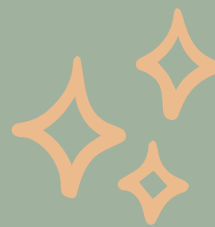


# Counselors' Newsletter



for VVES teachers and staff Aug 2023

Venable Village  
Elementary School



## WHO WE ARE?

### Mindy Petty

- Starting 2nd year at VVES!
- Been an educator for over 25 years.
- Enjoys connecting with students, parents, and other educators to help make students successful.
- Loves to read and play with cats & bunnies.



### Veronica M. Garcia Zeda

- Born in Puerto Rico
- Five years of experience as a school social worker
- Loves connecting with students to increase their academic success.
- Loves to travel and being with my daughter.



## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Even if you have been a volunteer before, this process starts over for everyone every school year. Determine if you are a Returning Volunteer, New Volunteer, or a Current or former KISD employee.



## HARP

HARP is a program to help students dealing with homelessness. If you notice any signs of homelessness in one of your students, please let one or both of the counselors know! The sooner we know the better.



## OUR ROLES

### Mindy Petty

#### School Counselor

\*Counseling Classes

\*Parent Liaison

### Veronica Garcia Zeda

#### Social Emotional Learning

#### Specialist

\*Working with At Risk Students

#### Both

Emergency situations; small groups; individuals; HARP; Volunteers; Cookies with the Counselors; Protocols; etc.

## IDENTIFYING CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

- Any professional who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been or may be abused or neglected shall make a report as required by law. The report must be made within 48 hours after professional first suspects abuse or neglect.
- A professional may not delegate to or rely on another person to make the report.
- Child Protective Services, 1-800-252-5400 or [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org)
- **Any further questions, please speak with your campus counselors! We will help!**

## Character Traits!

### • Character Trait for the Month

- Announcements:definitions/examples
- Reinforce in class

### • Character Trait Board

- Pick a student for the month
- Under mailboxes find Character Trait papers (turquoise). Complete student and teacher name and Character Trait of the month. Attach student picture (or likeness of student). Place paper on teacher name on Character board by the office.

### • Character Trait Luncheon

- Letter home to the parents/add info
- Return letter to M Petty's box
- Make sure student gets to the library the day of the character luncheon. Same lunchtime as usual.

## Bitmoji Time!



We need a copy of teachers' Bitmoji for the Character Trait board by the office. Please send to M Petty or V. Garcia Zeda.  
**THANK YOU!!!**



## SELF-CARE RESOURCES

- Self-care, includes nutrition, stress reduction, and exercise, helps keep a person happy, healthy, and resilient. Please reach out to the school counselor for additional information or resources,

## Character Traits:

September- Respect  
October- Good Citizenship  
November- Gratitude  
December- Empathy  
January- Responsibility  
February- Fairness  
March- Trustworthiness  
April- Perseverance  
May- Self-Control



### **Volunteers and Teachers**

How do teachers handle volunteers?

- \*Volunteers need to be in sight of staff members
- \*They must have a badge
- \*PLEASE email us to make sure a person has been cleared and trained to volunteer, especially for field based instruction.
- \*If they are helping you with a project, make sure your directions are very clear. Do not assume they know what you are asking of them.
- \*If you have a problem with a volunteer, please let us know.
- \*If you have questions or need help from volunteers, please email us!

### **Amy Shankel is our new MFLC!**

(Military Family Life  
Counselor)

MFLCs are NOT KISD employees. They follow different rules and procedures. Amy Shankel will be housed with Mindy Petty in Room 412. She will be working with students who have parents who have deployed. She will be providing consent forms so she can see military students.

### **How do we reach the counselors?**

\*For emergencies dial the Front Office

\*Email very carefully!!!

Veronica.GarciaZeda@killeenisd.org

Mindy.Petty@killeenisd.org

No email for Amy Shankel send messages to Mindy or Veronica and they will tell Amy

\*Call:

Veronica GarciaZeda at 65006  
Mindy Petty or Amy Shankel at 65049

Mindy Petty does teach Counseling Lessons, so she might not be able to answer the phone right away. Ask her to pick up the phone if things are sensitive.