



**Monroe High School**  
**901 Herr Road**  
**Monroe, MI 48161**  
**734-265-3400**

**October 2016**

# Parent Link

## Monroe High School

Greetings MHS Parents!

Parents' schedules are filled with endless time demands, and we would like to assist by being sensitive to your schedule as we work together to maximize opportunities for your child.

To help in this effort, we are expanding the Parent Link resource that first began at MHS in 2004. For its history, please go to <http://sandrakreps.weebly.com/parent-linkcommunications.html/>. The objective of Parent link is to bring pertinent information and learning opportunities to the families of our students. To continue these efforts, we are beginning a new monthly communication called MHS Parent Link.

In an effort to address as many parent communication preferences as possible, we will send Parent Link electronically, post it on our website and Facebook page, and send it through the US postal service. These venues for communication were chosen based on feedback from a parent survey.

We are second to none in the county for learning opportunities for our students, which can sometimes be overwhelming. By working together, we can maximize opportunities for your child.

Thank you for being a part of the MHS community. It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with you and your family.

Sincerely,

Sandy Kreps

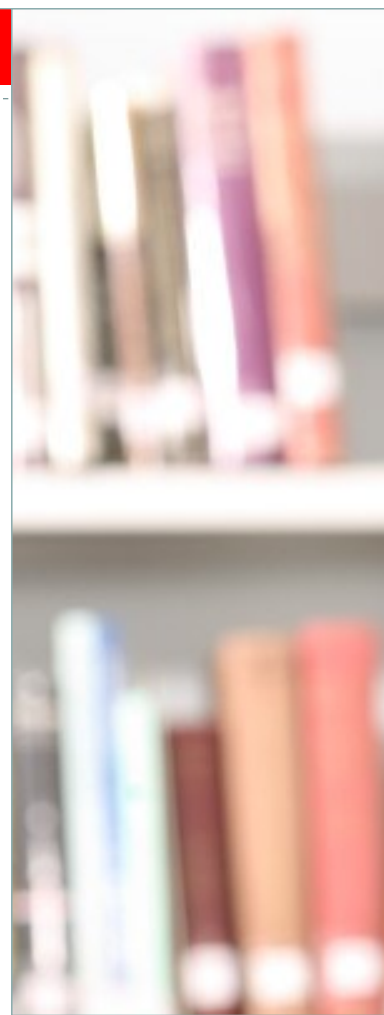
MHS Principal

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

For your convenience, parent-teacher conferences will be held on two different days this trimester. Daytime conferences will be held on Wednesday, **October 12, 2016, from 11:30 am to 2:20 pm**. During this time, conferences will take place in individual teachers' classrooms and counselors' offices. Upon entering the Commons, you will be provided with your child's schedule and a map of the building. You will then be able to visit each of your child's teachers in the order that you wish. There will be students and staff stationed around the building to help you find your way around. Conference times are not assigned and operate on a first come first serve basis.

Evening conferences will be held the following day, Thursday, **October 13, 2016, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**. These conferences will be held in the gymnasium, as has been the recent tradition. Teachers will be lined up alphabetically and counselors will be circulating. Once again, you can pick up your child's schedule in the Commons prior to entering the gymnasium.

With these formats for conferences and the fact that each student has numerous teachers, we ask teachers and parents to plan on 10 to 15 minutes for each conference. There are many parents who wish to see their child's teachers, and we want to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to do so. If you have things that you would like to discuss in greater depth or that are sensitive in nature, please consider setting up a separate appointment with your child's teacher(s) and/or counselor. We look forward to seeing you on either Wednesday **October 12, 2016 from 11:30 am to 2:20 pm** or on Thursday **October 13, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm**.



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#### **SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- Computer Science /STEM
- Tutoring
- Parent Guidance for PSAT/SAT
- Trojan Family Time (TFT)
- Financial Aid and College Night here at MHS
- Calendar
- Who to call.....

## **TRANSPORTATION FOR CONFERENCES, FINANCIAL AID NIGHT, AND PSAT/SAT PARENT GUIDANCE**

Please do not let transportation be a barrier to attending conferences. We are organizing shuttle pick-ups and drop-offs for parents and students. The information and guidance provided at these opportunities is vital to understanding the educational process for each child. For a shuttle pick up, please call Mr. Bill Ferrara, our CTE Director, at 734-770-0049 to make arrangements.

