

For Freshmen & Families:

Reality Check!



**LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT
DECEMBER 2020**





This evening's program



In the presentation, we'll cover:


- ◇ Website
- ◇ Academics
- ◇ Testing
- ◇ Personal development
- ◇ Counselors' role
- ◇ Other school staff
- ◇ Evening programs

... and conclude with Q&A



Academics



- Course selection:
 - *Notification goes home in January*
 - *Student conversations with parents, teachers, counselor*
 - *Final selections due in February*
 - *Confirmation of schedule by May*
 - *All changes due in June – no changes after that!*
-  Consider:
 - *Balance and breadth of subject areas*
 - *Total workload, along with other time demands*
 - *Be challenged - but be aware of stress, need for sleep*
 - *Central Montgomery Technical High School*



Academics



- Transcript:
 - *Record of courses and grades for all 4 years*
 - *GPA on a max scale of 5.0*
 - *Grading system = A+, A, A-,
B+, B, B-
C+, C, C-
D+, D, D-
F*
 - *Honors, APs & IB weighted 5.0*
 - *College Prep & Electives 4.0*
 - *How colleges calculate GPAs*



Academics



- Graduation requirements:

21 credits:

4 English

4 Social Studies

3 Science

3 Math

2 Arts & Humanities

4.5 Electives

4 years of PE,

1 year of Health

Graduation Project

Recommended:

***4 years of each core academic class &
at least 3 years of a world language***



Testing



ALL STUDENTS

Midterms & Finals:

The District eliminated midterms and finals as stand-alone events on the calendar and exchanged the midterm and final exam weeks for additional instructional time.

Instead of having a separate midterm and final, these assessments will be woven into the fabric of the year in appropriate places and for appropriate weights within the scope of the grade for that course.

BY GRADE

KEYSTONE EXAMS : End of Course Exams (EOC)

- Algebra EOC of Integrated Math II – in May
- Biology 9th - in May
- Literature 10th - in May
- Retest in December

PSAT:

- 10th – *Practice only* in October
- 11th – NMSQT in October

Outside of school - college applications - students also take the ACT, SAT & SAT Subject Tests, usually in 11th and 12th grades. Test Optional policies are expanding.

“SCATE” classroom lessons 9th-12th



School Counseling And Transition Experience (SCATE)

- Self-discovery through *Naviance* using the Career Interest Inventories
- Understanding standardized testing, importance of transcript and GPA
- *College and career readiness* skills like budgeting time and adjusting to more independence

9th – Goal Setting – Getting Involved; Consent

10th – Career Exploration

11th – College and Career Preparedness; More on consent

12th – Transition from high school and stepping up to stop sexual assault



Evening Programs



In the 2020-21 school year, all programs will be virtual via Zoom

10th: *PSAT Overview*

Career Symposium (daytime)*

11th/12th: *The College Process*

College Fair (daytime)*

Admission Select A Session

Financial Aid Overview & FAFSA Completion Nights

College Planning for Students Who Learn Differently

Special Interests Select A Session

Letting Go for Students & Parents

Coffee & Conversation– Day and evening



Personal Development



- Character
 - *Understanding self, empathizing with others*
 - *Working hard, striving to meet potential*
 - *Acting with integrity in and out of class*
- Leadership
 - *Opportunities increase: Peer leaders, club officers, athletic captains*
 - *Time management skills, self-advocacy, organization, group dynamics*
- Service
 - *Volunteerism, gratitude, perspective - in school and/or the community*



