

# Maries R-I Schools

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**Mr. Ian Murray**  
**High School Principal**  
573-422-3363

**Mr. Joe Dunlap**  
**Superintendent**  
573-422-3304  
**Beth Hollis**, Secretary 573-422-3141

**Ms. Sherree Burkholder**  
**Elementary Principal**  
573-422-3365

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Dear Parents /Guardians:

We are pleased to let you know that we have small focus groups for students to support and enhance the development of personal skills and to promote educational success.

Meeting bi-monthly with the school counselor, the group allows for additional social learning experiences and a chance for students to express themselves. Students also benefit from the support of group members. Small groups provide students with opportunities to learn about their abilities and interests, develop positive relationships, take responsibility for their behavior, make effective decisions, advocate for themselves, and express feelings in healthy ways. The group creates a bond of unity that encourages each member to grow and change.

Groups will be composed of students with similar goals and grade levels. The groups will meet bi-monthly in the School Counselor's office during a time arranged with the classroom teachers so students will not miss critical instruction. After each group meeting, parents will be notified through email or a written note of what was covered in group. Groups will begin meeting in October and have five to six sessions. Changes to groups will be made in January, and then meetings will continue for another five to six sessions.

Separate small groups will be created to focus on the following topics:

- Study skills
- Self-concept
- Friendship/ Social Skills
- Behavior management
- Grief and loss

If you believe your child would benefit from meeting in a small group with a School Counselor or you would like more information, please email Mrs. Martin at [nmartin@viennaeagles.org](mailto:nmartin@viennaeagles.org), Miss Heimbaugh at [lheimbaugh@viennaeagles.org](mailto:lheimbaugh@viennaeagles.org), give us a call at 573-422-3364, or speak with your child's teacher. We hope you and your child have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Natalie Martin  
7 - 12 School Counselor

Lindsey Heimbaugh  
K – 6 School Counselor

*Home of the Eagles!*