

## Bernardo Yorba Mission Statement:

The mission of Bernardo Yorba is to provide educational opportunities that challenge each student academically and foster appropriate physical, emotional, and social development. Our educational program seeks to instill the realization and acceptance of individual and collective responsibility with mutual respect, and to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary for successful participation as a contributing member of our society and world community.

*Cameron Malotte, Principal*  
*Ron Rodriguez, Assistant Principal*  
*Sandy Pendleton, Counselor*

## *Why Middle School Counselors?*

Middle school students are characterized by rapid physical growth, curiosity about their world and an emerging self-identity. Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, counselors work as team members with school staff, parents, and the community to create a caring, supportive climate and atmosphere whereby young adolescents can achieve academic success.

## *What do Middle School Counselors Do?*

Middle School counselors are professional educators with a mental health perspective who understand and respond to the challenges presented by today's diverse student population. Professional school counselors align with the school's mission to support the academic achievement, personal/social development, and career awareness and exploration of all students as they prepare for the ever-changing world of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Under AB 1802, students who are at risk of not passing the California High School Exit Exam will have an individual conference with parent and counselor.

## *Steps to take if you need to address any concerns:*

1. If the issue is regarding a specific class, phone or email your student's teacher.
2. Additional concerns can be addressed with the counselor by phone or email.
3. As needed and/or requested, the counselor will set up a parent-teacher-student meeting.
4. If necessary, the counselor will communicate with School Psychologist, Assistant Principal, and/or Principal.

## *How do I contact my student's counselor?*

Sandy Pendleton- ext. 22023  
[spendleton@pylusd.org](mailto:spendleton@pylusd.org)

## *School Website:* [www.BYMS.org](http://www.BYMS.org)

By going to the school website, you can find out what events are taking place at BYMS. Clicking on the "Faculty/Staff" link will

connect you with all BYMS teachers. Clicking on the subject will give you general class information as well as a schedule of homework assignments and tests (if posted). By clicking on the teacher's name, you can email any of your child's teachers.

## *AERIES/ABI:*

Parents can also monitor student progress by setting up an AERIES account. To do this, you will need your student's ID number, home phone number, a Verification Passcode, and a valid email address. ID number and Passcode can be obtained from the counselor or Mr. Malotte. To set up an account, go to the school website and click AERIES login. You will be walked through the steps.

This account will allow you to view student attendance, progress and quarter grades, as well as up to date grades throughout the grading period. The class assignments feature allows you to see your child's grade broken down by area (tests, homework, class work, participation, etc). We highly recommend taking advantage of this feature.

## **Services provided by BYMS Counselors:**

### *Academic:*

- All Teacher Conferences
- Learning @ Lunch Program
- Classroom Guidance Lessons
- Parent Conferences
- Group Counseling
- Planner Check Contract
- Academic Skills Support
- Academic Planning
- Transition Planning

### **At-Risk Students:**

All 8th grade students must appropriately complete the required course of study and have a satisfactory attendance record. The following could result in exclusion from the 8th grade activities and/or the promotion exercises:

- Six (6) or more failing grades in the core curriculum during the school year
- A decision to retain in the eighth grade
- Continuous and/or serious disciplinary problems
- Irregular attendance

### ***Personal/Social:***

- Peer Conflict Mediation
- Behavior Contracts
- Coping Strategies
- Peer Relationships, and Effective Social Skills
- Individual Counseling

### ***Career:***

- Career Day
- "Bridges" Computer Career Program
- Career-Based Guidance Lessons
- Career Awareness, Exploration and Planning

### ***Tips For School Success:***

- Encourage daily studying even if there is no homework. Reviewing lessons increases understanding.
- Set up a regular study time in a comfortable, quiet place that minimizes distractions.
- Encourage the use of the BYMS Planner for writing assignments and staying organized.

- Suggest that your student attend after school study sessions or seek extra help from teachers.
- Assist your student in prioritizing tasks and setting goals to work (more) efficiently.
- Get involved in your teen's school. Meet with your teen's teachers, attend school events, and be prepared to intervene to assure that your teen's classes provide opportunities for success.
- Promote proper rest and nutrition. Plenty of sleep and a healthy diet increase energy and the ability to accomplish more.

### **REMEMBER**

***Your involvement in your teen's education can contribute to a lifelong love of learning!***

## **COUNSELING RESOURCE GUIDE**



**Bernardo Yorba Middle School**  
**Home of the Matadors**  
*A California Distinguished School*  
*National Blue Ribbon School*

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