Career and College Counseling

Strath Haven High School

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School Counseling at SHHS

- 9th grade counselor: one counselor works with the entire 9th grade cohort. This model allows the counselor to concentrate on the specific needs of new high school students including transition and executive function.

- 10th-12th grade students assigned to a dedicated school counselor by alphabetical sorting who works in a team with an administrator and behavioral health counselor. That team follows the same group of students for the remainder of the high school years in order to establish and maintain strong relationships founded in trust with both the students and their families.

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Career and College Counselor

The Career and College Counselor works with all students at Strath Haven High School to support post-secondary planning and success. The Career and College Counseling Center provides this support in a number of ways, including but not limited to:

- ★ Parent/Family programming for post secondary planning
- ★ Application and transcript support
- ★ College Admissions relations
- ★ Career development lessons and workshops
- ★ DCIU Tech School
- ★ Field Careers and Co-ops
- ★ Dual Enrollment
- ★ Application workshops and lessons
- ★ Financial Aid resources/Scholarships
- ★ Athletic recruiting/NCAA
- ★ First generation student/Underrepresented minority student programming
- ★ CEW Standard alignment and artifacts
- ★ Data collection, analysis, and sharing

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Classroom Lessons

Career and College Counselor visits classrooms at all grade levels

- **Career Readiness and Exploration**
  - Identifying Strengths; Using Naviance; Exploring Careers; Building a Resume; Employability skills
- **Post Secondary Planning**
  - The Process; Q&A; Exploration and research; course scheduling relevant to post secondary planning
- **Standardized Testing**
  - PSAT; SAT; Pre-ACT; ACT; AP

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Group Programming

The Career and College Counselor provides group programming for students during drop in sessions

- College application completion workshops - summer, lunches, 5th block, in-service days
- College essay workshops
- Interview tips, etiquette, and practice
- Scheduling and course selection assistance
- Other areas of need and interest

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Day/Evening Programming and Family/Community Support

The Career and College Counselor creates and presents day and evening programming for families/students/community members related to a range of topics

- Financial Aid for college
- Post-secondary planning topics, such as transition to college and standardized testing
- Summer activities for high school students
- Career development
- Transition to college/post-high school life
- Grade level topics of interest
- Coffee with the Counselor

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What we believe

- All students deserve equal access to career, education, and work education
- All students are entitled to determine their post secondary path
- We will support students and families to achieve their post secondary goals
- We will work hard to ensure that students who graduate from SHHS have a plan for their life of career, education, and work beyond graduation

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How we do it

It might look different for your student than for another student - individual attention
Communication
Collaboration
Curriculum and programming is different for each grade level/age appropriate

9th grade - strengths and interests; course selection; Smart Futures
10th grade - how strengths and interests inform career development and post secondary plans; standardized testing; course selection; Smart Futures
11th grade - career development; standardized testing; specific post secondary planning; letters of recommendation; course selection; workshops; college visits; classroom lessons; Smart Futures
12th grade - Application processes; standardized testing; college visits; military; work; workshops;

And LOTS of individual focus from school counselors

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Important Information

- Department Administrative Assistants
  - Mrs. Debbie Seifrit
  - Mrs. Kim Horetsky
- How we communicate
  - Social media
    - Department website
    - Instagram Haven_Counselors
    - WSSD Socials
  - Emails to students
  - Principal's weekly email blasts
  - Daily announcements
  - HSA

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Grade by Grade

9th grade

Transition year

Learning how to do HS

Building independence

Exploration - Executive Function

Engagement

10th grade

Identifying strengths and interests

Stretching - seeking challenge/trying new things

Electives

Planning - including summer

PSAT/Pre-ACT

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Focus on Life after HS

11th grade

Communication

Deliberate planning, realistic goal setting, demonstrated interest, course scheduling

Organization - reading emails, attending programming, paying attention!

Testing - if appropriate and needed

Letters of recommendation

12th grade

All the 11th grade stuff!

Have a plan

Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines

Attention to detail

Flexibility, open mind, it's all going to work out!

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Finally...

1. Ask questions
2. Communicate
3. Comparison is the thief of joy...and the source of potential big mistakes in the post-secondary planning process. There is no one way to do this or best way to do this. There is no “best” school. The US News and World Report list is totally unhelpful. Rankings are a marketing tool.
4. Applying to college is a complicated process. Ask for help. There are no dumb questions.
5. It’s hard to be a HS student. Many of our students feel a lot of pressure about doing well and outcomes. We try very hard to diminish some stress about this.

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