

## MEET YOUR COUNSELOR



I love being a part of the amazing McCall Primary staff. My family and I moved here in 2016 from Tennessee by way of Florida, not the most direct route, but we feel we have landed in a great place. I love being with my family. My husband and I have three children. We enjoy water skiing, playing games, going to the beach and sharing stories.

I am an educator at heart and school counseling is my passion. I earned a B.A. in Elementary Education from Coastal Carolina University and a M.A. in School Counseling from Clemson. I taught in grades PreK-3 and have served as a school counselor in elementary schools in South Carolina, Tennessee, Florida, and now Georgia.

I am excited to support the children of McCall S.H.I.N.E. as we *Love Learn and Lead* together. Please contact me by phone or email if there is any way I can be of help to you as you strive to meet the various needs of your child in this ever changing and challenging world we live in. Also follow me on Twitter as I share McCall happenings and other interesting tidbits throughout the year.

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### **Mission**

The mission of McCall Primary's Comprehensive School Counseling Program is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that will enable students to become people of positive character who love, learn, and lead through academic, career, and social/emotional development.

### **Vision**

McCall Primary students will become contributors to our world who love, learn and lead in positive ways. Our students will be well prepared academically, socially and emotionally to be college and career ready - solution oriented problems solvers. Our students will strengthen their cultural awareness, develop a strong sense of respect for diversity, and use these to bring unity to our world.

### **Beliefs**

- It is important for all students to have access to an ethical and certified school counselor that works to safeguard the human rights of all members of the school community.
- A school culture which supports character development with respect to diversity develops leaders who will bring unity to our world.
- Strong relationships are the foundation of a positive school climate. The counselor will collaborate with staff, students, parents, and the community to bring strength to the school as a whole.
- Creating a physical, emotional, social, and academically safe learning environment promotes a passion for learning and equips students with the skills to be life-long learners.
- A differentiated approach in lessons and support for students sends the message that all students can achieve and provides opportunities for success.



**“School counselors are uniquely qualified to assist students with overcoming barriers to learning.”**

**Direct Student Services:** In-person interactions between the school counselor and students.-

- **School Counseling Core Curriculum -“Life Skills”** is provided twice per month for all students. The structured lessons are designed to help students attain the [ASCA Mindsets and Behaviors](#) and to provide all students with the knowledge, attitudes and skills appropriate for their developmental level establishing a foundation to be college and career ready.
- **Individual Student Planning and Responsive Services:** School counselors coordinate ongoing activities designed to assist students in establishing personal goals and developing future plans. This may include counseling in small-group, individual settings, or in crisis response interactions.
- **Small Group Counseling:** A counselor can provide a variety of support groups throughout the school year based on student needs. Parents, teachers, or the counselor may refer students for specific groups. In order for a child to be in a group, parent permission will be requested and filed. Typically, groups meet 30 minutes, once a week for six to eight weeks. The groups offered will vary based on need but may include friendship/social skills, self-regulation, or self-esteem groups. If you feel your child may benefit by participating in one of these groups, please contact our school counselor to find out more.
- **Individual Counseling:** There are times when students may need to see the school counselor one on one. Parents or teachers may refer a student to the counselor or the student may request time directly. The session is kept confidential unless the child discloses that he/she is being hurt, is hurting someone else, or wants to hurt him/herself. In these cases, the counselor is legally obligated to report the information. If the student shares other

information the teacher or parent needs to be aware of, I discuss it with the child and contact the adults who can add needed support. To clarify, school counselors are not therapists. We are trained to work with students briefly, using Solution Focused Counseling. Typically, I will work with a child on an individual basis one to four sessions, 15 to 20 minutes each time. If I feel a student would benefit from further counseling services, I may refer him for a support group at school or make other recommendations to the parents.

**Indirect Student Services:** Indirect services are provided on behalf of students as a result of the school counselor's interactions with parents, teachers, other educators, and community organizations. Consultation and collaboration with appropriate stakeholders focus on educational planning through RTI<sup>2</sup> (Response to Instruction and Intervention), school wide character education, development of a positive school climate, and making connections for additional assistance all for the benefit of our students.