



GET TO KNOW YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Brenda Pepke fills the school counselor role at Oriole Lane as a Social Emotional Coach with primary responsibilities to support each student's academic, personal, and interpersonal development. MTSD's Social Emotional Coaches also provide consultation and coaching to teachers and administrators, collaborate with families, and develop parent education opportunities.

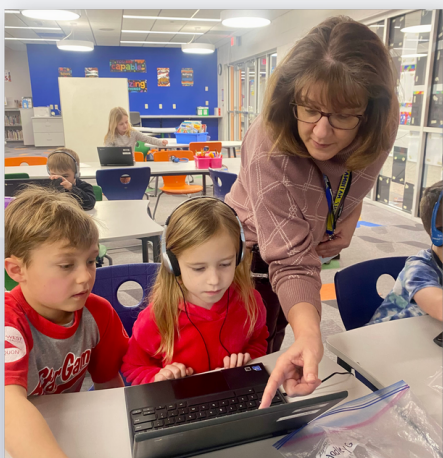
Our Social Emotional Coaches work with educators to assist in building students' existing skills and mentality to help them succeed in school and in the broader world. Through proactive and responsive support, MTSD students develop social and emotional skills in ways that are applicable across various areas of their lives, more sustainable over time, and flexible to changing goals and priorities across their post-secondary endeavors.



Brenda Pepke

➤ Professional Background

"I received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology from UW-Stevens Point. I then worked at a child/adolescent residential program. I moved to Milwaukee to obtain my Master's Degree in Community Counseling. I worked as an outpatient counselor with children and adolescents and then worked at Charter Hospital (now Rogers) in the child/adolescent unit. Prior to obtaining my job at MTSD (15 years ago), I was working as an inpatient case manager at St. Mary's Hospital - Ozaukee, "



➤ What is your role as a school counselor?

"My role as a school counselor has changed throughout the time I have been at MTSD. I started my career at Donges Bay and Oriole Lane providing "guidance" lessons, working with small groups, individual counseling and working with parents. I had the experience of working at all three elementary schools prior to a change in the position. Approximately, six years ago my position changed to Social Emotional Coach. I continue to provide classroom lessons, small groups, individual counseling, crisis support and PBIS leader. I now contribute to the special education evaluation team and provide coaching to teachers around student behavior."

➤ How do you build relationships with the students?

"Relationships are the most important part of my job. If students do not feel comfortable or safe with me, I could not perform my duties. I try to acknowledge them all in the hallway by name, have "lunch bunches" with students and provide emotional support. It is important to acknowledge a student's feelings and work with them to seek solutions to build on their problem solving skills."

➤ What do you love most about your role?

"My favorite part of my job is being with the students all day. I could not work at an office and not be around children. They make me laugh and smile as well as establish a bond when they need support. I love when students put into action the skills they learn from a small group and/or classroom lesson and report back to me that the strategy was effective. Then I know I am making a difference.

I also love working in the Mequon community. I appreciate all the support from parents and getting to know the families throughout the years that they are at Oriole Lane. Whether I have morning car drop off duty or parent pick-up duty, it is great having conversations with our parents."