



Home of the Wizards
Pre-K — Grade 12
Year-round School

SPARC-W 2009

Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning

Milwaukee Public Schools' Only Pre-K-12 Year-Round School

A Continuous Improvement Document Sponsored by the
Wisconsin School Counselor Association

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Since the school's beginning in 1995, WCLL has made collaboration a priority between the administration, support personnel, teachers, parents, students and the wider Milwaukee community. Having received Level One and Level Two training in the Wisconsin Developmental School Counseling Model, the school counselor at WCLL has coordinated, implemented and evaluated a program designed to meet the needs of *all* students.

Principal's Statement

Wisconsin Conservatory of Lifelong Learning (WCLL) is the first year-round school in Milwaukee to serve students in grades K4 – 12. Our Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT) plays a vital role in encouraging our students' academic success and fostering a safe and nurturing school climate. Their impact is reflected in the spirit of collaboration, advocacy, leadership and accountability as evidenced by the resources we provide for all our students.

Our unique, holistic and lifelong approach to learning enables students to understand the connections between knowledge, communication, technology and the world of work. Driven by the National and State Standards in school counseling, our SSPT team consistently provides exceptional programming and individualized attention to ensure we are meeting the needs of every student. We hold ourselves accountable to the performance standards of the National Model for School Counseling, and are proud of the professionalism and dedication of our program and support personnel.

Student Support Personnel Team (SSPT)

Position/ Experience	Name	Credentials	Professional Organizations
Principal 32 years	Sallie A. Brown	MS in Ed Psych, EED, State of Wisconsin Master Administrator's License	Member of NASSP, NABSE, ASC
Assistant Principal 28 years	Roseann Lococo	MS in Educational Psychology	Member of AWSA, ASCD, NASSP, NAESP, ASC
Assistant Principal 17 years	Janice Odom	MS in Ed Leadership; MS in Curriculum & Instruction	Member of AWSA, NASSP, NAESP, ASCD, AKA, ASC
School Counselor 15 years	Aimee Harris	MS in Educational Psychology (K-12), LPC	Member of WSCA
School Counselor Interns In Training	Meagan Basilius Sarah Learst Margaret Rhody Ola Bamgbose	MS in School Counseling (K-12) – In progress	Members of WSCA and ASCA
School Psychologist 15 years	Marie Baumeister	MsEd, Plus	Member of WSPA
Social Worker 11 years	Kristin Annen Patricia Ortiz	MSW MSW	Member of WSSWA, SSWAA
Social Worker Intern In Training	Amanda Matuszak	MSW in School Social Work In progress	
AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Worker	Vivian Taylor	BS in Biomedical Sciences	AmeriCorps
Speech Pathologist 23 Years	Shelly Amini	MS in Speech Pathology	
Administrative Support 18 years	Heidi Lawhorn	Community Liaison	
Administrative Support 11 Years	Emma Rios	Community Liaison	
Diagnostic Technician 12 Years	Georgia Wise	MS in Admin. Higher Ed.	

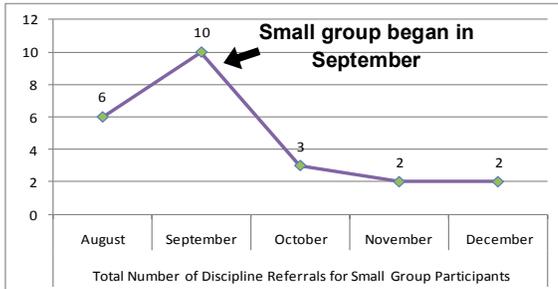


School Climate and Safety

Each member of the support team identifies school climate as a top priority in order to ensure student safety. In response to data from the school climate survey and a school-wide needs assessment, the SSPT began implementing these interventions to directly impact school climate and safety.

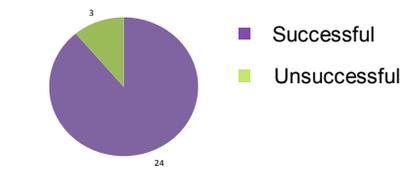
Increased efforts to encourage a positive school climate include the following programs:

- **Restorative Justice Circles:** promoting peace through understanding and empathy
- **Mix-It Up Day:** encouraging students to use social initiation skills across social groups
- **Bullying curriculum:** fostering a peaceful and respectful school through awareness training
- **Teens Who Care:** middle school service learning group promoting civic-mindedness
- **Forgiveness curriculum:** a school-wide effort encouraging respect and compassion



In September 2009, the SSPT trained a group of 17 middle and high school students in the Restorative Justice Circle techniques. Since September, 24 of 27 circles have resulted in successful resolution of peer conflicts, fewer teacher referrals, and an increased sense of cohesiveness in the classroom as reported by teachers.

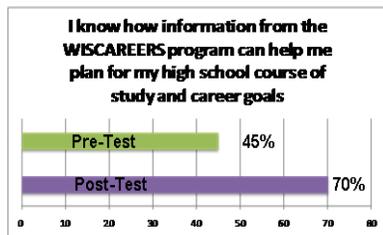
Restorative Justice Circle Outcomes



Run by the counseling team, a small group for middle school boys displaying disruptive classroom behavior saw a 56% decrease in the number of discipline referrals (school suspensions, bus complaints and bus suspensions) over the course of five months.