## **CURRICULUM CORNER**

### **MATH**

The Core Plus Math Curriculum: Math 1, Math 2 and Math 3

The Core Plus Math Curriculum is new to many of our students and families. The challenge with a new curriculum is that parents and students can feel helpless when trying to navigate a new approach. This can also lead to frustration.

The MHS math department would like to work with you. Please contact your child's math teacher to learn ways you can support your child at home. Parent-teacher conferences would be a time you could begin this conversation. The following is a website that can also help you support your child: <http://www.cpmponline.org/parentresource2/helpingwithhomework.html>.

After school tutoring, with transportation, is also available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Your child's math teacher can help them schedule this opportunity.

### **SCIENCE**

The K-12 Science Team Members have been working for over a year with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which included intense work over the summer, to offer the most up-to-date, research-based science standards to all students. Be sure to ask your child's teacher how this has influenced your child's learning and classroom experience.

**Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) materials purchased for all grade levels:** "Our MPS Board of Education approved the purchase of STEMscope (Grades Y5-9), Vernier Technology and supplementary materials (Grades 10-12). STEMscopes is a digital science resource designed to help students understand the nuances and complexity of the NGSS through scientific investigations, engineering challenges, content connection videos, claim-evidence-reasoning assessments, and more. Vernier puts easy-to-use data loggers, sensors, experiments and graphing/analysis software into the hands of students, helping educators develop the next generation of scientists and engineers and will be used in our high school Physics courses. These resources are amazing! This science curriculum adoption is a milestone in several ways, as it is Monroe's first Y5-12 grade curriculum adoption, *and* it is our first digital core curriculum adoption." Julie Everly—Deputy Superintendent

## **EXTENDED DAY OPTION FOR STUDENTS**

Beginning on October 4, 2016, we are offering an after-school Extended Day Program for our students three days a week. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, students will have the opportunity to:

- Receive tutoring
- Receive homework assistance
- Use our computers and printers

Extended Day passes are available in the Student Services Suite, all offices and from teachers. If a student needs help in one of these areas, they can approach one of their teachers and ask them to sign their Extended Day pass and put a check next to one of these options. This ensures students are staying for the purposes we are staffed to accommodate. Please note this is not a latch key program or for social time, as we do not have staffing for these purposes.

Students in the Extended Day Program and Upward Bound qualify for our after school bus that will pick them up at MHS at 4:00 PM. This busing is only for these students and Upward Bound students.

# **PSAT AND SAT**

## **9th, 10th, 11th Grade Students**

**On October 19, 2016**, the 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students will be taking the PSAT. It is important that your child be here that day. If they must be absent, please contact the attendance office prior to this date.

For 9th and 10th graders, this PSAT will be a 2016-2017 pre-assessment for Math, Reading, and Writing.

For 11th graders, this will be an opportunity to see increased learning from last year's PSAT, as well as to qualify for entry into the National Merit Scholarship Competition, the largest scholarship competition in the nation.

During TFT, our 10th and 11th graders have created Khan Academy accounts, and their PSAT results have been put into a learning plan. This is a wonderful resource that provides SAT prep and offers learning opportunities to increase knowledge and career and college readiness. The following table is a self-reporting data page that students are using in TFT to keep track of their data.

## **PSAT and Khan Academy Guidance for Parents**

MHS Student Service Suite, **October 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm** (after parent-teacher conferences). For a shuttle pick up, or drop off, please call Mr. Bill Ferrara, our CTE Director, at 734-770-0049 to make arrangements.

Miranda DeBruyne, counselor/coordinator, will walk parents through how to use PSAT results to maximize SAT prep, as well as how to use their child's Khan Academy individualized learning plan to the fullest extent.

