

# CLAUDIA S. FAIRFIELD, M.ED.

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## CAREER & SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

*“Committed to the growth and development of each student, guiding them in making appropriate education and career choices, and helping each identify and capitalize on their unique strengths, gifts, and interests.”*

### Core Competencies:

- *Counseling Theory, Methods, & Techniques*
- *Developmental & Career Guidance*
- *Advanced Psychology*
- *Diversity Issues in Counseling*
- *Assessment & Appraisal*
- *Group Process*
- *Integrity & Ethics*

- **Dedicated career serving as a catalyst in the education process**, partnering with students to not only increase subject matter comprehension, but to guide academic, career, and personal choices.
- **Experienced in program leadership, curriculum design and development**, lesson and activity planning, and tailoring communication and presentation styles to the needs of a highly diverse audience.
- **Proven to serve as a collaborative team member**, working equally well with teaching peers and administrative leaders to promote achievement of shared goals in student, professional, and organizational development.
- **Completed School Counselor Certification** through Northeastern State University; combined with a strong academic background including numerous teaching certifications and B.S. and M.Ed. degrees.

## EXPERIENCE & CONTRIBUTIONS

Public School District – Chicago, IL  
**Teacher** (1993-Present)

Serve as a facilitator encouraging exploration of each student’s interests, learning through real-world application of theory and lessons, and incorporating visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities to promote optimal educational outcomes. Rotated through diverse teaching assignments, working with students from 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in subjects including State and World History, Geography, Government, and Spanish. Fully integrate technology into the curriculum to increase student engagement and diversify delivery of lessons and activities. Serve as an active member of the professional team, partnering with administration and teaching peers to identify and capitalize upon opportunities for improvement. Act as a mentor, coach, and confidante to students seeking academic and personal guidance.

### Select Highlights:

#### Student Engagement & Enrichment

- **Initiated, assembled, and coached junior and high school History Day teams**, leading teams to perform at regional, state, and national competitions. Oversaw yearlong topical research, assisted students in the development of their presentations, and served as a dedicated mentor.

#### Diversity & Multiculturalism

- **Taught and mentored students of diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds**, promoting inclusion within the classroom to accept and embrace differences in each other’s traditions, beliefs, and cultural norms.

#### Academic Development

- **Joined forces with each student throughout elementary, junior, and high school** to identify individual learning styles, tailor lessons to meet the needs of each, and promote a sincere interest in the subject.

#### Organizational Development & Effectiveness

- **Facilitated workshops for the State Department of Education and select in-service training programs**, working with institutions on the “Needs Improvement” list to promote incorporation of benchmark and best practices.
- **Served as a member of the Technology Committee**, working within a group of instructors to research, identify, integrate, and ensure full utilization of emerging technologies in the classroom.
- **Researched and recommended options to provide enrichment** for academically advanced students as part of the Gifted Education Committee.

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## EXPERIENCE & CONTRIBUTIONS – CONTINUED

Public School District – Continued

### Professional Development

- **Charged with maintaining development points for teaching peers**, ensuring compliance with continuing education requirements, ongoing engagement, and current knowledge of best practices in education.

### Program Design & Leadership

- **Developed, implemented, and currently oversee the “We’ve Always Looked Up” three-day teacher institute**, providing Native American teachers with the tools necessary to engage an underrepresented group in space science through a multidisciplinary approach to science education.
- **Crafted the program’s mission and vision, recruited entire leadership team**, and created numerous workshops to promote space science through Native American and Non-Native groups. Impacted several thousand students in the first year alone, broadening reach in year two and beyond.

### Grant Writing & Administration

- **Authored 2 grant proposals and won awards for both**, yielding a \$20,000 National Geographic grant and a \$24,000 IDEAS grant awarded through NASA for the administration of the “We’ve Always Looked Up” program.

### Additional Experience:

Aerospace Academy – Chicago, IL  
**Instructor** (1991-1992)

- Developed and facilitated lessons for an academic summer space camp, working with participants of all ages from elementary school students to adults to promote subject comprehension.

Suburban Public School – Chicago, IL  
**Teacher** (1988-1992)

- Instructed within 4<sup>th</sup> grade self-contained classrooms; facilitated a Young Astronauts group in conjunction with the Aerospace Academy.

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## EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

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State University – Chicago, IL – 2006  
**School Counselor Certification**  
 GPA: 3.8 / 4.0

*Completed Specialty Courses in Grief & Loss, Substance Abuse, and Suicide Prevention Guidance*

University of Illinois, Chicago, IL  
**M.Ed., Major in Educational Technology**  
**B.S., Major in Spanish Education, Minor in French Education**

### Teacher’s Certifications

*Spanish, French, Illinois History, World History, 6-8 Social Studies, Elementary Education*

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## AFFILIATIONS, TRAINING, & HONORS

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**American School Counselor Association**  
**Illinois Education Association | National Education Association**

*Lead Teacher Consultant, Presenter, Summer Program Participant*  
**Alliance for Geographic Education**

*Workshop Participant, Presenter*  
**National Geographic Society | NASA Space Grant Consortium | Aerospace Extravaganza**

*Award Winner, “Illinois from Space” Curriculum Project*  
**NASA Group Achievement Award**