Student Results

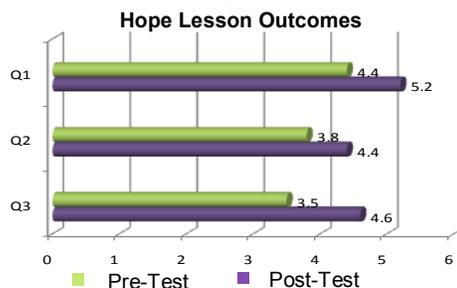
CAREER



Intending for students to develop career awareness (C:A1), acquire career information (C:B1), identify career goals (C:B2), and acquire knowledge to achieve career goals (C:C1), the school counselor collaborated with the 9th and 11th grade English teachers to introduce WISCAREERS. Students created online profiles, completed skills and interest inventories and explored possible career pathways. Inventories will be reviewed with students and parents during junior planning meetings in spring of 2010.

PERSONAL/SOCIAL

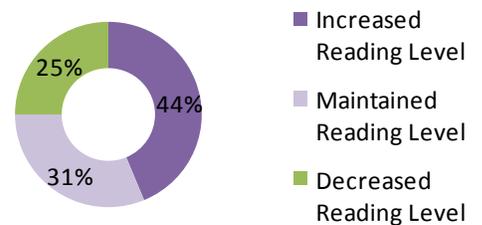
Responding to a need identified by teachers in a school-wide survey, the school counselor implemented a developmental guidance curriculum based around goal setting (PS:A1.3) and hope theory. Students in the fourth grade received classroom instruction that taught decision-making and problem-solving models (PS:B1.1), and identified alternative ways of achieving goals (PS:B1.10).



Using a 1-6 Likert scale, students answered:
Q1: I can set goals to accomplish what I want
Q2: When I have a problem, I can come up with lots of ways to solve it
Q3: When faced with a problem, I can talk myself through it

ACADEMIC

Reading Level Outcomes Using Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)



Focusing efforts on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, parents and community volunteers were trained to deliver early-reading interventions to K5-third grade students. In one third grade classroom, 75% of students maintained or increased their reading levels between January and May of 2009. Achieving school success (A:A2) and improving learning (A:B1) are vital to a student's improved academic self-concept (A:A1). WCLL's collaboration with volunteers made a real difference in this classroom.



Measurements

The Student Support Personnel Team at WCLL is committed to serving the needs of *all* students through data-driven interventions. By continuously evaluating students with the following measurements, the SSPT is able to respond to students' needs and design a curriculum reflective of the demands of the school.

Academic

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT): results identify the need for academic support

American College Testing (ACT): taken by juniors at no cost, determines college readiness

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE): assesses proficiency levels and progress

Career

Career Pathways - 11th grade Post-Secondary Course: measures post-secondary readiness through coursework

WISCAREERS: identifies career and post-secondary options through skills inventories and interest profiles

Junior Planning meetings: identifies students' strengths and helps to determine post-secondary plans

Personal/Social

School Climate Survey: surveys students and staff on perceptions of school climate and safety

Needs Assessment: identifies individual, group and classroom guidance intervention needs through school-wide survey of teachers

Pre and Post Tests: evaluates all classroom guidance and small group interventions for effectiveness

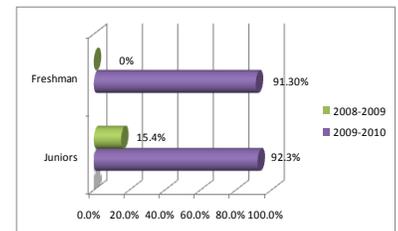
School Engagement Survey: measures the correlation between service learning projects and gains in academic achievement

Major Achievements

School-wide efforts and the involvement of each SSPT member have contributed to many school achievements. Some of these achievements include:

- Awarded grant to send four high school students to Philadelphia to attend the 6th Annual Urban Service Learning Conference
- Successfully brought in 20 Milwaukee-area employers for the second annual career fair
- Implemented an internationally recognized Forgiveness Education curriculum to encourage respect and tolerance in grades 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7
- Developed and implemented a Title I parent education mini-series to encourage involvement
- Over 30 different colleges and universities sent acceptance letters to WCLL's 61 graduating seniors in 2008-2009
- Counseling Department received SPARC-W Program of Promise Award in 2008 and SPARC-W Pioneer Award in 2007
- Introducing "Careers-on-Wheels" - a collaboration between Milwaukee's public service sector and SSPT to encourage younger students to think about potential career opportunities
- SSPT curriculum greatly increased percentage of freshman and juniors using WISCAREERS for academic/career planning

Percentage Increase of Students Using WISCAREERS from 2008 to 2009



Community Partnerships/Resources

A survey of the previous school year shows that 55.8% of high school students are aware that businesses and community organizations provide support to the school (up from 46.9% in 2008). The SSPT collaborates with a significant number of community partners, encouraging successful intervention and prevention throughout the school.

