QUALITIES OF A GOOD SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

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Being a school guidance counselor is not for everyone. It takes someone with strong interpersonal attributes to effectively guide learners through the challenges and problems they may face both at home and at school. Guidance counselors often tend to hundreds or thousands of students, but the impact they can have makes the profession one of the most rewarding.

Before you begin working as a guidance counselor, first, consider whether you have the following abilities and characteristic:

1. Communication

   School guidance counselor must be a good listener. A large portion of counselor’s time is spent listening to students, parents and other faculty members, and processing the information given to you by others. Remember, listen first and ask the question later.

2. Empathy

   A school guidance counselor helps learners in dealing with bullying, dispute with friends and classmates, problems at home and many more. To do this effectively, school guidance counselor must be empathized with what the learners are going through and make a compassionate response.

3. Friendliness

   School guidance counselors must be approachable and warm. Students won’t want to share their problems with a distant and cold guidance counselor. Oftentimes, students
tend to be overworked and have set of heavy accomplishment list, so having someone to listen to their troubles make students feel less stressed.

4. Understanding Diversity

Learners come from a multitude of backgrounds. Being able to embrace and accept diversity is one of the most important traits school guidance counselors must have. He/she must be able to listen and help learners from all walks of life.

The school guidance counselor must be able to see the multi-faceted potential of children and understand how diverse they are. Counselling them is like working with different gems and stones. Some already perfect as they are, others need a little polish and some need to be examined before they are shaped to be the most beautiful and functional. One may be most lovely alone, and others need to be surrounded by a crowd. Each one is different. Each one is beautiful in its own way. And most importantly, each one has its own value.

References:

Top 10 Traits Every School Counselor Should Have
Rowland, Tera (2014)

Five Traits of a Great Guidance Counselor
Walden, University of (2020)