



# Counseling Center

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Greetings! We are well into the school year now, and it seems to be going faster than ever. As it is in many places, this time of year is always busy in the Counseling Office.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COUNSELING

The 8th grade class will be visiting HVCC and St. Rose for a campus tour in April. I have been meeting with 8th grade students about 9th grade courses. I discussed the requirements necessary to obtain a high school diploma, and their interests and goals. Each student was given a copy of their Course Selection Sheet. Please ask to see it, then sign it and have your child return it to the Counseling Office. Please feel free to make contact if you have questions or would like to meet.

We are making plans for next year's schedule. If your child is currently enrolled in band and/or chorus for 6th and 7th grade they will automatically be rolled into these classes next year. If there is a change, please let me know. If your child is currently not participating in these classes but would like to, please let me know. In doing so it will help alleviate schedule changes in September.

## High School

It's hard to believe that the Class of 2018 is halfway through their senior year!

In October, the Counseling Office had a very successful HVCC Instant Admission Day, where students from the Class of 2018 were accepted for next year's fall semester at Hudson Valley Community College. In addition to these acceptances, our seniors have been working hard to get their college applications submitted. As we begin the second semester, seniors planning to attend college in the fall should have already submitted their applications. It is important that students check with admission offices to be sure their applications are complete. Beginning in January, students should turn their focus on looking for scholarships.

Students, especially seniors intending to go to college, should be stopping in the Counseling Office to check for any scholarship opportunities. All scholarships are also posted on the Counseling Center webpage,

[www.berlincentral.org/hs/counseling-center/](http://www.berlincentral.org/hs/counseling-center/) which is located under the high school tab—counseling center and then the Scholarship Opportunities link. College bound seniors — remember to complete your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) This information is posted on the Counseling Center Webpage.

In December, Mrs. Harrison met with all of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders who had taken the PSAT's this past October. This meeting gives students a better understanding of what their scores mean, learn about some of the free resources offered through College Board, and continue their path of career and college planning as they work towards graduation.

As we look towards the spring, 11th graders who are planning to apply to 4-year colleges next school year should begin registering to take either the SAT or the ACT exams. Please see the registration dates and deadlines on the back.

Individual meetings will begin with 11th graders at the beginning of the month to review their goals for after graduation and to develop a plan to reach those goals. Small group meetings with the 10th grade class will begin in April. These will focus on their skills, interests and planning for life after high school.

## Questar III Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs and New Visions Programs

In November, our 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to hear presentations on the one and two year Career and Technical Education programs and the New Visions programs (seniors only) offered by Questar III. Interested students will be receiving information in the upcoming weeks on the open house at the Rensselaer Education Center which showcases these programs and their teachers. For any student who is interested and may have missed the presentation or has questions, please see Mrs. Harrison in the Counseling Office. Additional information can be found at [www.questar.org/education/career-tech-ed](http://www.questar.org/education/career-tech-ed)

## Course Requests

Students recently completed their course requests for the 2018-19 school year in their English classes, led by their school counselor (Mrs. Harrison or Ms. Lazarony).

## CTE Programs for 2018-19

In March, our 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who have shown an interest in a Questar CTE Program for the 2018-19 school year will have the opportunity to visit the Rensselaer Education Center and spend some time touring the programs and shadowing the area they are most interested in. Following the visit, Mrs. Harrison will check in with students to get feedback on their level of interest and hand out Student Intake Forms. Any students wishing to commit to a CTE program for the 2018-19 school year must return their completed intake forms to the Counseling Office. It is also important that students focus on passing all courses, good attendance and good behavior to be an appropriate candidate for these programs.

## Junior Parent Information Night

Mrs. Harrison will be hosting a Junior Parent Information Night on February 13<sup>th</sup> for parents of the Class of 2019. During this presentation, parents will learn about the timeline leading up to high school graduation, such as the college application process, financial aid, credits needed to graduate, scholarships, etc. If you are unable to attend and have questions, please contact Mrs. Harrison.

## Summer Opportunities

On our Counseling Office webpage there will be a link which shares information with families regarding summer activities/opportunities for students in grades 6 through 12. For example, Capital District Writing Camp, Williamstown Soccer Camp and HVCC and Dyken Pond Summer Camps. In addition, there are summer programs being offered by colleges and universities for high school students. There will also be employment opportunities which we will post as we see fit. If your child is in need of working papers they may stop in the Counseling Office for an application or there is a link on our webpage to print it as well. Once they have completed the application they would submit it to the main office for processing. If you have any questions regarding the summer opportunities link I invite you to call the Counseling Office.

## Important Dates

<b>February 9</b>	MS/HS Early Dismissal - Parent Teacher conferences
<b>February 9</b>	Registration deadline for the March 10 <sup>th</sup> SAT exam.
<b>February 13</b>	Junior Parent Information Night @ 6:30 (snow date: February 15 <sup>th</sup> )
<b>February 14</b>	Driver's Ed. begins
<b>March 9</b>	Deadline for the ACT Exam—April 14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>April 6</b>	Deadline for the May 5 <sup>th</sup> SAT Exam
<b>May 3</b>	Deadline for the June 2 <sup>rd</sup> SAT Exam
<b>May 4</b>	Deadline for the June 9 <sup>th</sup> ACT Exam