

Dear 8th Grade Students and Families,

Welcome back to Colin Powell Academy! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin what I hope will be a successful, meaningful, and memorable school year. For those who may not know me, my name is Mrs. DeAndrea Curry, and I am the 8th Grade School Counselor. If you have worked with me before, then you already know that I believe strongly in supporting the whole child. Being successful in school is about more than grades. It is also about learning how to make good decisions, handle challenges, advocate for yourself, build healthy relationships, set goals, and prepare for what comes next.

And let's be honest—8th grade is a BIG year! 😊

You are getting ready to transition to high school, make decisions about your future, and take on more responsibility for your education and your choices. There will be exciting moments, challenging moments, and probably a few moments when you wonder, “Why is 8th grade so much?” 😊 But you will get through all of it, and I will be here to help along the way.

So, What Does the School Counselor Do?

As your school counselor, my job is to support you academically, socially/emotionally, and with your college and career development. I work with students, families, teachers, administrators, and other school staff to help identify concerns, find solutions, and make sure students have the support they need to be successful.

You may see me helping students with:

- 📚 Academic Support – setting goals, monitoring progress, discussing grades, and developing strategies for success.
- 💙 Social & Emotional Support – working through stress, friendships, conflict, decision-making, and other challenges.
- 🎓 High School Planning – exploring high school options, specialty programs, applications, and important deadlines.
- ☀️ College & Career Readiness – helping students begin thinking about their interests, strengths, careers, and future goals.
- 👏 Advocacy & Problem-Solving – working with students, families, and staff when additional support is needed.
- 🏆 Student Recognition & Activities – celebrating your accomplishments and helping make your 8th grade experience special.

Parents & Families, We Need You!

One thing I have learned throughout my years as a school counselor is that students do better when the adults in their lives work together. By 8th grade, your child may tell you they don't need you quite as much anymore—but trust me, they still do! 😊 Your encouragement, questions, conversations, and involvement make a difference. I want us to have an open line of communication throughout the school year. If something is going on that may be affecting your child's academic, social, or emotional well-being, please reach out. Likewise, I will do my best to keep you informed about important opportunities, deadlines, programs, and resources.

We may not always have all the answers, but we can work together to find the best way to support your child.

Students, This Is Your Year!

I want you to remember that you are more than a grade, a test score, a mistake, or a difficult day.

You are still growing. You are still learning. You are still figuring things out—and that's okay. This year, I want you to challenge yourself, take responsibility for your choices, ask for help when you need it, and believe that you are capable of more than you may sometimes think.

Your choices matter.

Your effort matters.

Your attitude matters.

Your future matters.

And most importantly, YOU matter.

My office will always be a place where you can come for support, guidance, encouragement, problem-solving, or sometimes just a reminder that you can do hard things. I am looking forward to getting to know our students, working with our families, and making this a great year for the Colin Powell Academy 8th Grade Class of 2027!
Let's make this year count!

Welcome back, 8th grade! ❤️🎓

With excitement for the year ahead,

Mrs. DeAndrea Curry

8th Grade School Counselor

Colin Powell Academy