



## Dinwiddie High School

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Director of Student Activities

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July 25, 2024

Dear 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

The Dinwiddie High School Counseling Department would like to welcome you to the start of high school and 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. Our new 9<sup>th</sup> grade counselor is Ms. Kayla Allen, we are excited for her to work with our freshman class.

Students will have access to their schedules on their Infinite Campus portal at 10 AM on Monday, August 12. You may notice some differences between the schedule you receive and your original course requests. Based on student's performance in class, SOL test results, and teacher recommendations; some changes to levels of core classes were made including the addition of honors classes. Also, we are not offering ASL I this year; any students who selected ASL I were moved to Spanish I. If you would like to make any adjustments to your requests or the classes your student receives, please reach out to Ms. Allen to discuss available options.

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 9<sup>th</sup> grade year:

- Begin 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](mailto: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.
- Other online resources include your child's [platform.majorclarity.com/](https://platform.majorclarity.com/) account as well as accessing VA Wizard at [vawizard.org/wizard/home](https://vawizard.org/wizard/home). Virginia Wizard is an online tool students can use for career and college planning. **Your student's Major Clarity accounts is an important tool to use and keep updated throughout high school.**
- Consider signing up for the PSAT 8/9 test which will be given at Dinwiddie High School in the spring. Information about signups will be posted and emailed to students by January 2025. For more information see your school counselor or visit [collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9](https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-8-9).

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](mailto:chall@dcpsnet.org)

Kayla Allen  
School Counselor  
[kaallen@dcpsnet.org](mailto:kaallen@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.*