

HELLO **Rittman Indians!**

My name is Erika Galvin and I am the school social worker for the Rittman School District. I spend time at all three schools (RES/RMS/RHS) and wanted to introduce myself and provide some insight to support that I can provide or services that I can assist with. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

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THE ROLE OF A SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

School Social Workers are the link between school and community in providing services to students, families and school personnel to promote and support students' academic and social success.

SERVICES TO STUDENTS:

- Providing crisis intervention.
- Developing intervention strategies to increase academic success.
- Assisting with conflict resolution and anger management.
- Helping the child develop appropriate social interaction skills.
- Assisting the child in understanding and accepting self and others.

SERVICES TO PARENT/FAMILIES:

- Working with parents to facilitate their support in their children's school adjustment.
- Alleviating family stress to enable the child to function more effectively in school & the community.
- Assisting parents to access programs available to students with special needs.
- Assisting parents in accessing and utilizing school and community resources.

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LIAISON:

- Obtaining and coordinating community resources to meet students' needs.
- Helping school districts receive adequate support from social and mental health agencies.
- Helping the system respond effectively to each child's needs.

SERVICES TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL:

- Providing staff with essential information to better understand factors (cultural, societal, economic, familial, health, etc.) affecting a student's performance and behavior.
- Assessing students with mental health concerns.
- Assisting teachers with behavior management.
- Providing direct support to staff.



TAKE NOTE:

Resources:

- ★ The USDA has extended the free meal program until June 2022. This allows students to eat breakfast & lunch at school, free of charge. Although there is no required paperwork to participate in this program, we encourage parents who feel that they may qualify for free/reduced meals to turn in an application to be processed, as this may also assist us in linking you to other qualifying community resources.
- ★ We have a small food pantry located in our Elementary School. This pantry is available to our families that could use some additional support! Local community members, businesses & school staff assist in keeping our pantry stocked! Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!
- ★ RES has a partnership with Wooster Hope Center where they provide a selected number of our students with food bags each Friday. Completing the free/reduced lunch form will assist us in identifying eligible students for this program.

Groups:

- ★ Your child may be invited to participate in a small group or lunch bunch session. I will facilitate these groups and will reach out to you to gain permission. Small groups allow for additional social learning experiences and a chance for students to express themselves. Students also benefit from the support of group members. Students may be selected for a small group based on recommendations from parents, teachers, and school staff. Groups will be composed of students with similar goals at the same grade level. The groups will meet during a time arranged with the classroom teachers so students will not miss critical instruction.
- ★ In addition to small groups, a Lunch Bunch will be available for all students. Lunch Bunch allows for a small group of students to enjoy lunchtime with friends in my office. This is an opportunity to promote friendships and positive social characteristics. Parents and teachers may recommend a child for Lunch Bunch. Parents will be notified if their child is invited to a Lunch Bunch and have the option for their child to attend or not attend.