

# Barbara Welch Learning and Enrichment Center



*Meeting the  
individual needs  
of our students.*



# The Welch Center at-a-Glance

## Services for All Students

Open to all students to maximize high school academic performance and enhance social skills to prepare for success in college, career and life.

### OPPORTUNITIES

Structured study for groups and individuals  
Peer and faculty tutors  
Study, time- and stress-management strategies  
Guidance for college essay writing  
Preparation for class and standardized tests

## Special Services

Services for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), where possible, in collaboration with Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative (LASEC).

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Extended test time (150%)  
Preferential seating  
Tutoring and support in the Welch Center  
Copies of peer notes or teacher outlines  
Tape-recorded lectures (teacher approved)  
Use of books on tape (ordered/purchased by parents)

## Sullivan Program

A developmental education program for students needing to improve academic skills for success in high school.

### KEY OFFERINGS

Freshmen study skills  
Reading instruction  
Structured study halls  
Test preparation skills  
Focus on learning styles  
Academic counseling  
Faculty collaboration

## Career & College Speakers

Alumni and community speakers present career options and personal experiences to broaden student perspectives and expectations about alternatives following graduation from Guerin Prep.

## Faculty Resources

Tracy Hannon, director of the Welch Center, collaborates with Guerin faculty, deans and counselors to ensure individual student needs are met.

The Welch Center matches students with faculty tutors as needed and runs the Freshmen Experience, mandatory summer school for students who need to strengthen their skills prior to entering high school. Ms. Melinda Meo trains and directs the peer tutors for the Lead Tutor program.

# Helping Each Student Achieve Success

Learning to ask for help can be as important as mastering an advanced concept in geometry. At Guerin Prep, we encourage all students to take advantage of the many resources available in the Barbara Welch Learning Enrichment Center. Students benefit by working with Center staff in building and internalizing strategies that will help them not only in their academic career at Guerin Prep but also as they continue their education and careers.



***Skill Development:*** From note taking to taking the ACT or writing a college essay, students will find practical answers and guidance to make life as a student easier. We encourage students to set specific goals for their work with the Welch Center staff and attain a sense of accomplishment.

***Stress Management:*** We have tips and strategies to help manage the pressures of adolescence and schoolwork. We also work closely with the Guerin Prep counselors to help students and families manage personal issues.

***Career Planning:*** Working with the alumni and counseling departments, we sponsor career speakers to introduce our students to the many opportunities that await them in the future.

## Resources

Freshman year can be challenging. Teachers expect students to take greater responsibility for assignments and scheduling their time than they may have had in elementary school. Stress levels may rise as students encounter new social situations and increased competition in college prep coursework. In the Welch Center, we've developed Freshmen Study Skills resources to help students build the proficiency and confidence they need to succeed in high school, right from the start.

In addition to finding resources for all class years in the Welch Center, several may be downloaded from our Web site, [www.guerinprep.org/strategies-for-success.html](http://www.guerinprep.org/strategies-for-success.html). Examples include templates for note-taking, how to write a lab report, tips for multiple choice test taking as well as an information sheet for parents on how they can support their student.

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# Individual Tutoring: Faculty & Peer

The feeling of success that comes from the “ah-ha” moment when a new concept is learned is something we want every student to experience in each and every class they take. Yet, while math might come easily to some students, capturing significant historical concepts may not.



All students need help from time to time with new concepts, test-prep or simply stress reducing strategies.

Our Lead Tutor program capitalizes on the strengths of Guerin Prep’s own students, pairing peers with particular knowledge or talent in a subject area to students who request help themselves or are referred to the Welch Center by a classroom teacher. Our Peer Tutors have been taught tutoring strategies by and work under the direction of Ms. Melinda Meo, who manages the program. Drop-in tutoring is available before school or during the school day.

Faculty tutoring is another valuable component of the Welch Center. Teachers are available in the Welch Center and additional faculty assistance can be called on as needed by appointment.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of tutoring resources, whether one-time to master a concept or regularly to build the base they need to work with greater confidence on their own.

