

## **Confidentiality and Informed Consent**

### **What is confidentiality?**

Confidentiality is keeping information discussed between the student and the school counselor (or the parent and the school counselor) private.

Confidentiality is vital to the student-counselor relationship.

### **Are there times when the school counselor will break confidentiality?**

Yes, there are certain instances when the school counselor is required to report confidential information, such as:

- When a student reports someone is hurting them
- When a student reports they are hurting someone else
- When a student reports they are hurting themselves
- With the student's permission (often something that is uncomfortable for the student, but useful for a parent or teacher to know)

### **What is informed consent?**

Informed consent is the permission given to the school counselor to talk to a student with the understanding of the benefits and risks.

Please note that school counselors do not provide "therapy." Referrals for outside counseling services are available for children experiencing non-school related issues or problems requiring long-term counseling.