SAMPLE MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

• School Counselors work with the whole child. Their preparation and skills are essential for the optimum academic, career and personal/social/emotional development of students.

• School Counselors are professionals trained in the use of a variety of interventions to reduce anxiety and stress in students. Several studies have been conclusive about the impact of these strategies/interventions. Cheek, Bradley, Reynolds, and Coy (2002)

• School Counselors collect data to generate programs and strategies that respond to the needs of their students. Likewise, they collect data on the impact of their interventions to improve their practice.

• Given their educational background, professional training, and the depth and scope of their personal interactions with the student and various stakeholders, such as parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, individuals and agencies working with the student; School Counselors are considered to be the best equipped professionals to develop and implement both prevention and intervention programs for youth at risk. Miano, Forrest and Gumaer (1997)

• Just as teachers do, School Counselors develop curriculum, units and lesson plans based on national and state standards and benchmarks around three important areas: Academic, Work Readiness/Career and Personal/Social Development. They also include the Massachusetts ELA and math Standards.

• School Counselors can help students develop the attitudes, behaviors and skills that promote self-knowledge, personal responsibility and self-direction. (MA CDE Benchmarks PS-1)
• Through their work with students, especially in small groups, School Counselors can help students develop the behaviors, attitudes, and skills that foster respect for diversity. (MA CDE Benchmarks PS-4)

• School Counselors can help students develop the attitudes, behaviors and skills to work with others. (MA CDE Benchmarks PS-2)

• School Counselors can help students gain the knowledge and gain the skills for planning and decision making. (MA CDE Benchmarks W-1)

• Through their multiple interactions with students, School Counselors can help students gain an exploratory attitude towards self, life and later on the world of work. (MA CDE Benchmarks W-4)

• One of the most important tools School Counselors can give to students is Strategies for Time Management. Time Management is a life time soft skill much needed throughout school, college and the world of work.

• Through the teaching of problem solving skills, School Counselors can help students learn about collaboration and how to build and maintain relationships.

• Through a metacognitive process, School Counselors can help students develop strategies to approach difficult situations, beginning with identifying the root of the conflict/problem, explore approaches to the conflict, identify challenges as well as supports to overcome obstacles.

• School Counselors help students identify, formulate, and evaluate personal, academic and work-readiness/career goals.

• School Counselor assist students in the identification of courses and programs that match their interests, personality, values, abilities and skills.
• School Counselors use a number of tools, including inventories and tests to help students learn about their interests, values, skills, abilities and personality.

• School Counselors help students identify supports and refer students to other professionals and/or services for a number of issues, including academic, personal, and social-emotional, among other needs.

• School Counselors use data to collect information and monitor the development of the whole child while in school with the purpose of implementing prevention strategies to avoid interventions after the fact.

• School Counselors assist students with career development by seeking opportunities for them to gain career awareness, exploration and immersion. Studies have shown that students who participate in career development have a significant understanding of career possibilities, better self-efficacy and increased school engagement.

Dimmitt (2007)

• SA study conducted by Lapar, Gysbers and Sun in 2001, concluded that students in schools with structured comprehensive school counseling programs are more academically successful than their peers.

• School Counselors help students improve their academic achievement by teaching them strategies to develop better study skills, note taking skills, and test taking skills, among others.

• School Counselors use data to identify students at risk and to generate early personalized and/or group interventions to prevent them from failing.
• School Counselor help students learn appropriate coping strategies for stress reduction. These techniques that can reduce anxiety but they also improve, focus, control, and test scores.

• School Counselors use data to identify students at risk for and implement dropout prevention programs that include personalized plans for success, academic tutoring, referrals, and individual and group counseling among others.

• School Counselors have the common goal of supporting students’ academic, personal/social-emotional, and work-readiness/career development so they can be successful while in school. But also they are committed to help students acquire the skills, attitudes and behaviors that would equip them to navigate post-secondary education and the world of work.