



## ABOUT THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

My name is Shandrai Silva. I am the school counselor at Hawks Nest STEAM Academy. I am a proud graduate of UNC-Charlotte (Go Niners!) and Winthrop University. I have been a school counselor with Gaston County Schools since 2003. I have been the school counselor at Hawks Nest STEAM Academy since 2016. I'm also a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC). Prior to coming to Gaston County Schools, I worked with children and families in various settings (group homes, foster care, intensive in-home and school-based mental health counseling).

Our vision at Hawks Nest STEAM Academy is to create a learning environment that inspires success and a lifetime of learning. As the school counselor, I am committed to this vision and to making each student's experience here at Hawks Nest STEAM Academy an enjoyable one where they are becoming the best they can be academically and personally.

### Mission of School Counselor

The mission of the school counselor is to provide a comprehensive school counseling program focused on the social-emotional, academic and career development of every student.

### Vision: Beliefs/Philosophies of School Counselor

1. All students are important and valuable and should be respected for their individuality and uniqueness.
2. All students should have access to a rigorous and quality education in a safe and nurturing learning environment.
3. All students can learn and be successful.
4. All students should have equal access to a comprehensive school counseling program.
5. All students can become self-fulfilled adult citizens who are responsible and contributing members of the world.



Your feedback and input are welcomed! Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or idea you may have for/about the School Counseling Program.

### School Counselor Information

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Resources & Monthly Newsletters on School Counselor's Website.

Website: <https://www.gaston.k12.nc.us/domain/3103>

## Why Elementary School Counselors?

The elementary school years set the foundation for developing the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for children to become healthy, competent and confident learners. Elementary school counselors have an impact on these years by implementing a school counseling program and collaborating with school staff, parents and the community to create a safe and respectful learning environment. By providing education, prevention, early identification and intervention, elementary school counselors help their students achieve academic success, develop an understanding of career opportunities and develop social/emotional skills in response to issues they face.

American School Counselor Association

## THE COUNSELOR MAY SEE STUDENTS FOR:

### Classroom Guidance

I have the opportunity to see every student through classroom guidance. In classroom guidance, we will explore topics related to social/emotional, academic, and career development: character education, friendship, bullying, emotions, goal-setting, college & careers and more.

### Small Group Counseling

In small groups, students meet with the counselor along with other students to develop similar skills. Students may engage in activities to help with school success skills, social skills, coping skills, decision-making skills, self-esteem, friendship skills and leadership skills.

### Individual Counseling

The counselor meets with students individually. Students may talk with a school counselor about a variety of things - feelings, relationships, understanding others, and problem-solving are just a few. No concern is too big or too small.

How does a student see the counselor individually or in a small group?

- Self-referral
- Parent referral
- Teacher referral
- Administrator referral
- Counselor initiated

