

For Freshmen & Families:

Reality Check!



LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 2019





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:
 - *Mailing 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 MontCo HS for Technical Studies*



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 and 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:

- Over 4 half days in January

January 21st - 24th

Finals:

- Over 4 half days in June

June 9th – 12th

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 - for college applications - students also take the ACT, SAT & SAT Subject Tests, usually in 11th and 12th grades.

“SCATE” classroom lessons 9th-12th



School Counseling And Transition Experience (SCATE)

- Self-discovery through *Naviance* using the Career Interest Inventories
- Understanding standardized testing, mid-term and final preparation, and 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



10th:

PSAT Overview

Career Symposium (daytime)*

11th/12th:

The College Process

College Fair (daytime)*

Behind the Scenes in College Admission

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– Alternating School Buildings-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

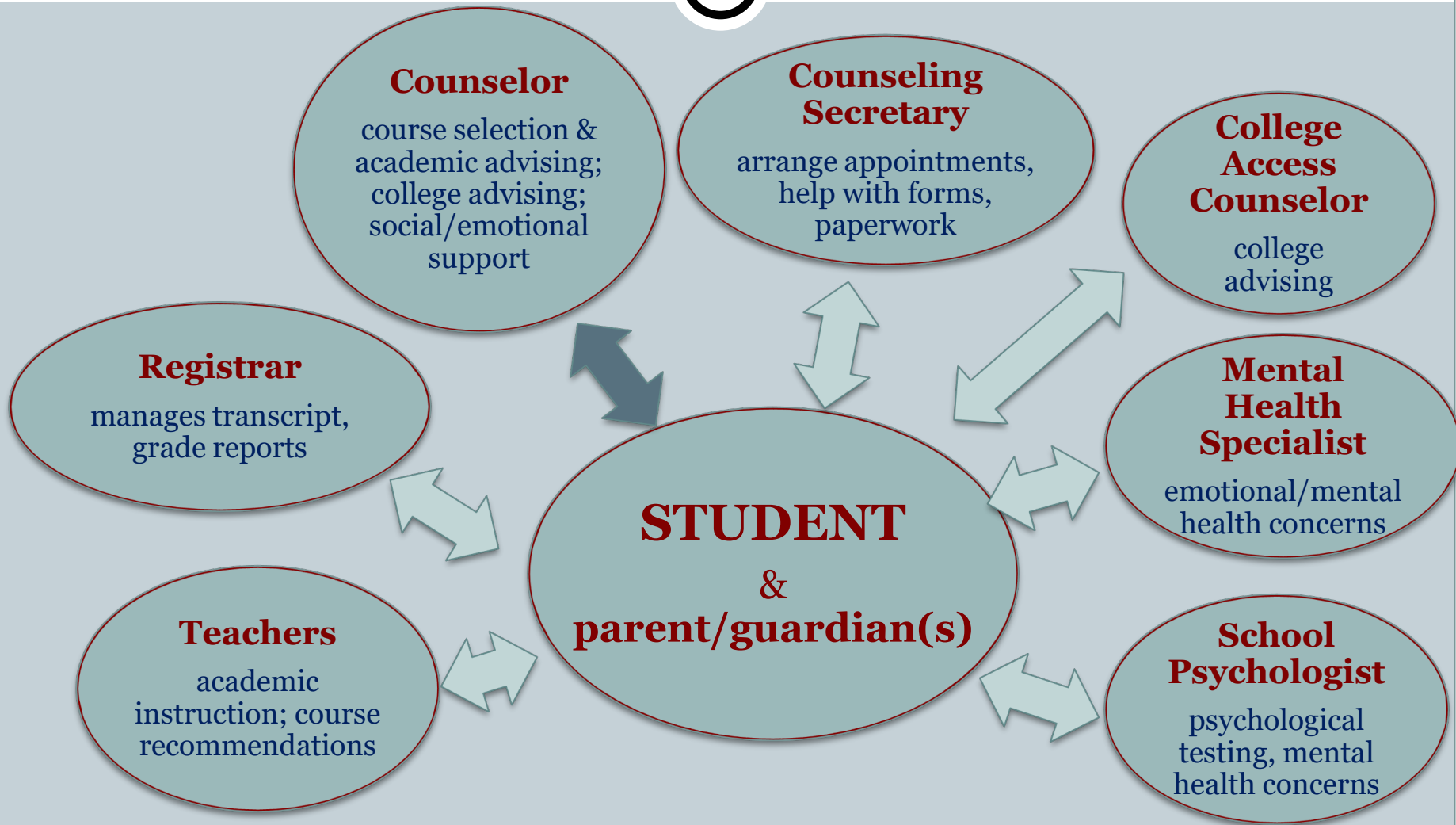


- ❖ Academic planning
- ❖ Career planning
- ❖ College planning
- ❖ Testing information, tips
- ❖ SCATE Lessons

- ❖ 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!