

Counseling Department Information for Students and Parents

Counselor Appointments

Students may make appointments to see their counselor throughout the day by obtaining a pass from the school counseling receptionist. They must have a pass to see their counselor, and it is at the teacher's discretion to let them go. If a student has an emergency, we always have an "on call" counselor to handle the situation. Parents can make appointments through the school counseling receptionist either in person or by calling our office.

It is our goal to see all of our students at least once individually through the course of the school year.

Career Center and Scholarships

The Career Center is located adjacent to the school counseling suite and contains a wealth of information. Computer stations are available for students and parents to access college and financial aid information. Hard copy applications for admission and scholarships are also available in the Career Center. Numerous other publications and resources are stored in the center for student/parent use as well. Additionally, we post scholarship information in the weekly advisement newsletter that students hear every Tuesday. We also post this information on our website as well as on our classroom televisions throughout the school. Throughout the year, college and university representatives will visit our campus and greet students in our career center. Students can check the monthly calendar on the school counseling office front door for schools and dates and may obtain a pass from the school counseling receptionist on the morning of the visit.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

All counselors must attend and facilitate their conferences.

Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences

A counselor will be present and facilitate all parent conferences. Conferences are scheduled through our school counseling receptionist. Conferences may be with just one other teacher or up to all of them; it will depend on the parent request. Typically, these conferences are set for 7:45 a.m. and sometimes at 3:30 p.m. We request that all those involved in the conferences be given at least 48 hours notice.

Classroom Counseling and Groups

The school counseling staff takes a proactive role in trying to meet the needs of students by implementing a curriculum based classroom counseling plan to each grade level. Counselors may also implement small group counseling on an as needed basis. A basic summary of each grade level might include:

9th grade:

- The transition process from middle school to high school including expectations and requirements
- Review of graduation requirements and the importance of a challenging curriculum including in honors and AP courses

10th grade:

- Career exploration and review including Web resources such as career Cruising
- Continued maintenance of college prep curriculum and encouragement of any potential increase in strength of schedule towards higher level courses including honors and AP courses
- Review graduation requirements

11th grade:

- Preparation for senior year including a detailed timeline of postsecondary application process and other related events
- Continued maintenance of college prep curriculum and encouragement of any potential increase in strength of schedule toward higher level courses including honors and AP courses

12th grade:

- Review of requirements and procedures for postsecondary plans the student must complete during his/her senior year
- Reinforcement to maintain a competitive college prep curriculum including honors and AP courses

9th and 11th Grade Advisement Sessions

9th grade: We invite all 9th grade parents and their students to attend a comprehensive advisement session. These informative sessions will provide a four-year plan of proposed courses students should take as well as other pertinent information needed to help ensure a successful high school experience. Upon review of each individual student's curriculum, emphasis on taking more rigorous curriculum including honors and AP courses may take place.

11th grade: During the fall semester of 11th grade, we invite parents and students back in to meet individually with their school counselor to review the four-year plan. We will also discuss other information such as college and financial aid information. In addition, we utilize the AP Potential instrument to target and create awareness on student's potential ability to take more advanced courses such as honors and AP.

Parent/Student/Teacher Workshops

Our Counseling Department implements various programs and workshops throughout the school year for parents and students. Examples such as:

- PSAT Scores - What do they mean?
- The New SAT and its Implications
- College Bound and Inside the NCAA
- How to Survive your Freshman Year of College and What it Takes to Get There

Testing

The school counseling staff helps coordinate several standardized tests throughout the year:

- **PSAT** - The PSAT is given each fall to all freshmen & sophomores as well as to juniors who choose to pay for it. By taking the PSAT their junior year, students may be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship program and other potential scholarship money.
- **Georgia High School Graduation Tests** - All juniors take the Georgia High School Graduation tests. The writing is administrated in the fall followed by the English, math, science, and social studies in the spring.
- **SAT and ACT** - Students will typically begin to take the SAT and ACT during their junior year. Students may obtain hard copy applications through the school counseling office or apply online for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com or the ACT at www.actstudent.org.

Peer Helpers

Our school counseling department facilitates the Peer Helper Club. The peer helpers offer a wide range of support activities and participate in various fund raising and community service projects to help the Lassiter student and staff population as well as the Cobb County community.

Small Groups (all counselors should plan to do at least one during the year):

Study Skills, Divorce, Grief/Loss, Anger Management, Lit Types, Relationships/adjustments, Multiculture, Goal Setting/Decision Making.