

PTSA ACADEMIC BOOSTER PROGRAM NOTES

Dr. Cathleen Bendicsen, Counseling Department Chair 2-7-2019

Dr. Bendicsen joins our staff at York, most recently from the role of Assistant Principal of Student Services at Downers Grove North High School. She appreciates being back in a role with direct student contact and her core beliefs are grounded in social work and counseling.

[See the presentation slides accompanying these notes.](#)

Quick overview of the department:

10 counselors with 1 for EL and 1 for career and college counseling
Average student load is 280/counselor is typical of other schools of our size
3 Domains of Counseling: Academic, College&Career, Social-emotional
Serve ALL students, not just on a crisis basis but to be preventative and proactive
There is a 3 tier approach with all students having tier 1 counseling interaction
Counselor, Social Worker and Psychologist work as a team to determine who needs additional interaction

[Tier 1 & 2 Grade Level Programming from the counseling department \(counseling interactions with students per grade level\)](#)

What are some possible areas of improvement?

Easier navigation around the digital course book, start career exploration discussion in 8th grade to point students towards interests when choosing classes for York

Course Selection & Advising:

Goal is to remove barriers to honors and AP courses and open access to students. Not everyone is a good test taker and teacher recommendations can be subjective. Student and parent choice are being taken into consideration.

Counselors have given all students and overview of the course book in larger groups and then met individually with all students.

Course selection timeline change did interfere with some of the FOG (Freshman Orientation & Guidance) programming planned for freshman. Calendars and programs continue to be adjusted based on the timeline changes.

Future focus:

1. Review all grade level programming.
2. Further develop sophomore counseling programming
3. IL PACE (Postsecondary And Career Exploration) - gives expectations for grade level exposure topics and where they are covered in counseling or classes.
4. Rising mental health concerns. - What Tier 2 interventions are needed and are there kids being missed.
5. Work towards RAMP certification - Recognized American School Counselor Association Model Program
 1. Is a comprehensive, data-driven program for ALL students that ensures effectiveness of programs.
 2. Includes establishing an Advisory Council that includes all stakeholders

Summer Camps/Programs Websites:

<https://www.studenteducationprograms.com/>

<https://www.iacac.org/summer-programs/>