

COUNSELING PROGRAMS & SERVICES

ACADEMIC COUNSELING

Counselors assist students in setting long-range academic goals in a variety of ways. These goals can encompass a student's time at Guerin Prep and extend to their plans for post-secondary education and career options. Counselors work closely with teachers, advisors, and parents to help students stay on track to graduate from Guerin College Preparatory High School and position themselves for success beyond high school. Providing individual attention to students helps counselors address academic deficiencies or difficulties as early as possible, assisting the student in finding ways to overcome such difficulties.

Counselors are especially involved during the annual scheduling process, leading large group presentations outlining the goals and procedures of academic scheduling, as well as individual sessions with each student to finalize course selection. Throughout this process, counselors work closely with other faculty to ensure that a student is sufficiently challenged by their courses without being overwhelmed by the academic load.

COLLEGE COUNSELING

The College Counseling program is designed to assist students with all aspects of the college selection, application, and financial aid process. Utilizing a developmental approach, students are encouraged to challenge themselves academically, discover their strengths and leadership qualities, and grow in self-awareness.

The college counselor works closely with parents, teachers, and other members of the counseling staff to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their post-secondary plans.

TESTING

The Counseling Department provides age-appropriate testing on a yearly basis. Such tests can be used to assist in course placement, monitor academic progress, and as part of the college application process. Standardized academic tests and interest inventories are used in conjunction with grades and teacher evaluations to help students develop a holistic picture of their abilities, achievements, and interests. Counselors always follow up any testing with small-group presentations to help students interpret and appropriately utilize test results.

The major standardized tests given are:

- Incoming 8th graders: EXPLORE
- Sophomores: PLAN
- Juniors: PSAT and ACT

PERSONAL COUNSELING

The counselor's fundamental focus is the individual needs and growth potential of the student during this time of transition to adulthood. Through close collaboration with teachers, counselors strive to respond to the needs of individuals and class levels. Should a student and family require more in-depth services, they may contact any of the following resources:

Adolescent and Family Counseling

Tria Murphy, Ph.D.
7447 West Talcott Avenue
Suite 333
Chicago, Illinois 60631
773-631-8337

Tom Como, LCSW
715 Lake Street
Suite 516
Oak Park, Illinois 60301
708-848-7536

Catholic Charities (Archdiocese Office)
126 North Des Plaines Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
312-655-7000

Colleen Fairbanks, Ph.D.
950 Lee Street
Suite 202
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847-696-1100

Chloe Kokkalas, M.A.
4801 West Peterson
Suite 205
Chicago, Illinois 60646
773-282-2322

Far Northwest Counseling Service
6229 Northwest Highway
Chicago, Illinois
773-774-7555

Resurrection (formerly ProCare)
1414 Main Street
Melrose Park, Illinois
708-410-0615

Metropolitan Family Service (Referral Resource Service)
312-986-4000

Eating Disorders

Peggy Lynch, LCSW
Oak Park, Illinois
708-848-8813

Substance Abuse/Substance Evaluation

F.A.I.R. (Families and Adolescents in Recovery)
Contact: Joanna Bowersmith, M.A., CADC
847-359-5192

Vince Murphy, LCSW, CADC
312-409-1997

Advocate Medical Group
847-795-2897

Northwest Community Hospital
847-618-2700

Domestic Violence and Rape Resources

Sarah's Inn
101 Madison Street
Suite 300
Oak Park, Illinois 60302
708-286-3305
Hotline: 708-386-4225

Domestic Violence Hotline
City of Chicago
877-863-6338

Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline
888-293-2080

Psychological and Educational Testing

Phyllis Shafron, Ph.D.
707 Lake-Cook Road
Suite 123
Deerfield, Illinois
847-945-7850

Michael Downs, Ph.D.
708-524-4091

Andrew Shack, Ph.D.
708-386-8112

Chicago Neuropsychology Group
333 North Michigan Avenue

Suite 1801
Chicago, Illinois
312-345-0933

Neuropsychological Services, P.C.
Frederick Bylsma, Ph.D.
3375 Arlington Heights Road
Suite J
Arlington Heights, Illinois
847-394-4174

SUPPORT GROUPS

During the year, counselors may offer a number of support groups and mini-courses depending on need, addressing both personal and academic issues. Courses have included: Study Skills, Personal Awareness, Decision-making, and issue-specific support groups. Such groups are advertised to students through Homeroom, or a student may receive a personal invitation from the counselor.

Certain issues tend to arise at identifiable points in the developmental transition to adulthood and counselors attempt to respond to the needs of individual students or the class level through these groups. Counselors meet regularly with the homeroom advisors to share information about class-level issues and identify the best way(s) to assist students.

JOB BOARD

The Counseling Department acts as liaison between local businesses looking for part-time or temporary help and students looking for a job while attending Guerin. Job openings are posted on the Counseling Department door as well as listed in the weekly announcements each Monday; they usually include a short description of the position, hours required, and contact information.