



Dinwiddie High School

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Director of Student Activities

July 25, 2024

Dear 10th Grade Parents,

The Dinwiddie High School Counseling Department would like to welcome you to the start of the 2024-25 school year. We are excited for this fresh start and what it means to the future of your student. We have several changes within our department this school year. Our school and school division will be shifting to a counselor/grade level model at the secondary level in which your counselor will stay with you until graduation. Ms. Alyssa Martin will still be your child's counselor and we are excited for her to continue to work with our sophomore class.

Students will have access to their schedules on their Infinite Campus portal at 10 AM on Monday, August 12. Our open house for students and parents will be on Wednesday, August 14 from 4-7 PM. We hope you will attend to meet your child's teachers to develop that important relationship. There will be a location at open house to reset Infinite Campus passwords and obtain student schedules if needed. **There is limited availability for appointments to meet with counselors during open house; it is preferred that students contact their counselor by phone or email prior to open house to request any schedule changes.**

We have a variety of resources within our department and school to assist in the development and success of our students. The mental health and well-being of our students is an important contributing factor to their success. We want our students to enroll in challenging courses, courses that interest them, and will help them to reach their goals. Our goal is for them to work hard in those classes to obtain the highest grade possible. Critical factors for that to occur are daily school attendance and positive behavior and decision making. Students and parents should also use Infinite Campus on a regular basis to review grades and class performance as well as attendance.

Students and parents will receive regular email updates from the Counseling Department with important information. For parents to stay up to date, we request to have a current, active email address as well as contact number on file. Please contact our office or update your Infinite Campus account with any changes to your contact information. Our school website is also a great place to view current information. Below are some suggestions to assist with having a successful 10th grade year:

- Continue to think about your goals for after high school and be sure you are preparing yourself for those goals by enrolling in

challenging classes, maintaining good grades, and improving upon any past behavior or attendance issues.

- Get involved in your school! Whether playing sports, being involved in clubs, community activities, or volunteering; it is proven that being active leads to higher achievement and a more enjoyable high school experience.
- If you are having trouble formulating future goals, see your school counselor, or Ms. Wall-Green who is our Virginia College Advising Corps (VCAC) college adviser and she can be reached at kwallgreen@dcpsnet.org. She is available and excited to assist with all parts of the college and career planning process, including college searches and applications, SAT/ACT prep and registration, financial aid and scholarships, and other career development. Please send her an email or call the counseling department if you have any questions about your student's post-secondary planning.
- Sign-up for the PSAT which will be held at Dinwiddie High School in October 2024. This assessment is a practice test designed to indicate student strengths and weaknesses and provide information about preparing to take the SAT test. Sign-ups will begin in August 2024 and will be advertised to students through email. Students should create an account at sat.org and use the many resources there.
- Sign-up to take the PreACT which will be given in April 2025 at Dinwiddie High. The results of this assessment provide information that will help students better prepare for the American College Test (ACT). For more information about the PreACT, see your school counselor or visit act.org. ACT has created a college and career planning tool from which all students can benefit. Go to act.org to create a free account and use all of the available tools to assist in post-secondary planning and ACT prep.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year, we are here to help you and your student navigate these important years.

Sincerely,

Chad Hall
School Counseling Director
chall@dcpsnet.org

Alyssa Martin
School Counselor
amartin@dcpsnet.org

It shall be the policy of the Dinwiddie County School Board with respect to academic, career, and personal/social counseling that parents will notify the school division in writing if the

student is not to participate in the personal/social counseling program, (Opt – Out). If you choose to opt out your child of school counseling services at Dinwiddie High School, please submit your request to Chad Hall, School Counseling Director.