

Message from the Child Development Counselor

As the Child Development Counselor of the elementary and intermediate schools, I have an amazing opportunity to interact with many students throughout the district. I am fortunate to have such a rewarding job where I can help empower students to make good choices and work towards positive outcomes when faced with difficult situations.

I am not a psychologist, nor do I ever give students "advice." I let the students know right from the start that I am a "giant ear" prepared to listen to anything that he or she needs, or wants, to talk about. The students are also made aware that our conversations are strictly confidential unless an incident discussed is dangerous to him/herself or any other person. The only suggestion that I consistently make to every student is to express what they are feeling by being honest and always talk to their parents about what is going on in his/her life. The students can look to me as an advocate in school; however, I ensure them that their parents are their biggest advocates.

I recently created a group called the "Empower Express" which teaches students to stick up for themselves in positive ways. This year, the focus will be on the idea of a "United Front." Empower Express students will again be visiting the elementary schools, as well as performing for students at Hewitt. I am looking forward to another successful year as we hope to empower all of the students of Ringwood. Please visit the Hewitt website for additional information on the Empower Express program.

At any time during the school year, please feel free to contact me at citroa@ringwoodschools.org. Should you wish for your child to speak with me, please email or call me at Hewitt, Erskine or Cooper.

-Alicia Citro, Child Development Counselor