

# Counselor Corner

## August Newsletter

### **Meet the Counselor**

Hello and welcome back! I hope you and your family have had a relaxing summer. My name is LaShawnda Harris, and I've been the Counselor at Woodard since it opened in the fall of 2015! It's been a joy getting to know the students, parents, and community members.

I've begun visiting with our amazing Woodard pups during our "Meet the Counselor" classroom talks where I introduce myself, explain my role as a school counselor, and let students know how they can reach me if they need my help or support. I also explain that the school counselor's role is to work with all students to encourage a safe environment of trust and respect. I let the students know that I will be visiting their classrooms each month during our monthly guidance lesson, where we talk about ways to improve themselves and support others as needed. I will also talk about how to work as a pack, helping other students that may struggle to make positive behavior choices. During these sessions, students will also meet their assigned grade level Assistant Principal, where they will discuss student expectations for behavior on campus as well as on the bus. The Assistant Principals and I work together to ensure the children have a safe and orderly learning environment each and every day.

I know that this school year will be filled with fun and successful experiences for all students. To reach me, please contact Brittany Guillerman, my secretary, at 281-373-2303.

### **Credit-By-Exam**

Parents/Students that are interested in skipping a grade must take a test in order to be considered. The application to start the process is submitted to Mrs. Harris, the counselor. Students in grades K-5 will have four opportunities during the school year to use "credit-by-exam" to accelerate to another grade level. Students will only have **one opportunity to test for each grade level considered**. Click on the link to download the application <https://www.cfairisd.net/en/parents-students/academics/course-descriptions/credit-exam/>.

The deadline to submit the application is September 5<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and February 7<sup>th</sup> respectively.

### **Mentors**

We have many ways to get involved at Woodard Elementary and being a mentor to a child is one way. A mentor is an adult (suitable role model) that is committed to helping a student with his/her academic and social development. We have 3 easy steps to mentoring!

1. Apply online [https://cyfairisd.formstack.com/forms/volunteer\\_application](https://cyfairisd.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_application)
2. Attend one training session <https://cyfairisd.formstack.com/forms/training>
3. Mentor a student 30 minutes each week

If you have questions, please contact Brittany Guillerman at 281-373-2303.

### **Rating Scales or Recommendation Forms**

If you have Teacher Rating Scale forms or any Teacher Recommendation forms for teachers to complete, please send those to Mrs. Harris. We must have parents to complete a Release of Confidentiality form before teacher will have forms and be filled out. To obtain a form, please contact Brittany Guillerman at [Brittany.guillerman@cfisd.net](mailto:Brittany.guillerman@cfisd.net) or 281-373-2303. Once we've received that completed document then teachers will be able to complete the rating scales or school recommendation forms. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Harris at 281-373-2303.