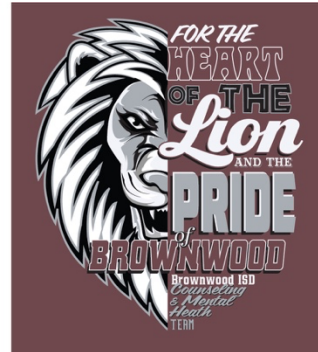




*Brownwood ISD  
Counseling and  
Mental Health Team*



*"For the Heart of the Lion and the Pride of Brownwood"*

## **Counseling and Mental Health Program Report, October 2022**

### **Brownwood ISD**

#### **Danielle Howard, Mental Health Coordinator**

##### Went Well Last Year:

- 5 separate schools won the CREST Award for Exemplary Counseling Programming, and were recognized at a statewide formal banquet.
- At BHS, over 50% of the students took the SAT exam, a record at Brownwood ISD, and the Business and Industry Trade Show were a WILD SUCCESS!!
- Over 40 students received intervention collaborating with Center for Life Resources, local Counselors, and BISD Counseling and Mental Health Team related to immediate crisis suicidal ideation. (9 so far this school year as of 9-23-22)
  - All 3 Help Grant Counselors, Marci Reagan, LeeAnn Stork, and Angie Bertrand completed their Master's Degree in School Counseling in addition to district Mental Health Specialist, Leah Parker. Additionally, High School Counselor Jessica Morgan completed her LPC, to join Kim Ellis, who currently has hers.
- Collaboration has expanded to include Abilene Recovery Council in working with our DAEP, working closely with the Mental Health Team of Brownwood PD, and expanding Anger Management Classes available upon referral district wide. CFLR also now has a collaborative Memorandum of understanding and working relationship with local school counselors.
- Mental Health Library and Behavior resources available district wide including a closet with shoes available for children throughout the district, provided by the Brownwood Chamber of Commerce.
  - Our team has presented multiple times throughout the state and on 2 occasions to a national audience to present the effectiveness of implementing mental health programming in a small town district. These have been well received, and many districts have called and requested additional information and meetings.
- All curriculum has been horizontally and vertically aligned district wide, and appropriate supplies were provided to every campus PK-8 to assist in guidance provision, in correlation with our Project Neighborhood programming, all is presented in accordance with the Texas Model for Comprehensive Counseling Programming.

##### New for this year:

- Met with Chantel Aplotnik, HPU Social Work Program Lead, and we are now collaborating with Howard Payne University for social work interns to provide education and support in the school setting. We have our first intern this year!
- At BHS: Senior 1-on-1 meetings have already begun for every student. There is a FAFSA Clinic Scheduled for October 11, and we are extending partnership with ASU, Tarleton, Ranger, and HPU universities.

-Juniors will have the opportunity to attend a college fair hosted by TSTC.  
- We now have intentional spaces for counseling at all locations for our Mental Health Team. Danielle Howard has a mobile unit to pull to every elementary campus (see photo below), and Leah Parker has a coffee shop redesigned at BHS, a “counseling corner” at BMS, and an available office at both Coggin and DAEP for serving individuals and small groups. Recently licensed as a counselor, she is intentional on supporting our campuses mental health needs at the secondary level. Watch our feature “Spaces and Places for Mental Health” coming out this October for Mental Health Awareness Month

-Marci Reagan, Dawna Fulton, and Leah Parker are all working towards completion of required training and hours to complete their LPC licenses under the supervision of Danielle Howard. All maintain a position within Brownwood ISD at this time.

-Recently we have had 2 full time school counselors retire. This unfortunately brought elementary ratios way up and above recommended rates at the PK-5 levels, and this change has been felt.

We are attempting to mitigate that through the following measures:

Danielle Howard, Mental Health Coordinator rotates community/autism support on Mondays, and one PK-5 elementary campus per day Tuesdays – Fridays. Leah Parker rotates community/autism support on Mondays, and one secondary campus per day Tuesdays through Fridays, giving every school a consistent mental health professional on a weekly basis for one full day.

Additionally, counselors have been hired through the autism grant to support students with autism, and general population working with students with autism. See Autism Grant Report for additional information.

Mental Health struggles nationwide are at an all time high, and this district has not escaped this struggle. Mental health and behavioral struggles often go hand in hand in children, and we are seeing a significant escalation in behavior and processing. See attached CDC report.

We are grateful to a board that provides ongoing support for our counseling and mental health programming. Thank you BISD School Board and Superintendents!!

