

Grade 9 – School Counseling Office

Mr. Zimmerman (student last names A-C)

Mr. Bittinger (D-K)

Mrs. Devine (L-R)

Mr. Minnier (S-Z)

Mrs. Berkebile (Career)



Ms. Ward and Mrs. Helt - Counseling Office Staff

Today's Agenda



Introductions

Why see your
Counselor?

Confidentiality

How to Make an
Appointment

Healthy Digital Diet

WHY SEE YOUR COUNSELOR?

We want to connect
with you, help you,
and make a
difference in your
life.

- Academic Planning
- College and Career
planning
- Social/Emotional
Concerns

What is confidentiality?

When is confidentiality breached?

All learners in South Western School District have access to the services offered by the school counselor(s). Information learners share with the school counselor is confidential. The learner's right to privacy is guarded as much as permitted by law, ethics and school rules. The school counselor is obligated to break confidentiality when there is a potential harm to the learner or others, concern of neglect or abuse, or a court of law that requires testimony or learner records. The school counselor often consults with other school professionals, but may only share confidential information when the person with whom the information is being shared has a specific and legitimate educational interest.

How do I make an appointment with my counselor?



In person appointments can be used to talk about high school planning, academic concerns, college and career preparation, SAT info, college application help, or personal/social concerns. If you'd like to meet your counselor in person:

- Preferred Method: Fill out the google request form: [SWHS Counselor Appointment Request](#)
- You can also email your counselor directly to request an appointment.

Please note: Same day appointments are usually not available. Please expect 2-3 school days for your appointment to be scheduled.

Check your eHallpass each day to see when your appointment has been scheduled.

If you have an emergency need to see a counselor, please speak to your teacher or the closest adult!

Social/Emotional



We can help if you're:

- Going through a tough time (breakups, family issues, loss/grief)
- Feeling sad, anxious, depressed, or stressed
- Concerned about a friend

A few things we DON'T do...

- Force you to talk
- Force a friend to talk
- Allow you to miss too much class time
- Share your info with others



Academic Hacks to Start the Year Strong:

- 1) Choose one place to save your usernames/passwords (notes app on your phone, google doc)
- 2) Check your email at the same time every day (1st pd, 5th pd, lunchtime). Make it a habit.
- 3) Create bookmarks for useful websites (Sapphire Portal, eHallPass, and Counseling Appt request form!)
- 4) Over the next two days, listen closely to teachers description of GRADING.



SWHS

Grading Basics

A = 90 - 100%

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F (Failing grade, no credit earned) = 59% and lower

Assignments/points/tests add up over the course of the semester and you receive ONE final grade for each course.

2 report cards issued on the Portal: January (Fall semester final grades) and June (Spring semester final grades)

Be smart with how much time you spend on electronic devices and what you are using them for.



Healthy Digital Diet

Think before you post

Update Privacy Settings

Disconnect from time to time

Things you Should do in 9th Grade



- Get involved in something meaningful to you!
- Meet with Counselor in Small Group (late Fall)
- Attend 9th and 10th grade College Night (November)
- Meet with Counselor in Spring semester for course selection
- Reach out if you need us!

COMMUNICATION



Be sure to check your email daily!

Your southwesternsd.org gmail account is how you get most information about what is going on in school.

Pennsylvania Pathways to Graduation

Keystone Proficiency Pathway

Numeric or Non-Numeric Scores

Algebra I

Proficient or Advanced

Biology

Proficient or Advanced

Literature

Proficient or Advanced

Keystone Composite Pathway

Numeric Scores Only

At least 1 Keystone Exam scaled score is
1500 or Greater

No Keystone Exam score is
Below Basic

The Keystone Exam 3-score composite is
4452 or Greater

The Keystone Exam 2-score composite is
2939 or Greater

(where eligible under §121.1)



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

“Don’t join clubs because you think they’ll look good for colleges. Join because you want to.”



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

“Take a variety of different classes to explore topics you may be interested in.”



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

“Separate your work for each class, and try to keep it in different folders. It can help you turn it in on time.”



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

“Participate in class, don’t be afraid to share your perspective, and listen closely to others.”



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

**“Find a good support group!
You become who you surround yourself with.”**



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

**“Get things done early!
The less work you have
in one day, the easier
high school will be.”**



ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

**“Start your resume now
and build on it each year
so that you don’t forget
all that you’ve done.”**



◀ **ADVICE FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN**

**“Enjoy these years!
They go by fast.”**



Leadership is often about **showing up**. Be the person in your clubs who raises their hand to do the things **no one else is doing** - hang the posters, attend each meeting, or sell tickets at lunch.

Involvement like this **makes an impact** and makes your high school experience more rewarding.

- Ashley Meyer

Former Assistant Director of Admission | Georgia Tech



@collegewise



Ask your teachers how they're doing.... **teachers are people too!**

Be the kid who stays after class to just ask how their weekend was... Sure it helps them get to know YOU better, but it also makes your year **that much more enjoyable** to have a teacher you actually **know**.

- Casey Near

Dean of Counselor Development | Collegewise



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