



Clark Public Schools

Carl H. Kumpf Middle School

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Richard Delmonaco
Principal

Amanda J. Clarke
Assistant Principal

Mr. Steve Acosta has been a Guidance Counselor at Kumpf Middle School for the past eleven years. Over this time, he has worked with hundreds of students and it is just amazing to witness the close relationships he builds with each of these students. Mr. Acosta goes out of his way to make sure each child feels comfortable talking to at least one adult in the building. Mr. Acosta each day comes in the lunchroom, goes outside at recess, or is outside for dismissal to talk with the kids in a relaxed setting. He uses his sense of humor and love of sports (especially his favorite baseball team, the Mets) to bond with students. Each year, Mr. Acosta loves to host his “man cave” talks with the boys as a way to make sure students get time to talk to a counselor in a small group setting. All this is an effort to make students cope with an often stressful and awkward time – the middle school years!

Mr. Acosta has been a counselor in the Clark Public Schools District since 1999. He started at Valley Road School and also spent time at Frank K. Hehny. He started his career in education as a Physical Education Teacher in Roselle before completing his Master’s Degree in School Counseling and pursuing a school counselor position. His current position as a Middle School Counselor is where he thrives. He enjoys so much working with students at this age.

As a middle school counselor, you have an extremely difficult job. The students are at a time in their lives when they are still young and innocent, but at the same time think they are “grown up” and young adults. Add to that school transition to middle school, physical changes, new friends, multiple classes and teachers, and you have the recipe for some exciting times. It takes a sensitive and special person to help middle school students navigate this time in their lives and Mr. Acosta is exceptional at helping the students to do this. He goes above and beyond to support the students and families of Kumpf Middle School. Whenever he is needed, Mr. Acosta will do whatever he can to ensure students feel appreciated and important as they enter their teenage and high school years. It is a pleasure to work with such a compassionate and caring educator!