



Coventry High School

40 Reservoir Road, Coventry, Rhode Island 02816 (401) 822-9499

Grades: 9-12 with Career Technical Program Enrollment: 1798 School Year: Traditional, comprehensive

Principal's Comments – Mr. Michael J. Hobin

The 2006-2007 school year has been a very busy one for our school counselors and the Student Support Team (SST) as they continue to employ the National Standards in our school counseling program. Counselors visit advisory classrooms three days a week to provide strong support and directed lessons to our students to help them develop academic, personal/social and career competencies. Counselors design and coordinate programs in such areas as test preparation, self-management skills, college admissions, work-readiness and the High School Diploma System at Coventry High School.

One recent initiative embraced by our counselors is the creation and monitoring of a student's Individual Learning Plan, designed to begin in middle school and continue through high school. Using this type of tool allows our counselors to understand the whole child, and affords our students the opportunity to inventory their personal strengths and plan their academic and career paths. In response to our SALT (School Accountability for Learning and Teaching, a state mandated initiative) team visit in April of 2006, our guidance department has created a parent advisory council to assist our staff with programs and procedures. This council's goal is to encourage more parents to utilize guidance and school counseling services and to make these services more accessible to the community.

Additionally, counselors have assumed the role of case managers for 504 Plans. Working with an administrator who oversees all 504 plans, each counselor plans, coordinates, and disseminates all 504 information to the student's teachers. Furthermore, we have recently developed an Intervention Team at which assists struggling students and seeks pro-active responses to their needs. Counselors and SST members will be vital participants on this team as they continue to bring leadership and new ideas and methods to support and students at CHS.

Student Support Team - Highlights

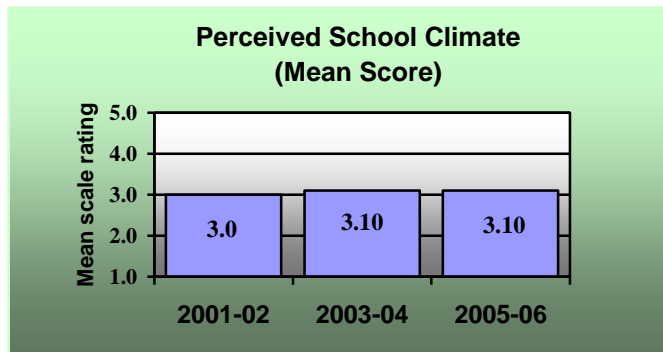
Service Area	Years of Service	Professional Organizations	Qualifications
7 School Counselors	146 in Education 73 in School Counseling	7 members of RI School Counselor Assoc. 1 member of ASCA	7 Masters (MA) in School Counseling 1 PhD - Education 1 Past President - RISCA
1 Nurse	25 in education	RI School Nurse Association	Masters in Education
1 Social Worker (SW)	22 as social worker in schools	National Association of Social Work	Licensed. Masters in SW and Special Education
1 School Psychologist	29 as a school psychologist	RI School Psychologist Association	M.A.- Psychology CAGS- School Psychology

School Climate and Safety

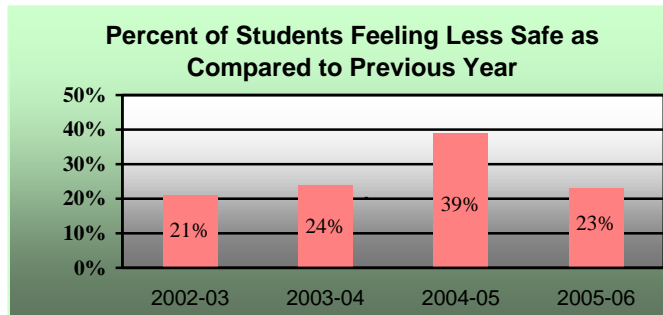
With almost 1,800 students, a priority for the student support team is to help personalize the learning environment in order to create a safer school. The counselors work three times a week with teachers in the personalization/ advisory classes. Members of the SST meet weekly with parents to examine whether or not academic and social issues are hindering a student. A peer mediation program which stresses tolerance and respect has assisted students in resolving conflicts. Our resource officer is constantly in the halls to help provide an environment of safety and security.

The overall school climate data from a school-wide SALT survey (mandated yearly self-study in all schools) has been consistent these past several years. The graph below is an overall rating of perceived positive school climate experiences in three different years. The mean score of 3.1 (on a 5-point Likert scale) is unchanged from the previous year, and only slightly better than the rating from 2002-03. The current SALT survey was administered

January; we are using this as a baseline to gauge the effect of the Student Support Team's work this year.