### **PSAT Student Composite Sheet**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*If a particular grade level score is not available, please leave the box blank.**

	<b>9th Grade</b>		<b>10th Grade</b>		<b>11th Grade</b>	
	Fall PSAT	Spring PSAT	Fall PSAT	Spring PSAT	Fall PSAT	Spring SAT
<b>Total Score</b>						
<b>Math Score</b>						
<b>Evidence Based Reading &amp; Writing</b>						

<b>9th Grade</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Fall	
Spring	
<b>10th Grade</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Fall	
Winter	
<b>11th Grade</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Fall	
Winter	

**IMPORTANT: NEW APPLICATION DATE FOR FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**  
**SUBMITTED BY SAVANNAH GARCIA—POST-SECONDARY PLANNER**

The availability to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has been moved up three months. Free money at universities does run out, so filing early is important! If you choose to not attend our Financial Aid Night for information and file on your own, please be careful to log onto the official site. There are many misleading services that will attempt to charge you. The official FAFSA application is free, so if a website asks you to pay for access, you are on a different site.

**FAFSA Availability:** The 2017-2018 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is **available beginning October 1st, 2016**. This date is different than previous years, allowing students the opportunity to submit their application for financial aid months earlier than before (January 1st). Additionally, earlier income information is required for the 2017-2018 FAFSA. **Instead of using 2016 tax/income information, students and parents will use their 2015 information.** This new date benefits students because they are able to learn of institutions' offered financial aid packages earlier. However, this ALSO means that **funds are distributed and depleted earlier**, so **submitting the FAFSA as close to October 1st as possible will give students the most opportunity to receive funding for college.**

**Assistance at MHS with FAFSA:**

**During parent-teacher conferences on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016, there will be a financial aid presentation at 7:00 pm in the MHS Auditorium led by the Director of Financial Aid from Monroe County Community College.** ALL junior and senior families are welcome to attend this event—even if your student does not plan on attending MCCC, the information is the same. Two gift cards will be raffled during this event. Additionally, **shuttles will be available** to transport students and families who would like to attend. For a shuttle pick up, please call Mr. Bill Ferrara, our CTE Director, at 734-770-0049 to make arrangements, anytime before, during or after the event.

**Throughout the months of October and November, students and families are welcome to attend FAFSA Fridays at MHS to receive assistance with their FAFSA.** Students may come to the Career Center Computer Lab during the school day, and **parents may contact the Post-Secondary Planners for an appointment if they desire assistance with completing their FAFSA or with any Financial Aid questions or concerns.** You may contact the Post-Secondary planners at (Mr. Hoskins: 734.265.3517, [hoskins1@monroe.k12.mi.us](mailto:hoskins1@monroe.k12.mi.us); Ms. Garcia: 734.265.3516, [garcia@monroe.k12.mi.us](mailto:garcia@monroe.k12.mi.us); or Ms. Sawasky: 734.265.3518, [sawasky@monroe.k12.mi.us](mailto:sawasky@monroe.k12.mi.us)).

MHS's Post-Secondary Planning webpage has many beneficial resources for students and families. These resources can be accessed by visiting [Financial Aid Resources](#).

**\*\*One piece of important advice from MHS: file the FAFSA early so your student receives the most aid possible!!!!**

**Sending the FAFSA to Institutions**

**Students should put a Michigan school FIRST on their list, even if their top choice is an out-of-state school.** If students applied to a PRIVATE in-state school, that school should be listed first. This matters for **consideration for state grant aid as well as the Michigan Competitive Scholarship.** If students are eligible for this (based on having a 23 or higher on the ACT), the **money will only go to the school that is listed first on their FAFSA.**

Students can send their FAFSA to **all** the colleges they are applying to and/or are planning to apply to (up to 10 schools may be added to the FAFSA). Be aware, some schools may not give first round consideration to a student if they see numerous schools listed. It is helpful if you put the schools in order of your preference. Also, students can go in to their FAFSA later and send it then as well.

Any questions regarding FAFSA may be directed to the MCCC financial aid representative here on October 13, 2016, who is available during daytime hours for questions even if you are not attending MCCC. Questions can also be directed to the MHS Post-Secondary Planning office.

## CAREER PATHWAY OPTIONS FOR SECOND AND THIRD TRIMESTERS

**Communications Pathway:** There are still a few openings in Introduction to Mass Media and Journalism for 2nd and 3rd trimester. These courses are helpful in deciding if a student would like to be on the newspaper or yearbook staff. Also, social media influence and responsibility are front and center in so many of the students lives.

