

GREAT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

August 2021

Dear Sophomore Parent/Guardian:

The Counseling Department has greatly enjoyed working with you and your son/daughter during the past school year, and we look forward to working together over the next three years. During the fall of last year, counselors met individually with freshmen to introduce themselves, explain the counseling program and NAVIANCE, stress the importance of maintaining good grades as it relates to college planning, and to review the benefits of co-curricular and volunteer involvement. They also reviewed resources at GVHS, including ways to access both academic and student-service supports.

During the winter of this year, all sophomore students will complete a career interest inventory on NAVIANCE. The results of the survey will be available on NAVIANCE as soon as it is completed. During the spring semester, sophomores will meet individually with their counselor to discuss how their interests match with the interests of people in various careers. Counselors will also review how elective selections relate to career interests. Sophomores will be encouraged to begin thinking seriously about future plans and goals in preparation for their junior and senior years and beyond.

We will host our annual **Sophomore Student and Parent Night** in early January. In the past, we have invited guest speakers who have provided valuable information about topics such as career pathways/college majors, student athlete/NCAA regulations, college planning general information, and college admissions exams. The feedback from previous evenings has been very positive, and we hope that you and your son/daughter will join us for this program. It is important for students and parents to be in attendance to receive this important information. We will make every effort to provide current and useful information, especially as it relates to future planning.

On **Saturday, September 11**, GVHS will offer a virtual practice ACT or SAT test for sophomores. This practice exam gives students a general idea of how they might score on a real SAT and ACT exam so they can become familiar with the format of the test. More information and registration directions will follow in a few weeks. A second round of virtual practice exams will be offered on **Saturday, February 5**. Please also keep in mind that GVHS gives the **PSAT** (official practice exam for the SAT) free of charge to all sophomores and juniors during school hours. The date of the PSAT this year is **Wednesday, October 13**. You will receive more information about the PSAT in September, and there is no need to register for the test.

Counselor caseloads will remain the same for the 2021-2022 school year and through graduation. Students are assigned by the first few letters of the student's last name. Students whose last names begin with **A-Day** will be assigned to Mr. Robert Lavelle; **Db-Gy** will work with Ms. Meridith Bebee, who is also the Counseling Department Chairperson, **H-Mat** with Ms. Carrie Kane, **Mau-Rod** with Ms. Anna Saracino, and **Roe-Z** with Mr. Jeff Martin.

Please note that students who participate in the National School Lunch Program or have acute financial need are eligible to have fees waived for school activities as well as SAT, ACT and AP exams. Please contact your student's counselor if/when you require financial assistance for school-related activities.

We look forward to an exciting and productive sophomore year with your son/daughter. If we can be of assistance, please contact our department at (610) 889-1918 ext. 21930. You can also access resources, dates, forms, etc., on the [GVHS Counseling](#) website. Counselors will return to work with all faculty on **August 24**.

Sincerely,

The Counseling Department