



BISHOP McHUGH

REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Bishop McHugh Blog

One Person Can Make a Difference

Hello, everyone! My name is Katie Bonacolta. I am currently a Social Work Intern here at Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic School. I just wanted to introduce myself and tell everyone a little bit about myself! Before attending Kean University, I attended Ocean County College and obtained an associate's degree in liberal arts. I am currently a senior and I will be graduating in December with a bachelor's degree in psychology. After I finish my journey at Kean University, I will be starting a new journey to obtain my master's degree at Stockton University to become a licensed social worker.



So you may ask, "What will you be doing during your time here at Bishop McHugh?" During my internship, I will be observing several classrooms and interacting with the students as well as the staff. I will be writing this blog so you can experience this internship with me, and I will be discussing a few topics for different grades about things like feelings and bullying. Lastly but not least, I will be working with our communications director, Mrs. Felicia Niven. This is my first experience as an intern and so far, it's been an amazing experience! I hope you all will enjoy my journey here as much as I will.

What is a School Social Worker?

Many people have heard the words "social worker" but what is an actual School Social Worker? "School social workers pick up where teachers leave off."¹ School social workers are not only here to help students with individual



counseling but also help with parents and families. “School social workers work with general and special education students and their families to resolve social, emotional, and behavioral problems.”² Only about 5% of the nation’s social workers work in school settings. “Because social workers are trained to think of innovative solutions to complex problems, their interventions often make a strong difference for young people at risk for academic failure.”³

School social workers do not just act as a support system for the students and their families but for the teaching staff as well. We provide the staff with essential information to better understand factors such as: cultural, societal, economic, familial, and health that can affect a student’s performance and behavior. School social workers also develop in-service staff training programs and of course providing direct support to staff members.

**“How wonderful is it that nobody need wait a single moment to improve the world.”
– Anne Frank**

¹ NASW

<http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/features/issue/school.asp>

² Anne Sullivan Communication Center

http://sullivan.mpls.k12.mn.us/what_does_a_school_social_worker_do_2

³ NASW

<http://www.naswdc.org/pressroom/features/issue/school.asp>