

From the School Counselor

Welcome back to all our students and our families! How wonderful it is to have the hallways and classrooms filled again with the sounds of our exuberant students! I also extend a warm welcome to all of our new students and their families. It was delightful to meet many of our moms and dads at the Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten reception, Back to School Nights, and Back to School Picnic.

Please continue to check the Thursday folder under ***Counselor's Corner*** for articles, announcements and information including parent education talks here at school or in the community. We had a great response to our first parent presentation, "***Raising "I Can Kids."***" Please join us on October 30 in the church commons at 8:45 a.m. or 6 p.m. for "***Dyslexia for a Day Simulation."***

You may also want to explore a few of my favorite websites which have helpful information for parents on a wide range of topics:

CommonSenseMedia.org

SchoolFamily.org

KidsHealth.org

This school year we will continue with programs such as *Caught Being Kind, Fifth Grade Peacemakers, and Quarterly Character Awards*. These initiatives are intended to reinforce the Christ-like character of our students and cultivate a peaceful and harmonious school environment.

In recent weeks I have been visiting classrooms, inviting small groups of students for lunch, and scheduling high school mock interviews with our eighth graders. As school counselor, I am here to help students feel safe and comfortable at school so they can do their best. I encourage parents to let Mr. Spadoni or me know if there are family changes, including loss of loved ones or pets, so that with your permission, we can coordinate appropriate support. If you have any questions, concerns, or need help with resources, please feel free to contact me at 301-881-1824 x305 or khirsch@stelizabethschoolmd.org. I am in school Monday through Thursdays.

May God bless our 2017-18 school year!

Mrs. Kathy Hirsch, LCSW-C

