

**Sherwood Middle Academic Magnet School
East Baton Rouge, Louisiana**



TRANSCRIPT: “STUDENT SUPPORT”

MARY ANN ROBBINS, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: I think the school is so wonderful because we try to reach every child and we don't give up on them easy.

ELLEN DECUIR, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: The other thing that I really like the best about working here is that we are able to truly meet all the needs of the students who are able to focus on academics, personal/social, and career.

MARCY FAUST, TEACHER: All of the interventions that we do, not only the academic interventions that we do with the children but with our PBS program and discipline we try to do interventions in that area to try to intervene and find out the roots of problems and solve from there. And I think that is really one of the strengths of the school.

STUDENT: I felt like I could not do it—this school is so hard for me I just can't make it. When I came to Ms. Robbins she let me know that somebody believed in me that I should go all the way because I want to make a success of my life.

STUDENT: T helped me realize that everyone can help me and take me places and do stuff for me but if I don't do my part then nothing is going to happen.

MARY ANN ROBBINS, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: This is a program that was designed to help sixth graders who were not doing very well at the beginning who fell behind in their grade point average and who were struggling with organization, turning in homework. I see them at least every week in a group. We meet in a support group; I have 7 groups. I meet with them weekly. I also meet with them individually every week. We can go online to see if they haven't turned in their assignments. So I make sure that they know if they owe a teacher something. They are put in because of their low scores or the first progress report they don't make the 2.5 GPA and just because they make a 2.5, which I have several which have come up above the 2.5, they aren't out of the groups until we are sure they are functioning on their own. Right at the beginning when I get them I call the parents to let them know I will be working with them and what I will be doing. I tell them about the parent website that they can go to and make sure that

they have a password so they can go online and look at their children's grades and see how they are doing—I do a lot of parent calls.

MARCY FAUST, TEACHER: We do a program called Read 180, lots of 6 graders are enrolled in that program and that is to help boost their reading skills. Also we have placement of children into an extra math class called a math lab based on low math scores to help intervene at that 6th grade level. So if we foresee that some of them are already behind we try to bring them up to level at the 6th grade point so that they can successfully move on to 7th grade and be ready for that.

MARY ANN ROBBINS, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: Our teachers are wonderful about tutoring. They do before school tutoring, kids that want to come in when they get off the bus, they can come in early and go to tutoring. Teachers stay in at recess and we just got some money from the school board that we can offer after school tutoring 2 afternoons a week.

STUDENT: I have this tutor that I go to math and for other subjects so if I need help I just ask my teacher or my tutor, or Ms. Robbins.

PARENT: Having teachers perform the tutoring onsite at 6:00 in the morning there will be a teacher here. So the child doesn't have the stigma of missing recess, of not being able to go to soccer or whatever because they are in tutoring which sometimes has a downside, but those are important interventions. My ADD child was having math everyday because he was having on-grade and then sort of like a remedial math too. Now let me give you the numbers on that. This is a child that tested 52 percentile in 3rd grade math. When he took his 6th grade I Leap test—99 percentile.

PARENT: They are given chances to prove that they can handle responsibility instead of saying do this but don't do it until you are gone. Here is what we expect from you, now show us that you can do it.

ELLEN DECUIR, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: We just threw a huge career day that we are very happy to tell you about.

MISSY FRYE, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: We had about 50 speakers from different careers and we asked the speakers to tell a little bit about what it takes to be a physician, an attorney, a CPA, a vet and it gives them an idea of what they need to start doing in high school to work toward those careers.

ELLEN DECUIR, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: The students really enjoyed it. A lot of them said they heard about careers they never heard of and our main goal was to expose them to a variety of careers and also for them to see what it takes to get there. We really want them to prepare for high school so we have what we call a “Leap in High School” planning night where

we invite the 8th grade students and their parents to come where we have a program scheduled to expose them to high school and what they can expect when they go to high school.

MISSY FRYE, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: The philosophy of guidance is that we try to help every student become the very best that they can be and to make sure that all of our students are safe. We do groups with study skills, anger management, divorce and grief. We do bullying, self-concept.

ELLEN DECUIR, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR: A lot of students feel very comfortable talking with us and with their teachers about what is going on at home and I think that really speaks volumes to the relationships that are formed here. The students don't just come to school and go home, they actually feel part of the school and part of the culture here. So I think that really makes us outstanding.

PARENT: It's just so peaceful—I drop her off, I go to work and I don't think ever during the day “is she OK, is she safe, is she loved, and is she learning?” She is just a happy child, which make for a happy mom.