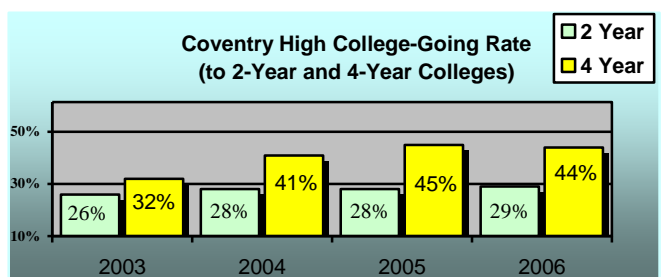
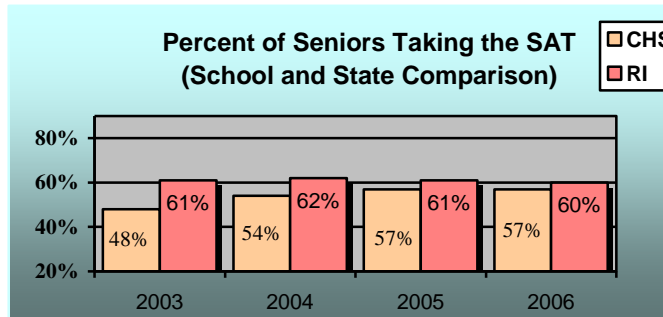


However, our work in 05-06 reversed a trend of students reporting that they were feeling less safe than the year before. The SST has worked with advisories to encourage student responsibility in regards to behavioral expectations (see graph).



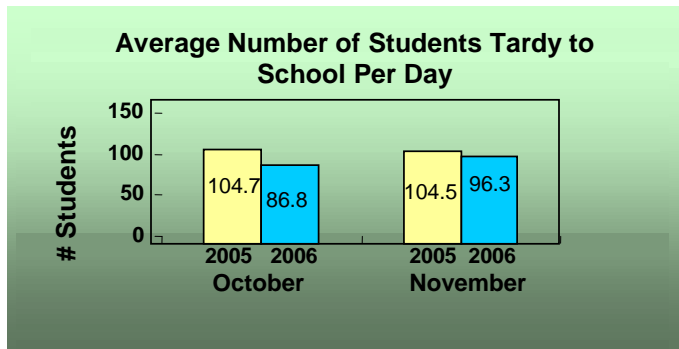
Student Results

Aligning our school counseling program with the National Standards has allowed us to critically examine how best to support students in their academic, career and personal/ social development. After studying the data, raising our four-year college-going rate became a priority. We partnered with the RI Higher Education Assistance Authority, the College Planning Center and a national SAT prep (Revolution Prep) company which conducts classes in our school. The SST offered evening workshops for families, visited classrooms and counseled students (especially those with disabilities) on the benefits of post-secondary schooling. Results included more post-secondary applications, more seniors taking the SAT, and a rise in our four-year college-going rate (see two graphs below):



The SST has also been concerned with the number of students tardy to school and has worked with the principal to develop an alternate system to encourage on-time attendance. SST has discussed the importance of being on time to school in advisory and has met with habitual truants. The results show that the new system is having a positive impact; the data below show the

difference in the mean number of students tardy per day for two months (October and November) in both 2005 and 2006.



Major Achievements

The school counselors at CHS work collaboratively with the student support team to plan programs to support student achievement and well-being:

- **Middle School Transition.** Our counselors redesigned 9th grade orientation to include small group meetings with all 8th graders in collaboration with high school department heads. An evening meeting is held with parents and an orientation day held at the high school for students. SST organized special meeting for students with anxiety or scheduling concerns regarding the transition. Due to these meetings we had 70% fewer problems with scheduling.
- **College/Post-secondary Planning.** In keeping with our mission, our team uses a Four Year Plan to track and guide students towards graduation/post-secondary planning. Counselors meet with parents in the spring of their child's junior year; provides them with guides, timelines and advice relating to the college search process. Data indicate more students enrolling in college (see graph on front). We also use databases and computerized mail merge program to inform parents of their child's post-secondary plans.
- **Individual Learning Plans.** Our 15-page ILP allows students to set goals and areas of focus for each school year and then reflect on the progress. The ILP helps direct the student's course of study and is aligned with college and career plans.
- **Diploma System Steering Committee.** SST members help design and coordinate state mandated proficiency graduation requirements for students; conduct training for teachers.
- **Work Experience, Internships and Dual Enrollment.** Recognizing that some students need different academic and life experiences, SST collaborates with the School-to-Career counselor to assist in providing students opportunities outside of school or to concurrently enroll in a local college.
- **Guidance Workshops During Parent Conferences.** During the fall and spring parent conference days, counselors conduct workshops on a variety of topics relating to academic, career, college and personal/social issues for parents.
- **School Report Night** is an informational night to inform parents of school test scores, SALT results and other pertinent data. The school counseling department prepares slides, assessment results and helps disseminate this information.

