

Amanda Francis Bio

Amanda Francis is in her fourth year as the Director of Counseling at Staunton High School. She grew up in Staunton and is a product of Staunton City Schools. Amanda graduated high school in 2004 and attended James Madison University where she majored in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. Once she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Amanda attended graduate school at James Madison University for Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling. After 3 years, she finished with a M.Ed and Ed.S in Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling. Amanda wrote her EdS on Music Therapy (specifically drum/rap therapy) and has a focus on trauma specific counseling.

Her first post graduate counseling job was with Child and Family Guidance in Harrisonburg. There she started as a Therapeutic Day Treatment summer clinician and then was hired with their Alternative School (Shenandoah Academy) as a TDT clinician and school counselor. Amanda also worked as an Intensive In-home Counselor for Child and Family Guidance before transitioning to Valley Community Services Board. For seven years she worked for Valley Community Services Board providing Therapeutic Day Treatment services and School Based Outpatient Services to schools in our area. Amanda then transitioned into a school counseling position at Ware Elementary and was there for one year before going to work at Staunton High School. Amanda holds a VDOE School Counseling License as well as an LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor). She has held board positions with Central Valley Counseling Association over the past few years and during COVID-19 provided clinical supervision for residents who were employed with the ARROW Project.

Amanda's fiancée is also a former employee of VCSB and currently works in private practice as a Trauma Counselor as well as with CrossKeys Equine Assisted Therapy Clinician. For over 20 years Amanda has played the drums and stays involved in music as much as she can on the side. Her brother is active in the community as a musician, and she helps him when needed as he coordinates more non-profit music opportunities for our community.