



Our **Student Services Team** is committed to ECS's dedication to supporting the whole child and aligns with [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) #3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and #16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). For more information on the preventative and responsive services offered at ECS, visit our website and reach out to a team member any time throughout the school year. We are here to help!

~ [Maryssa Stavros](#), Assistant to the Superintendent for Student Services

Meet Our Team

The **ECS School Counseling Team** focuses on preventative skill building for school success and overall wellness.

[Andrea Szolna](#), Primary School (K-2) Counselor

[Alexa Galdes](#), Intermediate School (3-5) Counselor

[Dylan O'Neill](#), Middle School (6-8) Counselor

[Keith Bull](#), High School (9-12) Counselor

The **ECS School Social Work Team** focuses on home-school-community connections, supports attendance needs, and aims to break down barriers for school success.

[Vanessa Veltre](#), Primary School (K-2) Social Worker

[Rachel Wachter](#), Intermediate School (3-5) Social Worker

[Taiesha Jones](#), Middle School (6-8) Social Worker

[Bess Gates](#), High School (9-12) Social Worker

The **ECS School Psychologist Team** completes evaluations and collaborates with school-based teams to determine student needs and develop support plans that help students succeed in school.

[Casey Fenton](#), Primary School (K-2) Psychologist

[Stephanie Cole](#), Intermediate School (3-5) Psychologist

[Alexis Pasi](#), Middle and High School (6-12)

The **ECS School Nurse Team** is dedicated to the health and well-being of our students while providing resources, services, and healthy tips to keep students safe and promote good health.

[Beth Goetz](#), Primary School (K-2) Health Office Nurse

[Allyson Rys](#), Intermediate School (3-5) Health Office Nurse

[Judy Brand](#), Director of Health Services K-12 & Middle School (6-8), Certified School Nurse

[Caitlin Morgan](#), High School (9-12) Health Office Nurse

Is Your Child New to ECS?

ECS works as a team to welcome our new students. New students may have a classroom buddy, counseling group, fun lunch, buddy break, or additional check-ins. Please keep in touch with your child's school counselor if your child would benefit from additional support with the transition to ECS.

Academic and Behavioral Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

ECS has robust programs to support students' academic and behavioral success. If academic, behavioral, or social-emotional concerns are identified, know there are dedicated teams of professionals in each school that will implement data-based interventions to help your child find success!

Attendance Works

Regular school attendance is much more than just a state law. Attendance patterns in elementary school can have lasting impacts on student achievement in middle school, high school, and beyond. While missing one or two days a month may not seem like a lot, within a school year, that student will miss out on 10% of learning opportunities.

If you need help establishing routines around attendance, please reach out to your school social worker for support: Vanessa Veltre (K-2) x 9621, Rachel Wachter (3-5) x 9431, Taiesha Jones (6-8) x 9312, or Bess Gates (9-10) x 8016. Read more about attendance and chronic absenteeism at [Attendance Works](#).



Go Guardian: Beacon

[Beacon](#) is a suicide and self-harm prevention tool that our student services team will be utilizing to monitor and proactively identify at-risk students. If a student searches a topic on a school computer that is concerning, the parent/guardian will be directly notified. Please reach out to your school's social worker or school counselor with any questions.

School Based Mental Health Services: The Children's Institute (CI)

ECS is excited to partner with The Children's Institute (CI) to offer space for outpatient mental health services to occur within the school setting. This service can include traditional talk therapy and/or optional medication management and is billed through your insurance. Enrolled students meet with their CI therapist during the school day. CI accepts a wide range of insurance providers! If you are interested in connecting your child with an

outpatient therapist, reach out to your building based school social worker for more information.

Sleep Resources

Daylight savings time ends Sunday, November 2nd. General guidelines suggest school aged children should be getting 9-12 hours of sleep each night and teens should be getting 8-10 hours. Wondering if your child is getting enough? Check out [this article](#). Here is another resource to find out more about [tips for consistent sleep](#).

PAAR Family Information

ECS has continued our partnership with the Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) to provide our students with important lessons around boundaries and consent. Developmentally appropriate lessons will be taught by the school counselor. See your grade level newsletters for more specific information.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Updates

Did you know that each week, classroom teachers facilitate Morning Meetings (K-5) or Crew (6-12) lessons that align with the [CASEL framework](#) and promote social emotional learning (SEL)? Our Primary and Intermediate buildings utilize the [Second Step](#) digital curriculum, while our middle and high school teachers facilitate [Wayfinder](#) activities.

College Preparation

The ECHS staff is thrilled to have our third graduating class this year, as well as all the opportunities that come with preparing for the next steps after ECS. This fall, the high school will be sending 12th graders on various visits to colleges and college fairs. At many of these events, seniors will have an opportunity to be accepted to a college and receive a scholarship on the spot.

Specifically, we are taking juniors and seniors to the Pittsburgh Promise College Fair and the Steel City HBCU Fair. Later in the year, 11th graders will be applying to participate in a national HBCU Tour that takes place the following spring. To support our students in their

preparations to apply to various colleges, ECHS offers SAT Prep classes twice a year. Classes are after school, twice a week. Information on the fall class will be released soon.

Halloween Safety Tips

As we get closer to the end of October, it's also time for Halloween and trick-or-treat is a big part of that in many of our communities. Please check out these [Halloween Safety](#) tips and talk with your children about measures they should take to be safe while out and about.