



“Nurturing and Empowering Families to Help Build Stronger Communities.”

Serving Flagler and Volusia Counties

The House Next Door From our House to Yours...

November 2022



www.thehnd.com

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November is Family Month

November is family month. It is part of our mission to help bring families together and nurture their family unit. We have a program within different schools to connect those families within the school system. “My name is Tiffany Dickey, and I am a school-based counselor at DeLand Middle School. Being a school-based counselor is a rewarding job. On a daily basis I get to work with amazing teachers, parents, and middle school students. One of the favorite things I love about my job is to be able to help the whole family. During my home visits I work with their DMS student and anything else that may be impacting their lives. Many of my families are single parents that work every day, so it is hard sometimes for them to stay in contact with the school. Schools are usually closed by the time they get home from work. I make my parent visits around their schedule because it is hard for them to get off work. I give them an update on their child and facilitate anything they may need from the school. Working with middle school students is very rewarding. Some of my students get lost in the hectic and complicated environment known as middle school. My job is to help them navigate through a school of almost 1300 students. This can be difficult sometimes because many students are suffering from academic issues and behavior challenges. I inform my students that my portable is a “safe place” for them to come and talk. I meet with my students weekly to discuss any issues they may be having with bullying, social isolation, or academic challenges. We have a group session weekly which allows the students to connect with other students and discuss ways to deal with their issues in a “positive action” way. After all of the hard work my students do, I give them a chance to have a “Fun Friday” celebration. Helping middle school age children and their families connect with the school system is difficult at times but the rewards are endless.” - Tiffany Dickey, School Based Counselor.

Alpha School-Based Program

The Alpha Program is an alternative educational and counseling Program designed to serve 4th through 8th grade students having difficulties in the regular classroom setting. Alpha assesses and addresses risk factors in the children’s environment, which may contribute to their problems.

The teachers and guidance counselors in the elementary schools make referrals to Alpha, based on knowledge of a child’s academic performance and behavior.

Students usually remain in the program for one school year. Alpha staff works with each child to develop individualized participation plans, which establish both academic and behavioral goals. Individual and group counseling, along with academic instruction are provided to meet these goals.

Many students experience academic difficulties prior to entering the program. Alpha counselors will work closely with the classroom teacher to meet specific learning styles of the student. Each student is pre and post tested to measure progress.

The Alpha counselors are available to the students, parents and teachers throughout the year.