

## Counseling at CIC

Welcome to the Counseling Department at CIC. Our goal is to provide superior socio-emotional and academic support to all enrolled children from the Early Years through graduation.

At CIC, we observe our students developing at each grade level and our commitment is to provide meaningful support, with an additional focus in high school as students prepare for university. Throughout our school, our counselors provide a safe place for families to discuss issues, and to prepare for coming challenges. At CIC students learn to build strong relationships, balance stress, meet challenges directly, and ultimately graduate with a sense of purpose and self-actualization.

In the Elementary School, the counselling focus is on personal development. Student receive instruction from our counselors through our 'Character Education' program and develop skills related to the International Baccalaureate's Learner Profile Traits. All students have perpetual access to our counselors, and parents are encouraged to share their views in order to help all children advance.

Students at CIC have additional access to speech and language support, and occupational therapy on campus. The counselors meet with teachers regularly to most effectively support in-and-out of the classrooms. Student relationships, stress, health and nutrition, and Venezuelan realities are just some of the key topics with which counselors are engaged weekly with students. Further, through the Counseling Department, students have access to things like personality inventories, scholarship search tools, college representative visit coordination, resume building and college application assistance, and student/parent workshops.

Specific to university, CIC counselors support the academic and socio-emotional objectives of our young adults. Beginning in Grade 9, CIC offers comprehensive support for preparing for and applying to colleges. We focus on each student's unique qualities, and through one-on-one conversation, build a personalized plan to help them reach the next step.

Beginning in Grade 11, students begin the college process in earnest with focus and direct support. Together with their counselor, each student enjoys an individualized process full of opportunities for growth and discovery. Our students report a high rate of satisfaction with the process and with their college decisions. As we expect 100% of our students to attend a well-established university, we are proud of the role our counselors have at CIC.

To date, in accordance with Colegio Internacional de Caracas's commitment to standards-based education, the counselors have chosen to base the counseling curriculum on the standards, goals, and objectives developed for comprehensive school counseling programs by the American School Counseling Association (2004). The program is designed to enhance student learning and is driven by data about student needs. In accordance with the ASCA framework, counselors should dedicated 80% of their time to activities that provide direct services to students, divided into the following areas:

- Individual Student Planning: Counselors work directly with students and coordinate on-going school-wide programs to help them develop personal goals as well as future professional and educational plans.
- Responsive Services: Counselors work with all members of the school community, including the administration, teacher, parents, and staff, to ensure the well-being of each student and address issues that are negatively affecting student learning and development. Counselors maintain contact with outside professionals for referrals for additional consultation and support, if necessary, and individual, small, and large group counseling is provided to address specific concerns.
- System Support: The counselors are actively involved in professional development and consultation with other professionals in order to enhance the opportunities and effectiveness of the counseling program in C.I.C.

Thank you for your interest in the Counseling Department at CIC. Know that our team is always excited to meet with you. To this end, we encourage you to contact the Counseling Department at your convenience.