Measurements

Measurement and assessment allow the student support team to collect data to inform and to help families, students, faculty and staff make decisions. The following are some of the measurements we use to assess students and programs:

Academics

- **AP, SAT, PSAT and SAT9** are coordinated by the counseling department; results discussed with math and English heads to identify key instructional strategies.
- **New Standards Reference Exam and the New England Compact Assessments**, which are coordinated by guidance, are state assessments aligned to standards.
- **Student Improvement Plans** identify course achievement data and are written by teachers, parents and struggling student at course midpoint to set a plan for success.
- **Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)** assesses comprehension for incoming students to determine if remedial reading program is warranted.

Career

- **Armed Services Vocational Ability Battery (ASVAB)** given to all juniors; follow-up workshops by SST help students investigate interests, abilities and careers.

- **Pre and post surveys** on career cluster interest presentations to gauge effect of Career Day presenters.
- **9th grade students complete Bridges' CHOICES** online computerized career exploration tool; results used in ILP.
- **Career Direction Survey-** Students given opportunity to take survey to guide them into career choices. They were given a one-on-one overview of their results;

Personal/Social

- **Health screenings** – administered by school nurse for vision, hearing and nutrition;
- **Collaborate with RI Dept of Health** in administering National Youth Risk Survey.
- **Stress survey** administered by SST to gauge student anxiety in preparation for intervention/support programs.

Community Partnerships/Resources

Academic

- Representatives from local colleges and technical schools address our students several times a week;
- Students are encouraged to seek out dual enrollment programs with local colleges and technical schools.
- Partnership with Revolution Prep to bring SAT preparation classes to CHS.
- Guidance assists in Bill and Melinda Gates' Foundation grant to design and support Small Learning Communities.

Career

- Local businesses are involved in our Work Study and Work Experience program and participate in Career Fair.
- Internships allow students to work with a faculty member to design a standards-based project or portfolio.
- SST is a partner in the Career Day where 200 students exhibit the results of their community work internships.
- Partnerships with RI College Planning Center (our Financial Aid Night) and local colleges (College Night).

Personal/Social

- Tides Family Services and the RI Department of Children, Youth and Families team with SST regularly to provide information, resources and support.
- SST attends Truancy Court to work with judge, students and parents to support school attendance.
- School Resource Officer from the Coventry Police Dept. works closely with the SST to support student growth.

Parent/Guardian Volunteer Involvement

- Volunteer parent, Beverly Cloutier, is a press liaison and disseminates student support information to the media.
- Guidance Advisory Council, composed of parents, teachers, and students to help promote and guide the school counseling program using National Standards.
- Contact Dr. Arthur Lisi at 401-822-9499 or lisiarthur@coventryschools.net to join the Guidance Advisory Council or to volunteer in the office!

Focus for Improvement

- Guidance portfolio tasks being developed focusing on standards in all three domains through advisory visits.
- Utilize SALT survey data to increase student engagement in personal and social domain.
- Continually assess and improve our counseling programs using state data, advisory surveys and focus groups.
- Guidance action plan is aligned with school improvement plan to support continuous growth and development.

Keeping You Informed

Visitations/Presentations

- Open House ♦ Parent/Teacher Conferences ♦ School Improvement Team ♦ PTSA meetings ♦ A counselor is Spanish-fluent ♦ School Report Night ♦ Freshman Orientation ♦ Grade level assemblies ♦ Parent-Teacher-Counselor meetings ♦ SPARC presentation to school officials.

Electronic

- Parent list serve ♦ Guidance web page on school website (www.coventryschools.net) ♦ Daily Bulletin e-mail ♦ Guidance marquee and bulletin board ♦ Press releases.

Paper

- Quarterly report cards and progress reports ♦ Principal's Newsletter ♦ Guidance newsletter ♦ Monthly scholarship bulletin ♦ Quarterly deficiency letters mailed home.