



Welcome to Our Guidance Department

We are proud to offer a wide range of support services to help our students reach their highest academic potential.

- **Academic guidance:** We review transcripts with students to ensure the completion of New York State graduation requirements. Students learn how to interpret their own academic transcripts through classroom and one-to-one sessions in order to encourage understanding, agency and self-advocacy.
- **Advisory:** students receive Advisory lessons in a variety of topics created by the guidance department in collaboration with the advisory committee. Each month, the lessons are presented by teachers across subject areas, supported by department-specific instruction. Some annual themes mandated by the NYCDOE include Respect for All Week, HIV/AIDS lessons, and Appropriate Internet Use and Safety.
- **Classroom psychoeducational presentations:** The guidance department presents monthly classroom lessons that are both relevant to our community and developmentally appropriate to students' grade levels. Students are encouraged to participate actively in these lessons to engage with the content.
- **College and career readiness:** All students across grade levels are encouraged to access the guidance of our college advisor. College and career advising takes place through individual, group, and classroom contexts. Our college advisor creates our college access monthly newsletter and distributes it throughout the school and family community. This will be discussed in the one-to-one meetings, as well.
- **General and crisis counseling:** We help students who are experiencing social/emotional difficulties that may interfere with their success at school. Our guidance counselors help students develop the skills to manage and address interpersonal challenges. Students may self-refer or be referred by teachers/staff and/or parents. Confidentiality is kept with the exception of safety-related issues. We offer support in a range of topics. Counseling may be provided on an individual or group level and may be voluntary or mandated as per a student's IEP. In these sessions, counselors aim to cultivate strong relationships that allow for continued conversations throughout each student's academic career. Families are supported whenever appropriate.
- **TCS Non-Emergency Counseling Screening and Referral Forms:** We have created two Non-Emergency Counseling Screening and Referral Forms. One is for students to seek counseling, and the other is for school staff to refer a student for counseling based on their observations of student behavior.
- **Drop-in psychoeducational counseling:** These open weekly after school drop-in groups are offered as needed based on themes that resonate with our student community. Students can receive support around a variety of topics and connect with peers with similar experiences. In addition, social work interns host one drop-in counseling group for ninth and tenth grades and one for eleventh and twelfth graders. The themes vary monthly.
- **Columbia University Social Work Interns:** We have four social work interns per academic year that provide additional clinical support to our student community through academic and social/emotional check-ins, individual and group counseling sessions, school culture events to enhance social/emotional learning and community resource access, advisory lesson support, and post-secondary preparation.
- **Professional development:** The guidance department leads professional development for school staff on a myriad of topics informed by the chancellor's regulations and the needs of our school community. Interdisciplinary meetings coordinate the efforts of general education teachers, special education teachers, guidance counselors, and social work interns to discuss trends within the challenges our students face, as well as host interventions with individual students as needed.

Paulette Monforte, 10th and 12th Grades ~ Peter Moore, 9th and 11th Grades