Counselors' Role

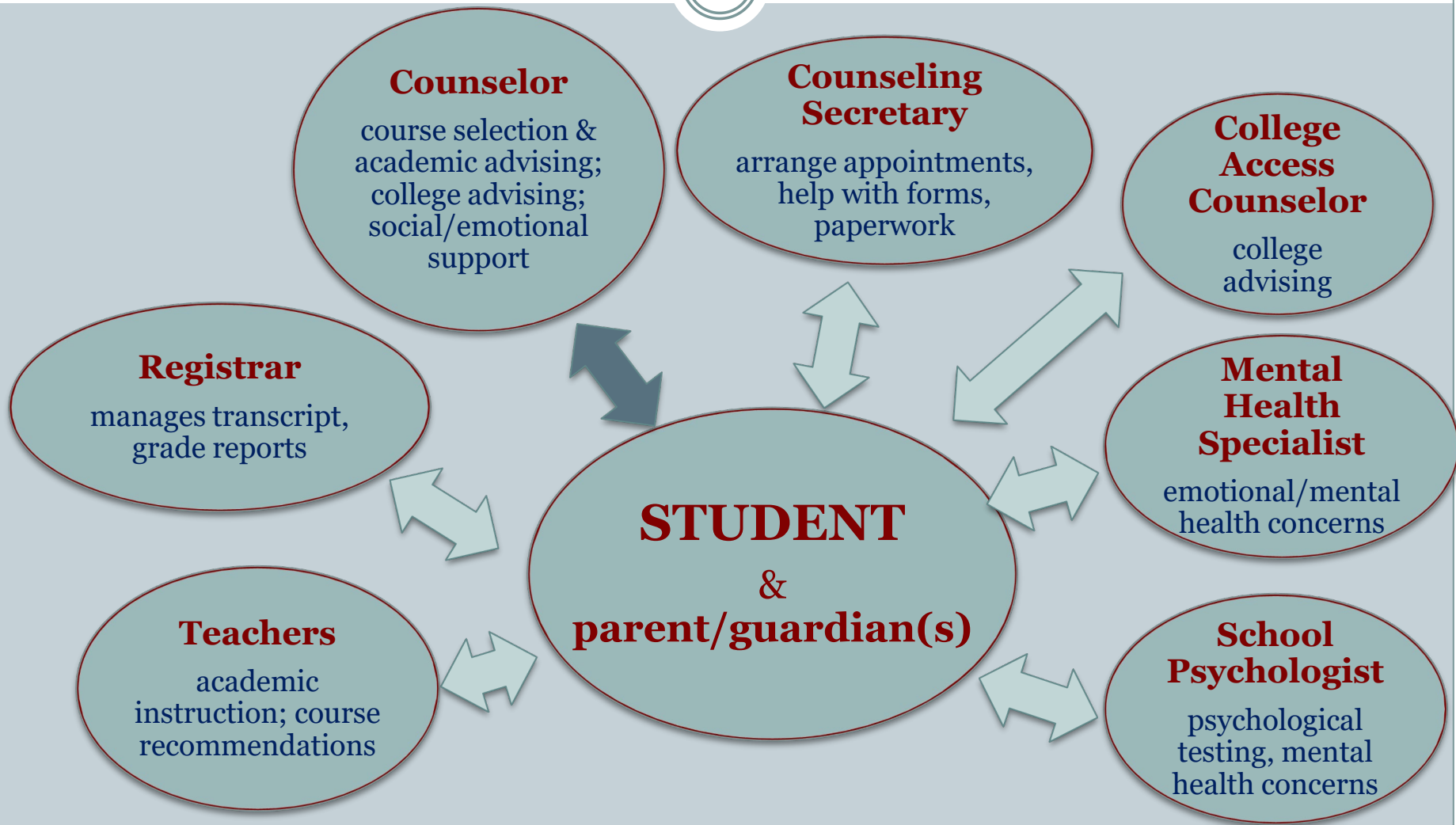


- ❖ Academic planning
- ❖ Career planning
- ❖ College planning
- ❖ Testing information, tips
- ❖ SCATE Lessons

- ❖ Personal Counseling
- ❖ College counseling
- ❖ Financial aid information
- ❖ Transitioning from high school to life beyond
- ❖ Other Duties as Assigned



Other School Staff





Questions?



What we covered this evening:

- ◇ Website
- ◇ *Academics*
- ◇ *Testing*
- ◇ *Personal development*
- ◇ *Counselors' role*
- ◇ *Other school staff*
- ◇ *Evening programs*

We are here to help!