

## **VCS Ohio Informed Consent and Confidentiality Statement**

Students in grades K-12 at Virtual Community School of Ohio have access to small group or individual counseling services in the areas of academic, personal-social, and college and career needs. In order to participate in small group counseling (life skills coaching groups), the school counselor must have verbal or written permission from a parent or guardian. The school counselor does not offer long term mental health counseling. School counseling is solution focused and is meant to be brief. If the counselor is not able to help the student, an appropriate referral will be made to the parents and guardians. Students, parents, and guardians should not contact the school counselor with emergency situations. The school counselor cannot be held liable for emergency information that is sent via e-mail, Google chat, text message, or left in a voice mail. In case of emergency, students and families should call 911.

The school counselor respects the confidentiality of students and families. However, confidentiality will be broken if a student or family member shares that he or she is hurting him or herself, wants to hurt someone else, or someone else is hurting him or her. This is put in place to keep individuals safe. If confidentiality must be broken, a trusted third party will be made aware and involved in the situation.