

## PARTNERS IN STUDENT SUCCESS

Families have the most influence on student academic and personal success. In partnership with counselors, parents/guardians can be a positive influence in the following ways:

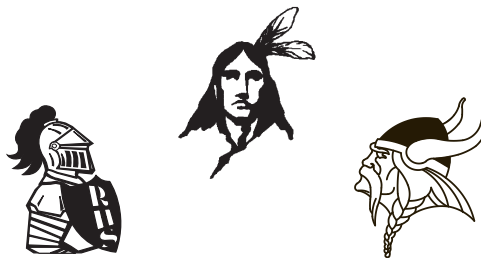
- **Monitor academic performance** through progress reports, Parent Portal, and teacher conferences (in person, phone or e-mail). Academic assistance is offered to students in the following ways: before or after school help from teachers, the Achievement Center, and peer tutoring through the National Honor Society. Your student's teacher or counselor can help them access these resources upon request.
- **Encourage your child to pursue extra-curricular activities** (e.g. sports, hobbies, classes for enrichment, independent reading, volunteer work, scouts, part-time jobs, etc.).
- **Assist your child with course selection** each year starting in February.
- **Use Naviance from home with your child.** Naviance is an online comprehensive career guidance system that the WCASD purchased for high school counselors to use with all students - both college and career-bound. Through Naviance, you can participate in developing your child's IGP (individual goal plan), as well as explore careers and higher education opportunities together. Information on accessing Naviance is available via each high school's Counseling Department web site.
- **Ask your child's counselor to include you in their annual developmental conference.**
- **Attend your school's PTO meetings.** high school PTO meetings are informational in nature and serve as your link to your child's high school life.

*WCASD high school counseling departments offer a proactive and comprehensive developmental program based on the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) standards.*

## MISSION STATEMENTS

The mission of the **West Chester Area School District** is to educate and inspire our students to achieve their personal best.

The mission of the **WCASD High School Counseling Program**, which serves a growing community with diverse needs, is to counsel, educate and advocate for students as they pursue their individual comprehensive and consistent program in partnership with multiple constituencies.



WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
829 Paoli Pike, West Chester, PA 19380  
484-266-1171 ~ [www.wcasd.net](http://www.wcasd.net)



## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM & SERVICES

A GUIDE TO THE  
WEST CHESTER AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S  
HIGH SCHOOL  
COUNSELING PROGRAM

## DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDANCE PROGRAM

WCASD high school counseling departments offer a proactive and comprehensive developmental program based on the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) standards. The program provides students with age-appropriate information, guidance, and counseling based on individual student educational needs and goals. In order to meet the goals of the developmental program, counselors conduct meetings with every student each year, in a variety of contexts (individual, small group, classroom presentations) and focus on the following:

- **9th grade:** IGP (individual goal plan), strategies for academic success\*, goal setting (academic, post-high school, personal), graduation planning.
- **10th grade:** IGP update, strategies for academic success\*, career exploration based on interests and abilities, graduation planning.
- **11th grade:** IGP update, strategies for academic success\*, post-high school planning and research (careers/higher education), graduation planning.
- **12th grade:** IGP update, strategies for academic success\*, post-high school planning (careers and higher education), and transition.

\* *Strategies include course selection based on education/career goals, achieving personal best, identifying/accessing support services, etc.*

### WEB SITES

#### EAST:

[http://www.edline.net/pages/East\\_High\\_School/](http://www.edline.net/pages/East_High_School/)

#### HENDERSON:

[http://www.edline.net/pages/Henderson\\_High\\_School/](http://www.edline.net/pages/Henderson_High_School/)

#### RUSTIN:

[http://www.edline.net/pages/Rustin\\_High\\_School/](http://www.edline.net/pages/Rustin_High_School/)

From your school's home page, click on the Counseling Department link found in the left column.

## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM & SERVICES OBJECTIVES

- All students will be appropriately counseled to select the most challenging academic level consistent with their potential.
- All students will formulate a realistic and individualized goal plan in which they will consistently demonstrate an understanding of how their decisions affect their plan.
- All students will demonstrate proactive self-advocacy and enrich their educational experiences by seeking out and utilizing available resources, supports, and extra-curricular activities.

### COUNSELING PROGRAM

In addition to individual and group conferences arranged by the counselors, students and parents may schedule appointments as needed with their counselor.

Each counselor is responsible for a case load of students in grades 9-12. Students are assigned to counselors alphabetically according to the student's last name. The goal is for students to have the same counselor throughout all four years of high school.

District counselors hold a minimum of a master's degree and a Certificate in Secondary School Counseling. They are also required by the PA Department of Education to receive on-going training and education. Counselors are prepared to address each student's academic, career (including higher education planning), and personal/social developmental needs in the school setting. This is accomplished in partnership with the student's family, other WCASD professional staff, and community support services as needed.

### WHEN SHOULD YOU CONTACT THE COUNSELOR:

- If there are unusual circumstances concerning your child (e.g. chronic illness of your child or family member, death in the family/close friend, social or emotional difficulties, substance use/abuse).
- Whenever you have academic concerns which have not been resolved by teacher contact.
- For course selection concerns or questions.
- For higher education/career planning assistance.
- Whenever you have questions or concerns regarding your child.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The many ways that high school counselors communicate with students and their families include:

- Personal meetings
- Telephone conversations
- Mass telephone announcements via automated message service
- Personal email
- Mass e-mail announcements to students and parents
- Quarterly newsletter emailed home
- Counseling web site
- Brochure of counseling programs and services
- Evening informational presentations: College Planning, College Application Process, Financial Aid, Open House, Course Selection, Middle School to High School Transition
- PTO Evening Informational Presentations: Course Selection, Middle School to High School Transition, College Admissions Testing, and other topics as requested.

### PHONE NUMBERS

EAST: 484-266-3800

HENDERSON: 484-266-3300

RUSTIN: 484-266-4300