**Health Science Opportunities:** For students not in the health pathway, there are still openings in Health Occupations A in second trimester and Health Occupations B in third trimester. If you would like to explore the health field, please consider adding these to your schedule. These courses and a successful student record review would make you eligible for Health Clusters the following year.

**Health Occupations Cluster:** One Trimester/2 Periods/1 Credit (*Double Block*)

(*PREREQUISITE: Health Occupations A & B, Medical Terminology, Student Records Review*)

This course is the fourth part (4 of 5) in the Health Sciences program series. The purpose of the program is to expose students to the professional expertise of the Promedica Monroe Regional Hospital staff and state of the art equipment. Students will have an opportunity to assist and observe health care providers while they deliver services. Those areas participating in the educational experiences may include but are not limited to Ambulatory, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Central Transport, Community Relations, Dietary Services, Emergency Department, Laboratory, Neurodiagnostics, Sleep Lab, Nursing, Obstetrics, Pharmacy, Pediatrics, Radiology Services, Rehabilitation Services, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Respiratory Therapy.

### **Engineering: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM):**

**Electro-Mechanical Program:** There are a few seats left in Engineering Design, which is strongly suggested as a prerequisite for Robotics and Electronics and Renewable Energy, which also have seats available for the remaining trimesters.

**Mathematics:** There are STEM math options available for students. Please see your coordinator/counselor to discuss.

**Computer Science:** We are working with MCCC on a Computer Science pathway that leads to a transfer agreement with the U of M Dearborn. The courses are also transferable to other 4-year schools. Mr. DuPont, Computer Programming instructor for MHS, has the latest information. Please consider Computer Programming 1 (second trimester) and Computer Programming 2 (third trimester).

There will be an **Intro. to Computers Direct College course** offered by MCCC on our campus during third trimester. Taking this course would enable you to take the next two computer courses that we will be offered for Direct College in 2017-2018. Again, Direct College courses are college courses offered right here at MHS during the school day, at no expense to students.





## MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DIRECT COLLEGE CLASSES FOR THIRD TRIMESTER

The following courses are offered on the MHS campus during the regular school day, third trimester, at no charge. These courses transfer into associate (2-year) and bachelor (4-year) degree programs. A tuition savings! Please see your coordinator/counselor to discuss.

- **Intro. to Political Science 151**
- **Intro. to Humanities 151**
- **English Composition 151** (this is the same college credit that our AP Junior English course offers)
- **Intro. to Computers 130** (Intro. to Computer Science). If after reading the course description you think you could test out, please see Mr. DuPont. This course is a prerequisite for the next two computer science courses that will be offered next year.

## EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (EDP)

Beginning in October and moving into November, **all students in grades 9-11 in Trimester A ELA courses will be working with Post Secondary Planners on EDP (Educational Development Plan) work.** This work is vital to students' continual *discovery, development, and recognition* of their qualities, skills and talents, educational options, and career interests. Objectives for EDP work are both short and long term; the core of EDP curriculum is making **the connection between students' career pathways and their course work here at MHS** (short term) and, also, making **the connection between their learning experiences at MHS and how they prepare and equip students for life after high school** (long term). During EDP work, students will focus on defining and understanding their career pathways, realizing and embracing their skill sets, and establishing potential career fields and educational majors that **are aligned with who they are as individuals.** Once students complete this reflective work, they will begin identifying appropriate courses for next school year and recording options they are interested in. **If students would like more individualized assistance** with course planning, reflecting on career and college options, and/or understanding their skills and attributes, they may **stop in the Post Secondary Planning office to schedule an appointment** with Mr. Hoskins, Ms. Sawasky, or Ms. Garcia.

As a continuation of this EDP work, the grade-level counselors/coordinators will follow up in the ELA classrooms to assist students in planning their course selections for next year. **Counselors will be able to answer specific questions about what courses are required for graduation, as well as individual situations/concerns.** All students currently in the A Trimester ELA courses will have EDP work and course selections for next school year underway by the close of the trimester. Students in the A Trimester ELA courses second trimester, will begin their EDP work accordingly.



