org/classroom#here>

BjB : I did something similar to this by having the kids in my class write about their acts of kindness and I posted them to our blog

DanielleNR: I think that the high school idea is great, if they felt some kind of gratitude after doing something like that they might be willing to do it again

BjB : <http://voicesfromloysville.blogspot.com/>

DanielleNR: A friend of mine makes hats and scarves every year for the homeless

BonnieLC: this is a great site; so many lessons. I like the layout, complete with appropriate ages and time each activity takes.

Syusuf7Gst29 joined the room.

BjB : there's also the empty bowl project for the homeless...Barb didn't include that, but I'll see if I can find the url

BjB : <http://www.emptybowls.net/>

JeffC: Hi Syusuf

Syusuf7Gst29: Hi

JeffC: This is a meeting on Counseling... is this where you want to be?

Syusuf7Gst29: yes

JeffC: great!

Syusuf7Gst29: I have BS degree with 20 years of IT exp

BjB : the next resource is a month to month kindness guide.

BonnieLC: great blog. fascinating to me. I have a special place in my heart for that population.

BjB : welcome to the discussion, Sysuf

Syusuf7Gst29: thanks

BjB : cool, Bonnie. It was a wild 24 year ride!

BjB : http://actsofkindness.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/102_pdf.pdf

Syusuf7Gst29 left the room.

DanielleNR: I really like this idea, it would be very nice to do this because the students after awhile would probably look forward to the next months kindness act.

BjB nods to Danielle. I also like the Random Acts of Kindness certificate

BjB . o O (so that an act of kindness will be passed on)

BonnieLC: thanks for your time and resources. I'm going to say good night now!

BjB : Thanks for participating, Bonnie...

BjB : before you leave...

BjB : go to the Web page behind your chat window

BjB : and click on Whiteboard.

BjB : Barb has placed that list of resources and several more on the whiteboard

BonnieLC: thank you; that's great to know!

BjB : there are some great links to careers, one on lessons for science and health, and Activity ideas for American Ed Week

BjB . o O (which might also give you some ideas for the kindness and gratefulness lessons)

BjB : <http://www.nea.org/aew/activityideas.html>

BonnieLC: this is great. I'll need some ideas for upcoming presentations on substance abuse. Hopefully I can find that in science and health.

BonnieLC left the room (signed off).

BjB : how are you doing, Danielle?

DanielleNR: I'm doing good, I think I am going to say good night. I have a big test to study for. Thank you for the resources they are very helpful

BjB : good luck on your test, Danielle! Thanks for joining the discussion and adding your input

DanielleNR: Sure.

DanielleNR: Bye. Thanks again.

BjB waves goodnight