



FROM THE COUNSELOR'S CORNER

September 2021



WELCOME BACK!

It was so wonderful to see students back in the building five days a week! Welcome back to all of our students; new students, previously remote students, and returning students. While masks are in place, we are seeing signs of a return to some sense of what we remember from 18 months ago. If your child may be having difficulty transitioning back to school [see this helpful resource](#) for a checklist to help prepare them emotionally. There are lots of things happening in Counseling and always something to share, so please follow the monthly newsletter for updates. All of our counseling staff is in the building full-time and available to students and families to assist with this return to routine. We are here in person, via phone, and through email, so don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.



NEW NAMES, NEW FACES

As a school, Tahanto has already welcomed over 30 new students this academic year. Additionally, there are more than a dozen new staff members joining the Tahanto Family. In the Counseling Office, Ms. Amanda MacDonald has joined us as our Secretary and School Registrar, as Beth Esposito has moved to the Main Office. You can reach Amanda at amacdonald@bbrsd.org. Spread that Stag spirit and say hello to someone you don't know, invite a different person to join you for lunch or on the bus, share a smile (yes, we can see them under the masks), and

brighten someone's day by sprinkling around kindness. Even our [Tahanto School Counseling website](#) received some updates over the summer. We encourage you to bookmark it and explore the contents for more information on available supports and resources.



FINANCIAL AID

COVID brought about many changes and some are here to stay. The Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA) Representatives, who would attend high schools in person to meet with parents about Financial Aid, have decided to stick with the virtual format. This allows students and families to access the information at their own convenience. Webinars cover a range of topics related to college planning and financial aid. Presenters will include MEFA staff members as well as guests from financial aid offices across the Commonwealth, providing families the opportunity to hear from many of the most knowledgeable financial aid leaders in the industry. Register [HERE](#) with MEFA. If you have any questions please reach out to MEFA at (800) 449-MEFA (6332) or collegeplanning@mefa.org. They are a free resource.



PSATs ON WEDNESDAY 10/13

Students are invited to take the PSATs at Tahanto on Wednesday morning, October 13, 2021. Due to space limitations, Juniors will be given priority. If seating is available, registered sophomores may be allowed to test. [Registration Forms](#) and an \$18 payment are due to the Counseling Office Friday, September 10. Depending upon mandates at that time, students may be required to wear masks throughout the test. No food or drink will be allowed in the testing rooms. Questions about the test and concerns about payment may be directed to Ms. Rodman.

Due to the challenges that the pandemic, along with many natural disasters, have brought to the standardized testing schedule, many colleges are continuing with their policy to go “test optional” for the current application cycle. If this is the case for a particular school, no student will be penalized for failure to submit scores as part of their application process. Colleges have waived this requirement, have a moratorium on it for the next several years, and many have done away with them altogether. [See the list of schools here.](#) Check with your individual school however for frequently changing policies.



COLLEGE VISITS TO TAHANTO

Admission Representatives will be back in person visiting with interested Tahanto students this fall. The list of over 35 already scheduled visits can be found on Naviance under the College tab. Students will need to register on Naviance to attend. See the list of colleges visiting just this month!

College	Representative	Date	Time	
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Gary Wilson	Mon September 20, 2021	11:00 AM	
Lasell University	Monica Gallego Rude	Mon September 20, 2021	12:00 PM	
University of Massachusetts-Boston	Brian Gallagher	Tue September 21, 2021	11:00 AM	
University of Connecticut	Raven Soumholphakdy	Tue September 21, 2021	12:00 PM	1

Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Jennifer Cluett	Wed September 22, 2021	11:00 AM
Westfield State University	Katelyn Shea	Wed September 22, 2021	12:00 PM
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth	Majay Charley	Thu September 23, 2021	11:00 AM
Merrimack College	Ashley Willis	Thu September 23, 2021	12:00 PM
Boston University	Griffin Monahan	Fri September 24, 2021	11:00 AM
Castleton University	Amanda Ley	Mon September 27, 2021	12:00 PM
University of New England	Jeremy Longchamp	Tue September 28, 2021	12:00 PM
Roger Williams University	Heather Schramm	Wed September 29, 2021	11:00 AM



VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS

This fall, the National Association of College Admission Counseling will host its slate of college fairs virtually. The next session is on Sept. 12 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Additional virtual fairs will be held on Oct. 3, Oct. 24 and Nov. 14. [Visit this website](#) for more information.



FEE WAIVERS

Life presents us with many challenges. This pandemic has presented us with even more, especially in the financial sphere for many. Due to recent circumstances, your child may be eligible for free or reduced lunch. [Lunch Menu / Free and Reduced Eligibility Requirements](#). While lunch IS free for all students this year, students on that list qualify for fee waivers for PSATs, SATs, ACTs, College Applications, and more. This can be an expensive process without that support. Touch base with Ms. Rodman, if you need assistance or have any questions.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!

As we all returned to full-time, in person learning, there have been many changes to adjust to and even more needs to be met. I thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through another challenging start. I value your partnership and will do my best to service all who are in need. Wishing you a healthy and productive school year! Don't ever hesitate to reach out with any comments, concerns, suggestions or recommendations. I look forward to working with you and your students throughout the coming school year.

Ms. Ilene Rodman, EdM
High School Counselor
irodman@bbrsd.org
508-869-2333 x2317