



# Stonewall Jackson High School

## Placement Description

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Public High School placement that offers practical foundational experience working with students.

## Intern or Field Placement Responsibilities/Opportunities

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- One on one counseling with students
- Possible group counseling
- Meetings with parents and teachers
- Testing assistance

## Contact Information

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**Read about students' experiences at this site below:**



*Spring 2014 – Riley Fergus*

My field placement has been with the guidance department at Stonewall Jackson High School in Quicksburg, VA. Stonewall's mission for all students is that they "will work diligently to achieve academic success and have a sense of community that is developed through the arts, athletics, and school-sponsored organizations". Throughout my experience, I have learned that the guidance department revolves entirely around this mission and has an extremely student-centered faculty. Stonewall's Guidance Department consists of three staff members: Mrs. Aimee Miller is the lead counselor and works with eleventh and twelfth grade students, Ms. Susan Shuckman works with ninth and tenth grade students and Mrs. Charity Finks works closely with both counselors as the secretary and registrar. I was fortunate to have spent my semester working under the supervision of Mrs. Miller and was able to help serve a majority of the upperclassmen. Mrs. Miller is also the Senior Class Advisor as well as the AP Testing Coordinator, so her job duties changed from day to day, making my position both fun and interesting.

Since Mrs. Miller is so involved with several different aspects of the school community, as her field placement student I was able to experience numerous aspects of what it is like to be a high school counselor. Mrs. Miller provides individual counseling to students as needed, either when they stop by to ask for help or when students are referred to the guidance office by another faculty member. Mrs. Miller often provides advice on career choices, the college application and admission process, and financial aid. Since my placement occurred in the spring, I frequently talked with seniors about what schools they planned on attending in the fall or where they wanted to work post-graduation. Mrs. Miller also invites all of her students' parents to call or stop by with any questions and I was able to meet with both parents and students about different financial aid packages.

The Stonewall student population is only 457, so even in my short time there I feel like I was able to interact and get to know a large number of people. The small student body makes it easier to keep tabs on the students and develop unique connections. Day to day, I would sit in Mrs. Miller's office as she called down students to change their class schedule, write letters of recommendation, advise on college and career choices and encourage them to stay involved and maintain good grades. I really enjoyed shadowing Mrs. Miller because I was able to sit in her office with her and experience meetings and interactions with students, parents, teachers, and most importantly the Principal. She also often delegated individual projects to me and allowed me to supervise a girls group for at-risk ninth graders once a week. In this girls group, I met with six girls who struggle with their grades, home lives, and self-esteem. It was an awesome experience getting to know a group of students on a deeper level and to serve as an encouraging mentor. In addition to further developing my interpersonal skills, I was taught how to use PowerSchool and PowerTeacher software programs that track students' schedules, attendance, and assignments, which gave me some insight into how teachers and other staff members communicate and collaborate.