

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the Upcounty Center Program for the Highly Gifted at Roberto Clemente Middle School!

My name is Mrs. Karen M. Joseph. Mrs. Susie Ikpemgbe-Kaigler and I will be your counselors throughout your journey at Clemente. We're both excited you will be joining us this year. The Clemente School Counseling Department provides direct and referral services to meet our students' needs. We have an open door policy and frequently have lunch with students when they need to talk. We will visit your class at the beginning of the school year to personally meet you.

I hope that you're having a blast this summer. I look forward to seeing you in August. What an exciting time this must be for you. Leaving elementary school and beginning middle school is such a special time. It's perfectly normal to have concerns about friendships, your schedule, the building, the academics and other students. We're making preparations to ensure that your transition is smooth.

Some of the things we do in the School Counseling office are:

- Help students learn how school performance relates to future opportunities
- Monitor grades
- Work with students on attendance issues
- Execute the registration and scheduling process
- Provide peer mediation
- Provide individual and group counseling; some of the groups address friendship skills, personal adjustment, self-image and self-confidence



On our web site you'll find practical, research-based parent involvement information from the Parent Institute. It's updated every day, 365 days a year and includes:

- Today's Tip for Parents
- Idea of the Day – Quick-reading little nuggets providing inspirational ideas that you can use every day to help build responsibility, respect, motivation, self-esteem and more
- Weekly Parent Quiz – you answer questions confidentially to see how well you ARE helping to support your child's school success. Covers homework, talking and listening, monitoring the TV, encouraging reading, and other school success skills
- Timely Topics – Weekly features on meaningful parent involvement activities appropriate for the time of the year (back to school, testing, parent-teacher conferences, etc.)
- Ask the Experts – Ask your own questions of national experts
- The School Success Library – More than 100 articles on the 10 topics deemed “most important to school success”
- Search – search for specific information to help

Mrs. Ikpemgbe-Kaigler and I look forward to getting to know you.

Mrs. Karen M. Joseph
Director of Counseling Services

http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/clementems/academics_counseling.shtml