## Special Services

Guerin Prep High School works in collaboration with the Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative (LASEC) to provide services for students who qualify for special education services because of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). While Guerin Prep does not provide a full range of traditional special education services, we are able to make certain accommodations for qualified students. We begin with a review of a potential student’s elementary school records, entrance test scores, current IEP, ISP, ICEP or 504 Plan to determine whether the student could succeed at Guerin Prep before acceptance. Please see typical accommodations on the “at-a-glance” page.

Guerin also offers limited opportunities for students with English as a Second Language (ESL).

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# Sullivan Program

The Sullivan Program is a developmental education program for students needing to build the academic skills to succeed in Guerin's college prep curriculum and post-secondary education.

## INTENSIVE SUPPORT LEVEL

All freshmen and any upper level students referred for the first time to the Sullivan Program receive intensive support in learning needed skills and applying them to current studies through a structured study hall and personal meetings with the Welch Center staff. Specific academic level 1 classes for freshmen are available in math, science, social science and theology. In addition, reading support is available in the level 1 English class. Working closely with these core teachers, the Sullivan Program staff carefully monitors academic progress and mentors its students.

## MAINTENANCE LEVEL

Students who have shown success are placed in the Maintenance Level the following year. In this way, the Sullivan Program remains an integral part of their high school experience at Guerin Prep, meeting with the student and parents as needed to ensure continued success by regular monitoring of the student's personal and academic progress.

## ACADEMIC & INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

Coordination with teachers in math, science, social science, theology and English allows the Sullivan Program to initiate individual faculty tutoring as needed. The Welch Center staff strives to coordinate lessons where possible, and plan and participate in meetings with parents and faculty to monitor each student's progress.

A unique, interdisciplinary American Studies course combines English and social studies sophomore year, allowing greater teacher and content collaboration.

## GUIDED STUDY: INTENSIVE SUPPORT INTERVENTION

Developed to provide a structured environment for Sullivan Program students, the Sullivan Study Hall is a pass/fail class with direct instruction in learning strategies and study skills. During the study hall period, supplemental math and science instruction is also provided by a certified teacher.

## REQUIREMENTS

### Freshmen:

- Placement in the Intensive Support Level based on entrance exam scores, elementary school records and recommendations.
- Completion of the Guerin Prep Freshmen Experience required during the summer after 8th grade to develop essential skills and build knowledge in specifically identified subject areas.
- Enrollment in the Sullivan Study Hall and two or more level 1 classes.

### Upperclassmen:

- All students entering the Sullivan Program for the first time placed in Intensive Support Level.
- Enrollment in Sullivan Study Hall for Intensive Support Level students.
- Students who succeed in the prior year's academic classes placed in the Maintenance Level the following years.

### Parents:

- Commitment to attend staffings and parent-teacher conferences as needed.

# How the Welch Center Works

The Barbara Welch Learning and Enrichment Center is a self-paced learning environment offering assistance to Guerin Prep students who wish to improve their high school academic performance in preparation for success in college and career. We work closely with the administration, faculty and staff at Guerin Prep to help meet the individual needs of our students.

The Welch Center, which was dedicated in 2002, is in Room 213 of Guerin Prep and is open on school days from 7:30 am to 3 pm. Students are encouraged to use the Welch Center before school in the morning, during their lunch or study period. Individual and group study are encouraged.



**Barbara Welch,**

for whom the Center is named, was an educator at Mother Guerin High School for 32 years. Since 2002, the Welch Center has promoted the spirit of academic excellence and unfailing generosity so evident in Ms. Welch's character. She fostered a love of learning and a quest for excellence in all her students.



**Sister Marie Ellen Sullivan, SP,**

served as principal of Mother Guerin High School from 1975 to 1987. To a rare degree, she combined administrative excellence with community service during her 54 years as a Sister of Providence. The Sullivan Program was named to honor her commitment to all students and in particular to those needing a more structured academic approach to help them succeed.



**Tracy Hannon, director of the Barbara Welch Learning Enrichment Center,**

was one of the founding co-directors when the Welch Center opened in 2002. Her teaching career began in 1999 at Guerin as a student teacher in the English Department and full-time teacher the following spring. Ms. Hannon received a B.A. in teaching of English from the University of Illinois at Chicago and an M.A. in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago. Ms. Hannon can be reached at 708.453.6233 or [thannon@guerinprep.org](mailto:thannon@guerinprep.org).