## ATTENDANCE

Reminder: According to the school handbook, parent calls to excuse absences must come in **within 24-hours of the absence** and calls or notes for exempt absences must come in **within 48-hours of the absence**. To report absences, call 734-265-3499. For your convenience, please program this number into your phone.

## PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO)

SUBMITTED BY SANDY KREPS

Just as the objective for Parent Link is to keep parents updated without adding to the demands of their schedule, we are also trying to structure opportunities for parent involvement that minimize meetings. Many PTOs and parent clubs focus primarily on raising money for students and staff. Day to day, I am not so sure this is where I see parents being the most valuable. Many of you have previously been involved in PTOs, so you will be valuable resources as we navigate this. There is an organizational meeting on Tuesday, **October 18, 2016, at 7:00 pm in D-126**, which is just past the main office. At this time, we will give the history of where we have been, decide where we would like to go, and determine the most efficient way to get there!

## COLLEGES REPRESENTED AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

The following colleges have committed and will be here the evening of parent-teacher conferences on **October 13th from 4:00 to 7:00 pm**.

Bowling Green State University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Heidelberg University  
Henry Ford College  
Lawrence Tech  
Lourdes University  
MCCC  
Mercy College of Ohio  
Oakland University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
University of Detroit Mercy  
University of Michigan—Dearborn

...and more RSVPs are still coming in!



## **SENIORS CAREER AND COLLEGE DAY—OCTOBER 19, 2016**

On October, 19, 2016, as soon as the **seniors** arrive at school, they will go directly to assigned charter buses where attendance will be taken. They will then travel to Monroe County Community College, where they will have breakfast. The MHS Post-Secondary Planners will then review pertinent information for all seniors, from scholarship and financial aid information to how to request transcripts for colleges, jobs and the military. MCCC will also be on site to provide helpful information for college and career preparation that is available to all county residents, regardless of the post-secondary school they will be attending or the career they will be pursuing. From there, the field trips begin.

These visits are meant to expose seniors to the options available concerning career and college readiness as well as **give students the opportunity to reflect on what may be the best “fit” for them.** Even if a student is not planning on attending college right away, these visits will expose them to possible careers if or when they consider post-secondary skills needed for the job market. The same is true for those entering the military right out of high school. These students can learn about job skills they would be able to develop in the military or explore possible careers to think about after they leave the military when they will be able to take advantage of the college tuition assistance offered to veterans.

The Post-Secondary Planning office has set up **four different options for seniors to participate in** on October 19<sup>th</sup>; **students will be signing up in TFT classes and assigned locations will be based on student interests) and capacity available. When signing up, they will receive a list of all the programs each site offers.** We encourage seniors to **turn in their permission slips as soon as possible;** once permission slips are **returned to the Post-Secondary Planning office, their spot will be reserved for the trip.** These opportunities focus on what will help students explore options and gain valuable insights about their goals and vision for life after high school, not necessarily the college. Owens is a former technical school that offers program at community college tuition rates. Technical schools are sometimes 4 times more expensive than Owens and MCCC for the same programs.

Below are the visits planned as well as specific areas of interest that will be explored during the visits (if applicable):

**Michigan Institute of Aviation & Technology**

**Washtenaw Community College**

**Owens Community College**

**Monroe County Community College**

If students have questions about these campus visits, or if parents are interested in volunteering to be a chaperone for these visits, please contact the Post- Secondary Planning office (Mr. Hoskins: 734.265.3517, Ms. Garcia: 734.265.3516, Ms. Sawasky: 734.265.3518).

Thank you for your commitment to student learning opportunities, and thank you, in advance, for making our senior campus visits meaningful, beneficial, and contributory to students' post- secondary achievements!





## **WHAT IS TROJAN FAMILY TIME?**

### **Course Description:**

Trojan Family Time (TFT) is a class that connects students to a small family community within the building. This TFT family remains together for all four years of each MHS student's high school career. In the 2016-2017 school year, we look forward to offering our students opportunities for leadership, character education, credit/curriculum recovery, SAT prep, and more through the TFT structure.

