

Prince George's County Public Schools
Laurel High School
Counseling Department

8000 Cherry Lane
Laurel, Maryland 20707
Office: 240-547-4810 Fax: 301-362-5175
Website: <http://laurelhscounseling.weebly.com/>
Mr. Michael Dinkins, Principal

Dear Laurel High School Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! The beginning of the year is exciting, stressful, and full of possibilities. In the Counseling office, we have been busy helping students get off to a good start. We shifted our caseloads once again to better benefit our students and LHS community. We have our 9th grade Academy counselors, Mrs. Cooper (A-K) and Ms. Hopewell (L-Z), 10th grade counselor, Ms. Graves (A-Z), 11th-12th grade counselors, Dr. Harris (A-GA), Mrs. Collins-Swain (GE-N), Mrs. Mitchell (O-Z), and our 2nd year ESOL counselor, Ms. Letizia (A-Z).

As we begin what is hopefully a productive year, we want to let you know a few things about the services we offer in the counseling office as well as give you some information that may be helpful as the year goes on.

The role of the school counselor at Laurel High School is to be a strong advocate for each of her students. It is our responsibility to help students increase their knowledge about post-high school opportunities and to help them make the important connection between their high school record and the specific options that will be available to them upon graduation from high school. It is the counselor's responsibility to have high expectations for *ALL* students and to challenge them accordingly by guiding them to take courses that are appropriate for their goals and interests. We also strongly encourage *ALL* students to become involved in extracurricular activities through which they can make important social and community connections and through which they can grow in ways that go beyond the classroom. Below are some of the primary services we offer:

- Academic planning and course selection advisement.
- College and career exploration and advisement.
- Consultation and meetings with parents, teachers, and students.
- Contact with area colleges and universities through college fairs and access to resources.
- Crisis intervention.
- Monitoring of academic progress and communication with teachers and parents.
- Personal and emotional counseling,
- Classroom guidance lessons

We encourage you to contact us if you have questions about the services we offer or about any concerns you have regarding your student. You can reach us by email or by phone at 240-547-4810. Email is the best way to reach us. By phone is the best way to reach Ms. Graves. You can also access contact information at our website, <http://www.laurelhscounseling.weebly.com>. Please understand that counselors share many responsibilities and obligations to students, faculty, and administration and are not always

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*9th Grade: Mrs. Cooper: A-K & Ms. Hopewell: L-Z; 10th Grade: Ms. Graves; 11th-12th Grade: Dr. Harris A-GA;
Mrs. Collins-Swain: GO-N, Mrs. Mitchell: O-Z; 9th -12th Grade ESOL: Ms. Letizia: A-Z
Mrs. Claribel Rivera, Counseling Secretary; Ms. Sharon Clifford, Registrar; Mrs. Ghenet Andemicael, Records Secretary*

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available to meet with you. If you must meet with the counselor, please schedule an appointment directly with the counselor and provide the reason for your visit as most our meetings and conferences will be conducted virtually. In doing so, you give the counselor time to prepare for your visit so that she can efficiently maximize your time. If you request a conference with a teacher, please contact that teacher directly. If you would prefer a conference with ALL teachers, then the professional school counselor will schedule a virtual conference with all teachers, the parent/guardian, and the student.

In addition to the services listed above, we also want to let you know about a few other important items:

September:

- Annual Financial Aid Night/Senior Parent Night
- Classroom guidance with *ALL* seniors to discuss post-secondary options and expectations for senior year, transcript reviews, and graduation agreements.
- Senior individual planning sessions with counselor to review & sign graduation agreements, review transcripts, and discuss post-secondary options and plans.

October:

- 10th grade classroom guidance to discuss graduation requirements and post-secondary options.
- 9th Grade classroom guidance
- Accuplacer testing

November:

- 11th grade classroom guidance to discuss graduation requirements and post-secondary options.
- Dual enrollment application opens
- Honor Roll Assembly

December:

- Personal safety lessons with 9th & 11th grade students.

January:

- Registration information meetings with all 9th-11th grade students in preparation for scheduling/registration for the next school year.

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February - March:

- Online registration for SY 2023-2024 for 9th-11th grade students.
- SAT Day for current Juniors – March 1
- Accuplacer Testing
- Honor Roll Assembly
- Middle School Registration

April:

- Spring Senior Certification
- Honor Roll Assembly

May:

- Final Senior Certification
- AP & IB Exams
- College Signing Day

June:

- Graduation – June 1 @ 1pm
- Summer School registration

We encourage every family to familiarize yourselves with the counseling website (www.laurelhscounseling.weebly.com). This site is your one best source for counseling related announcements, updates, links to other resources, and important information. We are looking forward to a great year! If there is anything we can do to help you or student this year, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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