

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s),

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year from your School Counselors! Please read the following information to see everything that our School Counseling program has to offer!

School counselors help students focus on academic, career and social/emotional development so they achieve success in school and are prepared to lead fulfilling lives as responsible members of society. School counselors' partner to serve students across the grade levels as follows:

LAST NAMES	9 TH & 10 TH GRADE	11 TH & 12 TH GRADE
A-G	Ms. Aretha Graham	Ms. Julie Besley
H-O	Ms. Tami Treaster	Ms. Tanya Moseley
P-Z	Ms. Suzanne Patterson	Ms. Michelle Sterling

- Contact information for school counselors can be found on the guidance page - <https://www-bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/>
- Location of the 9th & 10th grade school counselors is in the Ninth Grade Center, bottom floor behind the service desk.
- Location of the 11th & 12th grade school counselors is in the Main Guidance suite, bottom floor by the media center.

Student Appointment Time with School Counselors

- Students can visit school counselors during all lunches. This is an OPEN DOOR time for students to drop in, ask questions, and find solutions. Distance Learning students can make appointments by emailing counselors. Brick & Mortar students can stop in during lunch, before school, or after school.

Student Classroom Curriculum

- BTHS School Counselors provide students with guided opportunities in the classroom to review resources that support their growth toward meaningful academic and social choices. Students are encouraged to utilize a system of evaluating their individual academic progress and setting goals. Classroom school counseling topics will include
- **SENIORS:**
 - o **September 21st – October 2nd**
 - Have I Met the Requirements to Graduate High School?
 - Each senior will receive a customized credit analysis to take home. Distance learners will receive their credit analysis by mail.
 - o **November 16th – 20th**
 - Financial Aid Seminars
 - Each senior will be guided in completing the Florida Financial Aid Application.
- **JUNIORS:**
 - o **November 2nd – 6th**
 - **Why is My Junior Year Critical for Choices Beyond High School?**
 - Each junior will receive credit details and consider important junior tasks related to college & career options.

- **SOPHOMORES:**
 - **October 5th, 6th and 8th via English 2 classes**
 - One Year Completed Toward Graduation, What to Consider for Year Two!
 - Sophomores will look at a snapshot picture of freshmen year and decide where to focus as a sophomore!
 - **November 2nd Virtual Lesson via World History classes**
 - Students will learn about the many paths they can take after high school
 - Students will have the option to complete a career interest inventory
 - **Spring Semester, date TBA**
 - What to know about Bright Futures requirements
 - How to find scholarships
- **FRESHMEN:**
 - **September 14th, 15th and 17th via English 1 classes**
 - Learning about high school graduation requirements
 - Why GPA's are important
 - **September 25 Virtual Lesson via HOPE classes**
 - Transitions and Connections: Setting Priorities for Success in High School.
 - Freshmen will learn best practices in making a successful year one in high school.
 - **Spring Semester, date TBA**
 - What to know about Bright Futures requirements
 - How to find scholarships
 - Students will learn how to read their credit detail report and review GPA

Parent Workshops

- When parents are aware of the educational objectives and supportive resources BTHS School Counselors offer students, families are better prepared to have meaningful conversations at home about academic choices, social learning goals, and how current educational decisions impact future employment opportunities. Please join us for Parent/Student Workshops designed to inform you about the positive curriculum School Counselors are providing to BTHS students. Below are a few dates you won't want to miss!
 - **October 5th @6:30 pm (BT Auditorium with limited access to keep social distancing guidelines and Virtual):** *From Grade Promotion to Graduation Day; The How To's of High School Success*
 - **We want to make sure the workshop is based on the needs of our families. Please fill out this brief survey so that we can provide information during the workshop that will meet the needs of our community - <https://tinyurl.com/yxjo7rr8>**
 - **January 11th @6:30 pm (BT Auditorium, depending on COVID restrictions):** *Rising to New Levels: The How and Why of Course Selections and Registrations for the 2021-22 School Year*

Counselors in the Courtyard

- Each month, School Counselors set up in the BTHS courtyard during lunches and meet with students where they are! *Counselor in the Courtyard* topics address Frequently Asked Questions and provide an informal opportunity for students to seek out information about community connections, resources, and tools for high school success.
- Dates and themes include:
 - o **September 16:** WELCOME NEW STUDENTS, Get Connected
 - o **October 21:** United Against Bullying
 - o **December 2:** Community Service
 - o **January 20:** Celebrate Diversity
 - o **February 3:** Celebrate School Counseling Week
 - o **March 10:** Bright Futures

College Visits

- Counselors are currently scheduling virtual college visits. Admission representatives from selected schools will meet with students virtually outside of the school day beginning in September. Visiting schools are selected on a rotational basis but will include representatives from several of our twelve state universities in Florida, out-of-state schools, and Florida's twenty-two private colleges and universities. Students will be notified of the visit via the School Counseling Schoology page, announcements, and posted on our College Visits page - <https://www-bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/visits/>

Social/Emotion Support

- While School Counselors are not mental health professionals, we are able to offer resources as well as social/emotional support to students. If your child is having a mental health crisis contact the Mobile Response Team for an immediate assessment by a licensed clinician by calling 2-1-1. Parents can also visit the district's mental health portal for more resources - <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/>

Additional Counselor Supported Programs

- **October 12th** – FAFSA Frenzy 6:00 P.M. @St. Johns River State College Palatka Campus
- **October 13th** – FAFSA Frenzy 6:00 P.M. @St. Johns River State College Orange Park Campus
- **October 14th** – PSAT NMSQT Testing during the school day.
- **October 15th** – FAFSA Frenzy 6:00 P.M. @St. Johns River State College St. Augustine Campus
- **October 18th** – National College Fair (NACAC), Virtual - <https://www.nacacfairs.org/virtual/>
- **February 24th** –College and Career Fair for students during the school day (depending on COVID restrictions.)

We look forward to serving your student during the 2020-2021 school year. If you have any further questions, please email your assigned school counselor.

Thank you for all you do for Bear Nation!