

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK HIGHLANDERS!

What a start to the school year! As we have welcomed students back to campus, our staff has also worked through the challenging process of leveling classes due to enrollment. We know that schedule changes and classroom adjustments can be disruptive for students, families, teachers, and staff, and we want to extend a sincere thank you to our entire McLane staff for your patience, flexibility, and support throughout this process.

Leveling requires a tremendous amount of collaboration behind the scenes, and we appreciate everyone who has helped answer student questions, reassure families, welcome students into new classrooms, and make the necessary adjustments as we work toward balanced class sizes. Your partnership with the Counseling Department makes a difference, and we are grateful for the grace you have shown during a very busy start to the year.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNSELORS!

We are also excited to extend a warm Highlander welcome to the newest members of our Counseling Team, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs Ihde and Ms. Silva!

Beginning at a new school comes with a learning curve, and our new counselors have jumped right in during one of the busiest times of the year. They have been learning new caseloads, systems, programs, procedures, and responsibilities—all while supporting students and families through the start-of-year rush.

We are incredibly appreciative of their willingness to learn, ask questions, and take on their new roles. We also want to thank everyone for your patience and support as they continue getting settled and learning all things McLane.

We are excited to have them as part of our Highlander family and look forward to all they will bring to our students and school community.



COUNSELING HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Information Night

On August 12, the Counseling Team hosted our Senior Information Night, welcoming more than 200 seniors and their families to campus! The evening focused on helping our Class of 2027 start senior year informed, prepared, and ready for the important decisions ahead.

Counselors shared essential senior-year information, including graduation expectations, college and career planning, financial aid, and important dates and deadlines students will encounter throughout the year. Families also received hands-on support with creating their FSA ID, an important first step in preparing to complete the financial aid application.

Back-to-School & Schedule Support

Counselors supported students with the transition back to school, including schedule distribution, schedule-change requests, course placement questions, and individual student needs. As enrollment continues to settle, our team has also been working through required leveling and master schedule adjustments while trying to minimize disruption for students.

Reviewing Student Schedules

Our counselors have been carefully reviewing graduation requirements, course placements, and individual student schedules. This work is especially important at the beginning of the year as we ensure students are enrolled in the courses they need while maintaining balanced class sizes across the school.

Connecting With Students & Families

The first weeks of school have been filled with student and parent questions, individual follow-up, and problem-solving. We appreciate everyone's patience as our counselors work through a high volume of requests while continuing to provide individualized support to students.

SEPTEMBER COUNSELING

September gives our counseling team an opportunity to move from the busy start-of-school scheduling season into more intentional student programming. Our focus will include Senior Check-Ins, freshman transition support, academic progress monitoring, and college and career readiness.

Senior Check-Ins begin September 1!

Throughout the week, seniors will meet with counselors to receive important information for their final year at McLane and review their individual graduation plan.

Students will also have one-on-one time to ask questions about graduation requirements, college and career planning, financial aid, applications, and the important steps they need to complete throughout senior year.

Our goal is for every senior to leave their check-in with a clear understanding of their individual plan, available resources, and what comes next.

Freshman Focus

Our counselors will connect with freshmen through classroom presentations and individual check-ins. Students will receive information about high school expectations, graduation requirements, academic success, counseling resources, and how the choices they make during freshman year contribute to their four-year plan.

These early connections also give counselors an opportunity to begin building relationships with our newest Highlanders and identify students who may need additional support.

Academic Progress

As the first grading period progresses, counselors will begin reviewing student performance and identifying students who may need additional academic support.

Following progress grades, our team will conduct D/F Chats with identified students. These conversations allow counselors to review current grades, discuss barriers to success, connect students with available resources, and help students develop a plan for improvement before the end of the quarter.

College & Career

College and career planning is officially underway! September will include several opportunities for students to begin exploring and preparing for their postsecondary options.

Seniors should continue checking their email, counseling communications, announcements, and passes for information about college application workshops, financial aid, scholarships, college visits, and other opportunities throughout the year.

IMPORTANT COUNSELING DATES-SEPTEMBER

- September 1–4: Senior Check-Ins (L119)
- September 2: Back to School Night
- September 4: QuestBridge Alumni Presentation
- September 7: Labor Day — No School
- September 8–11: Freshman Fall Presentations (Math Department)
- September 14: Last Day to Drop a Dual Enrollment Course Without a W
- September 14-18: Freshman Individual Counselor Conferences
- September 17: Fresno City College DSPS Application Workshop
- September 20-25: D/F Chats (9th & 10th Grade)
- September 23 & 25: UC Workshops (L-119 & Library)
- September 30: Fresno City College Application Workshop (English Department)