Academic Domain

YMCA: One-on-One Host mentor program

UW-Milwaukee:

Saturday Academy,
Talent Search pre-college program,
ACT prep courses

Drop Everything

And Read (DEAR) program

Sam's Hope: reading program with the Milwaukee Bucks

Milwaukee Wave: mentoring program

The Milwaukee Area Workforce

Investment Board: ACT test preparation

Career Domain

Department of Public Instruction:

Youth Options Program

Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges:

College Readiness 21

UW System: Stepping Stones program

Milwaukee Community: law enforcement, healthcare, business sector (including Careers-on-Wheels)

UW-Madison: People Program

Great Lakes: Scholarships 101 and Financial Aid presentations

Personal/Social Domain

InHealth Wisconsin: Teen Depression Training

Pathfinders Youth and Family

Services: Counseling services, Sexual Abuse Violence Prevention Curriculum

Plan A: Abstinence program

District Attorney's Office:

Restorative Justice Training

United States AmeriCorps: Vista volunteer for service learning projects

Parents Plus: Encouraging involvement

16 Talent Search Participants from 2008-09 WCLL Senior Class	
Received high school diploma	16
Applied for student financial aid	11
Applied for admission to college	13
Enrolled in higher education	10



Volunteer Involvement

At WCLL, community service is an important aspect of students' academic, career and personal/social development. Students at WCLL are encouraged to participate in community service projects throughout their school career. The SSPT encourages community members to volunteer at WCLL. Prospective volunteers may contact Aimee Harris at (414) 304-6827 or by e-mail at harrisac@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

Sam's Hope Literacy Project – WCLL high school students set up and distributed books for the citywide reading project for grades K-3.

Recycling Project – WCLL 5th grade students partnered with local police and fire departments on a recycling service learning project. Students learned what can be reduced, reused and/or recycled.

Environmental Project – Middle school students volunteered at Rocky Mountain National Park working side-by-side with park rangers in an experiential and environmental clean-up program.

Career Day – The SSPT brought in local business owners to talk to WCLL students about their careers and the steps they took to get to their current positions.

In Her Shoes – WCLL high school students walked in a charity fundraiser in support of domestic violence / sexual assault prevention.

Beach Sweep Cleanup – 5th and 6th grade students spent several Saturday mornings cleaning McKinley Beach and learning about the laws, policies and best practices for eliminating pollution.

Milwaukee Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital – WCLL 3rd graders wrote letters of appreciation to local United States Veterans in 2009.

Our Lady Queen of Peace – WCLL high school students volunteered with this nearby parish to serve "Breakfast with Santa" and "Breakfast with the Bunny" to at-risk youth and underserved Milwaukee families.

Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) – Parents and community volunteers were trained to deliver early reading interventions to K5-third grade students.

Milwaukee Police Department – Local police volunteered time to speak to WCLL's 6th grade classes about the "Choices and Consequences" of alcohol abuse, drug use and gang involvement.

Focus for Improvement

Last year, WCLL identified and met three goals:

1. To increase the number of juniors completing college entrance exams and prep courses. **All juniors took the ACT in 08-09.**
2. To increase peer-to-peer problem solving skills through the expansion of the school's Restorative Justice Program. **Trained 17 students in September 2009 to facilitate Restorative Justice circles.**
3. To increase collaboration among teachers and student support staff to promote school safety and a positive school environment. **Collected results of a school-wide teachers' survey to determine interventions based on teachers' needs. Increased communication with teachers on curriculum and program development.**

The SSPT is committed to the continuous improvement of WCLL as evidenced by strong data results.

The SSPT has the following goals for the 2009-2010 academic year.

1. To increase attendance rates from 90% to 93% through targeted interventions. This goal aligns with the goals of WCLL's School Improvement Plan
2. To increase family involvement by offering *four* Title I parent education workshops in 2009-2010, in addition to parent conferences and junior planning meetings.
3. To align with MPS district goals by decreasing the number of suspensions due to disruptions in the learning environment from 45% to 40% through continued expansion of the Restorative Justice Program and Forgiveness Curriculum.

Keeping You Informed

WCLL's SSPT encourages open lines of communication with families and community members. Parents participate in students' educational planning through parent/teacher conferences each semester, junior planning meetings with parents and students, Collaborative Support Team meetings and Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings. Anyone needing translation may be referred to Central Services at (414) 475-8393. All district publications are available in Hmong, Spanish and English. Parents receive additional updates about students in the following ways:

- WCLL's newly redesigned website, which features individual classroom web pages and newsletters
- Parent Bulletin Boards
- Messages to parents about school events and activities via ParentLink
- Phone calls, quarterly report cards and alert letters sent home to parents with academic progress
- The school's newsletter, QuickNotes, which is sent out bi-weekly

WCLL's 2009 SPARC will be distributed to the district office, school board, faculty and partnering community agencies via e-mail. It will be distributed to parents through the school's newsletter and posted on WCLL's website.