

SERVING THE JACKET FAMILY WITH **EXCELLENCE** THROUGH

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES & INTERVENTION

We believe health and wellness are foundational to success. The Starkville Oktibbeha School District's commitment to creating positive school culture means we are continually growing opportunities for students, teachers and families to **stay well together**, even when the hindrances to wellness are not always easy to see.

SOSD offers a variety of mental health resources to:

- ▶ Facilitate students' **social and emotional learning**
- ▶ Foster **healthy learning environments**
- ▶ Promote **safety, wellness, engagement and excellence**
- ▶ Support **parents and families**



STAY WELL TOGETHER

STUDENT SUPPORTS & INTERVENTION

School Counselors, Interventionists & Nurses

Full-time grade-level school counselors on each campus work in tandem with school nurses to **support and meet the physical and emotional needs of students** while they are at school. In addition, SOSD utilizes interventionists to work with teachers to identify and develop intervention plans to address student learning and behavioral issues.

In-School Contracted Counseling Services

Through a School Climate grant, Partnership Middle School and Armstrong Junior High students or teachers can access **free counseling services each month with contracted licensed practitioners**. Students are referred by school counselors for the services, and all counseling sessions are provided with parental consent on campus during the regular school day. Students who are referred for the program typically work with counselors on issues related to anxiety, depression, trauma and grief management. Most participating students receive 5 to 8 free counseling sessions.

Handle With Care Initiative

The **Handle With Care** initiative strengthens the relationship between schools and local emergency management personnel to provide administrators and teachers with general information about students who may have experienced trauma or emergency situations outside of school hours. Without sharing details about a child's specific situation, teachers can receive a confidential "handle with care" instruction to alert them to be aware of needs during the school day. The program provides training for teachers and school staff to prepare them for effectively supporting students who may have encountered trauma.

We will foster and maintain inviting, equitable, healthy learning environments that promote safety, wellness, engagement, and excellence.

Our mission is to achieve excellence by facilitating the discovery and development of each student's passion, purpose, and potential.

**STARKVILLE
OKTIBBEHA**
SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.StarkvilleSD.com



**STAY
WELL
TOGETHER**

FAMILY SUPPORTS

Free Counseling for Homeless Students & Families

Students who are enrolled in the McKinney Vento Project supporting homeless or displaced children are eligible for **free counseling services** through Project HELP and Project REACH, housed at the SOSD Discovery Center. **Immediate families members** of enrolled students are also eligible to receive free counseling.

Free Counseling for Parents

Free one-on-one or group counseling is available at the SOSD Discovery Center at 1504 Louisville Street for adults enrolled in parenting classes through Project CARE.

For more about services offered at Discovery Center, visit www.starkvillesd.com/discoverycenter

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Mississippi State University School Psychology School-based Services

Through a partnership with the **MSU School Psychology Program**, licensed counselors who are attending graduate school serve as interns in SOSD schools to assist teachers, administrators and parents who have children experiencing academic, behavioral, social and emotional problems. Interns may provide assessment, intervention and/or crisis support for struggling PreK-12th grade students. Interns often work one-on-one with students to provide behavioral support and also train teachers to effectively implement intervention techniques. During the 2022-2023 school year, graduate student interns supported SOSD school counselors and interventionists with nearly 1700 direct contact hours with students.

MDE / UMMC Mississippi School-based Telehealth

Through a state-wide partnership with University of Mississippi Medical Center and Mississippi Department of Education, school nurses and counselors may provide students who have parent permission with **free Telehealth opportunities for direct consults with physicians and mental health professionals**. In addition to providing diagnostic support for common physical ailments or concerns impacting a student's attendance at school, the Telehealth services can also provide real-time counseling via Zoom calls and/or referrals for mental health needs. Telehealth services can be scheduled around student class times to minimize loss of learning. Common student mental health and wellness concerns that can be addressed through Telehealth are anxiety, grief, depression, trauma and self esteem.

**STARKVILLE
OKTIBBEHA**
SCHOOL DISTRICT

www.StarkvilleSD.com

For more information about how Starkville Oktibbeha School District serves our families, please contact:

Haley Montgomery
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

662.615.0021 or hmontgomery@starkvillesd.com