

Counseling Services Permission Form

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

About Counseling Services at Benton Hall Academy

Benton Hall Academy is committed to providing quality education to its students. In an effort to achieve this goal, school staff or parents/guardians may refer students for counseling, or students may request counseling. The services are designed to assist the student in removing the barriers that are interfering with learning and to increase their education and socialization within the Benton Hall Academy community. The topics discussed with the counselor will be guided by the student and may include conversations regarding academics, personal issues, coping with changes, self-esteem, friendship and relationship issues, family and home life, study skills, adjustment to school expectations, planning for future education/career, or other relevant topics. The format may take the form of 30-45-minute individual meetings and/or small group conversations, depending on the needs of the student. These services are provided by Benton Hall Academy at no additional cost to you. School counseling services are not intended as a substitute for psychological counseling, diagnosis, or medication, which are not the responsibility of the school.

About Your School Counselor

Lauren Frost, LPC-MHSP (Temp) is an employee of AGAPE, Inc., and contracted to provide school-based services for Benton Hall Academy. Ms. Frost is a graduate of Lipscomb University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program and has specialized in providing play therapy and expressive art treatment strategies for children and adults. Ms. Frost will be available on campus each _____ from _____ to _____ and reachable by phone Monday through Friday from _____ to _____ at 615-781-3000.

Benefits and Risks of Counseling Services

Although every effort is made to provide a positive outcome for each child at Benton Hall Academy, it is important to be aware of both the benefits and potential risks of participation. Counseling services may improve your student's ability to relate with others, provide a clearer understanding of himself/herself, and a greater ability to manage changes and deal with stress. However, counseling may also lead to unanticipated feelings and change, which could have an unexpected impact on the student and his/her relationships.

Confidentiality of Counseling Services

Counseling is based on the development of a trusting relationship between the counselor and the student. Therefore, your school counselor will keep information confidential with some possible exceptions. The school counselor may share information with the child's

parents/guardians, teachers, and/or administrators who work with the child on a need-to-know basis, so that Benton Hall Academy faculty and staff may better serve your child as a team.

Under the following circumstances, the school counselor is required by law to share information with others:

1. Student provides information about hurting himself/herself or another person.
2. Student discloses abuse (physically, emotionally, or sexually) or neglect.
3. Student poses a threat to school security.
4. Student's records are court-ordered to be released to another party.

Parent/Legal Guardian Permission and Acknowledgment

Please check one:

☐ **Yes**, I give permission for my child to participate in counseling services at Benton Hall Academy.

☐ **No**, I do NOT give permission for my child to participate in counseling services at Benton Hall Academy.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to the terms of the counseling services being provided by Benton Hall Academy.

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature

Date