



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencatholic.org

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Dear Parents,

October 13, 2017

Now that you've looked at the enclosed report cards, thanks for taking the time to read this letter. The quarterly newsletter you receive from the Counseling Department will be emailed with the report cards.

Please also take the time to look at the September and October issue of this year's High School Years notes. The Counseling Department purchased these so that we can share with you practical information that promotes school success. As monthly issues, these can also be viewed on the Counseling Department page of the Providence website under "Newsletters."

As for our Counseling Department, I, Mrs. Ryan, am the Director of Counseling as well as the counselor for the freshmen and sophomore students whose last names begin with T-Z. Mr. Senffner is our counselor for freshmen and sophomore students whose last names begin with the letters A-K. Mr. Mahaffey is our counselor for freshmen and sophomores with last names beginning with L-S. Mr. Murphy is our junior and senior/college counselor for students with last names beginning with A-K. Mr. Palmasani is our junior and senior/college counselor for students with last names beginning with L-Z. Mrs. Brassil is our administrative assistant and will be the "voice on the phone" when you call and ask for the Counseling Department.

Your kids may not let you know that they're seeing us in the Counseling Department. You may be wondering what we talk about. When we meet with them, we check to see how things are going. We review their academic progress with them; we discuss their personal concerns; we listen to their hopes and dreams. We talk about college and use Naviance Family Connection with them. Our Counseling Program insures student time spent with a counselor in each of the four years of high school.

We visited Theology classes within the first full week of school to explain the purpose of the Counseling Department and what students can expect from us. We visited English classes before the recent national testing and will again to follow up with test results. We also arrange additional classroom visits for things like course selection.

October 11 was all school testing day. The freshmen and sophomores took an ACT prep test. The juniors had two tests available. Most took a retired ACT test. The results of this should help students to focus on areas they may need to strengthen before taking the ACT next spring. The PSAT is a preparation for the SAT. (Less than 5% of our students take the SAT.) The PSAT was given primarily to junior students in Honors English and AP English so they can be considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program (awarded to the top 1/2 of 1% of those nationwide taking the test) though it was available to **all** juniors.

Naviance Family Connection is a web based software program that assists in managing the college selection process as well as assisting in career searches that we use with all of our students.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors have been instructed in its use. Freshmen will be introduced to Naviance Family Connection in their Health classes on October 18 and 19. All other freshmen will be introduced to it through their Intro to Technology class on October 20. Each class, freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors have been assigned tasks which can be found on their Family Connection homepage. Please ask your children to share this program with you. It can be accessed through the Counseling Department page on the Providence Catholic website. To log in, students use their school email as their username. Their password is the same one they use to log in to our Providence Catholic network.

For the fourth year, the Counseling Department will be offering college planning meetings for juniors and their parents during February and March. Our junior and senior/college counselors, Kyle Murphy and Frank Palmasani, will host these personalized, interactive sessions which will focus on the college search and selection process. Each junior **along with their parents** will be assigned a specific date and time during the school day to meet in small groups in our College and Career Center. Our goal is to assist juniors in identifying “perfect college fits” as they prepare for the college application process which begins in the fall of their senior year.

Some of the other things the Counseling Department has been busy with are the College Night for Seniors and Their Parents, the Conquering College Costs evening and the upcoming annual college fair at Joliet Junior College that is sponsored by area high schools including Providence Catholic. We are also busy with Red Ribbon Week (for drug and alcohol awareness), the Student Assistance Program and Peer Mediation. We are preparing our Freshman and Sophomore Parent College Night which will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 2nd.

We encourage you to check out the Counseling page of the Providence Catholic website. Click on Current Students and scroll down to Counseling Department. When you click on that, there will be a menu on the left side of the page that lists much helpful information.

We're very grateful that you've given us the opportunity and privilege of sharing in the sculpting of your children's lives. It's exciting to watch the changes that occur in the often-frightened entering freshman who becomes a self-assured young adult. These four years go by so quickly.

Continue to support and encourage your kids. We'll be doing the same here.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Ryan
Director of Counseling

PJR:lb
enclosures