### **Student Opportunities:**

During TFT, students will have the opportunity to participate in learning activities that include:

- Leadership Development
- The MHS Guiding Forces
- Relevant Social Issues and Concerns
- Math, Science, English, and Social Studies Enrichment
- SAT prep and learning plan through Khan Academy
- Community Service
- Sustained Silent Reading

### **Student Responsibilities:**

The number one influence on student achievement is for students to self-report grade/personal expectations (John Hattie, *Visible Learning for Teachers: Maximizing Impact on Learning*, 2012). Students are responsible for attending class and participating in class activities and learning opportunities. Every day when TFT ends, students will use the Monroe High School Leadership Attributes Rubric to complete a self-assessment.



### **OCTOBER CALENDAR**

- 10/7: Picture retake day
- 10/12: Half day for students
- 10/12: Parent/Teacher Conferences from 11:30 AM—2:20 PM in teacher's classrooms
- 10/13: Parent/Teacher Conferences (4-7 PM) in the Gym
- 10/19: PSAT Testing—9th-11th graders
- 10/19: Career and College Ready field trips for 12th graders
- 10/20: Fall Vocal Concert at 7:00 PM
- 10/22: MIMBC Craft Show Performances—MHS Commons
- 10/26: MHS Instrumental Music Fall Concert at 7:00 PM

### **NOVEMBER CALENDAR**

- 11/1: County-wide In-service Day—No Students
- 11/5: Senior Pictures Due for yearbook
- 11/9: Evening MHS Eighth Grade Open House (Time TBA)
- 11/11: Veteran's Day
- 11/12: Musical Theatre Solo & Ensemble
- 11/11-11/13: MHS School Musical
- 11/23: Half day for students
- 11/23: End of 1st Trimester
- 11/24-11/25: Thanksgiving Vacation—No School

## **SUPPORT STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Phone</b>
9th	Guidance Counselor/Coordinator	Miranda DeBruyne	M-F: 7:00-3:00	265-3434
9th	Student Services Provider	Ellen Ivey	M-F: 8:00-1:30	265-3437
9th	Positive Climate Liaison	Darin Hoskins	M-F: 7:30-1:30	265-3506
9th	Post-Secondary Planner	Manuel Hoskins	M-F: 8:45-2:15	265-3517

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Phone</b>
10th	Guidance Counselor/Coordinator	Miranda DeBruyne	M-F: 7:00-3:00	265-3434
10th	Student Services Provider	Jamila Clark	M-F: 8:30-2:00	265-3436
10th	Positive Climate Liaison	Darin Hoskins	M-F: 7:30-1:30	265-3506
10th	Post-Secondary Planner	Manuel Hoskins	M-F: 8:45-2:15	265-3517

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Phone</b>
11th	Guidance Counselor/Coordinator	Scott Hochradel	M-F: 7:00-3:00	265-3435
11th	Student Services Provider	Brenda Woolard	M-F: 7:30-1:00	265-3438
11th	Positive Climate Liaison	Jackie Wenneman	M-F: 8:45-2:15	265-3539
11th	Post-Secondary Planner	Savannah Garcia	M, W, Th: 7:00-12:00 F: 7:00-4:00	265-3516

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Phone</b>
12th	Guidance Counselor/Coordinator	Lisa Warnke	M-F: 7:00-3:00	265-3439
12th	Student Services Provider	Brenda Woolard	M-F: 7:30-1:00	265-3438
12th	Positive Climate Liaison	Darin Hoskins	M-F: 8:45-2:15	265-3505
12th	Post-Secondary Planner	Savannah Garcia	M, W, Th: 7:00-12:00 F: 7:00-4:00	265-3516
12th	Senior Advisor (MCAN Grant)	Jaclyn Sawasky	M-F: 7:15-2:15	265-3517

**Guidance Counselors/Counselor:** Typically meet with students about schedule changes, classes, college information, credits, graduation plans, and Educational Developmental Plans (EDP).

**School Service Provider:** Assist students with social/emotional issues, mean behavior and bullying.

**Climate Liaison:** Assist students and parents with attendance.

**Post Secondary Planner and Senior Advisor:** Assist students and parents with preparing for work, college and military options after high school.