Westbury High School

*Westbury school District Comprehensive School Counseling Program*

*Grades 9-12*
High School Counselors at a glance

- The high school counselors are assigned students alphabetically from grades 9-12. Each counselor has a caseload of 300+ students.

(Specialized counselors for ENL, SWD, BOCES)

- Ms. Abby Archdeacon
- Mrs. Sandra Auguste
- Mrs. Rachael Castillo
- Mr. Drew Harrison
- Mr. Manfredy Jerez

- Today’s young people are living in an exciting time, with an increasingly diverse and mobile society, new technologies and expanding opportunities. To help ensure they are prepared to become the next generation of parents, workers, leaders and citizens,” students need support, guidance and opportunities during adolescence, a time of rapid growth and change. Adolescents face unique and diverse challenges, both personally and developmentally, that have an impact on academic achievement.
The Role of the High School Counselor

Purpose

- High School counselors are professional educators with a mental health perspective who understand and respond to the challenges presented by today’s diverse student population.

- High School counselors do not work in isolation; rather they are integral to the total educational program.

- They provide proactive leadership that engages all stakeholders in the delivery of programs and services to help students achieve success in school. Professional school counselors align with the school’s mission to support the academic achievement of all students as they prepare for the ever-changing world of the 21st century.

Counseling/Instruction

- School Counseling includes structured lessons within the classroom for all students.

- Small group sessions (outside of the classroom) to address student needs relating to social skills, individual student responsibility, personal development and academic awareness.

- Personal Counseling includes one on one counseling for crisis-related needs and identified behaviors that hinder academic, personal and social growth.

- Team Meeting Coordination, Parent Meeting Coordination, SSST team meeting support for all students.

School Counselors Making a Difference
School Guidance Curriculum

- Academic skills support
- Organizational, study and test-taking skills
- Education in understanding self and others
- Peer relationships and effective social skills
- Career awareness, exploration and planning
- College and Career Programs/Field trips and Mini-College Fair program coordination

Individual Student Planning

- Career Counseling/Career Plan development
- Academic planning
- College Readiness & Planning
- Education in understanding of self, including strengths and weaknesses
- Personal Development
- Coping Skills and Growth Mindset Strategies
- Transition planning/Post High School
- Communication, problem-solving, decision-making and conflict resolution
Responsive Services

- *Individual and small group counseling*
- *Individual/family/school crisis intervention*
- *Peer facilitation*
- *Consultation/collaboration*
- *Community Networking and Collaboration to support families*
- *Community/Agency Referrals*
System support provided to Parents, Teachers, Students, and Administrators

- **Parents:**
  - Parent information night
  - Communication/networking
  - Academic planning programs
  - Parent and family education
  - One-on-one parent conferencing
  - Assessment results interpretation
  - Resource referrals
  - College/career exploration

- **Teachers:**
  - Career portfolio development
  - Assistance with students’ academic plans
  - Classroom guidance activities on study skills, career development, etc.
  - Academic support, learning style assessment and education to help students succeed academically
  - Classroom career speakers
  - At-risk student identification and implementation of interventions to enhance success
  - Parent communication/education
Administrators:

- School climate
- Behavioral management plans
- School-wide needs assessment
- Student data and results
- Student assistance team building
- Leadership

Students:

- Peer education
- Peer support
- Academic support
- School climate
- Leadership development
WHY High School Counselors?

- High school years are full of growth, promise, excitement, frustration, disappointment and hope. It is the time when students begin to discover what the future holds for them.
- Secondary school counselors enhance the learning process and promote academic achievement.
- School counseling programs are essential for students to achieve optimal personal growth, acquire positive social skills and values, set appropriate career goals and realize full academic potential to become productive, contributing members of the world community.
- The high school counselor holds a master’s degree and required state certification in school counseling.
- Maintaining certification includes on-going professional development to stay current with educational reform and challenges facing today’s students.
- Professional association membership is encouraged as it enhances the school counselor’s knowledge and effectiveness.