

September Counseling Update

Welcome to HHS Class of 2024!

Hello Hellgate Knights! Every month, the HHS Counselors send out a Counselor Update to keep students and parents updated on Counseling related updates and events along with some general HHS info. Some of these updates include a lot of information. We hope that you will scan through and read the info that is important and relevant to you.

Class of 2024 Counseling Google Classroom- We have a Google classroom for each of our graduating classes. We utilize the classroom to send messages, share important documents, remind students about upcoming events and share Counseling Curriculum. We do not assign work through the Classroom, it is a resource for students.

We will invite 9th grade students directly to the Classroom. Please check in with them and encourage them to join. They can also join themselves with this code: [flupkzp](#)

Hellgate students who are attending the MOA have also been invited to the Counseling Google Classroom. Since MOA is only funded through Sem 1, you will return to Hellgate at some point, so we invite you to follow along.

Request an Appointment with your Counselor

This year, we are asking students to email their Counselor directly to request an appointment. Student's can find this info outside the Counseling area or on the HHS Counseling website. Parents may also request an appointment via email. Due to current MCPS protocol, parent meetings will be held virtually or by phone.

Student Services Hilight:

Tracy Ledyard, MSW

taledyard@mcpsmt.org

728-2400 ext 6062

Hello and Welcome to Hellgate High School. My name is **Tracy Ledyard** and I am both the School Social Worker and Family in Transition Coordinator. My office is located on the first floor near the commons.



The School Social Worker is available to all students and families. I help connect people to resources inside the school and in the community. I work closely with our administration, school counselors, mental health staff, coaches, and teachers to advocate for students. These supports include:

- access to basic needs and supplies

- social and emotional support and resources
- referrals to mental health professionals
- helping identify and break down barriers to success at school

The Family In Transition Coordinator (FIT for short) works with families who are “In Transition” as defined by the Federal McKinney - Vento Act. I work to help identify students (who meet this definition), to ensure we remove any barriers to enrolling and attending school.

The McKinney-Vento Act provides rights and services to children and youth experiencing homelessness, which includes those who are:

- sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- not living with a parent or guardian;
- staying in motels, trailer parks, or camp grounds due to the lack of an adequate alternative;
- staying in shelters or transitional housing; or sleeping in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, or similar settings.

In addition to the above, my room always has a healthy supply of snacks, toiletries, and school supplies--- **ALL STUDENTS** are welcome. For any questions, please feel free to reach out!

Hours: M-F 8a - 4pm

Success in class

Attendance Matters - in building attendance, and online attendance

-Hybrid model means you come to school 2 days a week and will have remote work which could occur on Google Classroom, paper assignments, projects - come to school and do your remote work on off days (Google Classroom, assignments, projects)

Contacting teachers about specific classroom questions is the first place to start. [List of Teacher Contacts](#)

Culture at Hellgate-Hellgate

Diversity/Opportunity/Clubs/Activities/Athletics/Flagship

We believe strongly that students succeed when they are an invested member in our community. Please be on the lookout for opportunities through our Bulletins.

Flexibility and adjustments to school

Important dates

The District will be making announcements and decisions about hybrid and returning full time to school, and provides a great explanation of different schedules. Please check out this district website for days of attendance and future planning. This includes definition of remote days: [District Dates](#)

Here is the link the regular district calendar for general holidays

[High school calendar](#)

Schedule change process

August 31st was the semester 1 change deadline set by the principal. There will be no changes even in the courses that have not started their rotation for semester 1. Some students may be moved based on STAR testing and a need for math support.

Deadlines for semester 2 schedule change process is unknown at this time.

Stay informed

There are numerous ways to stay informed about what is happening at HHS. Email communication is sent home regularly. If you are not receiving this communication, we encourage you to contact the front desk to update your info. Here are some other helpful links:

HHS Daily Bulletin (Announcements): <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Domain/3071>

HHS Event Calendar: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/10#calendar7/20200914/month>

HHS Counseling Website: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/site/default.aspx?DomainID=334>

HHS Counseling Event Calendar: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/10549>

HHS Counseling Updates: <https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/9488>

Q Student Information System

MCPS utilizes the Q information system. As a parent, you can view your students attendance, assignments, schedule and much more. To log in to Q or to request access to Q, visit this link: <https://q.mcps.k12.mt.us/ParentPortal/>

Graduation requirements

As student's work their way through high school, we consistently discuss and refer to the MCPS graduation requirements. These requirements can be viewed here:

<https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/16369>

How to earn semester credit

Students have the opportunity to earn credit for each of their classes at the end of each semester. Credit is awarded as .5 credit for a semester long class. Credit for a year-long class is also awarded on a semester basis. If your student is currently taking six classes, and they pass all of them, they will end this semester with a total of three credits. $6 \text{ (classes)} \times .5 \text{ (credit)} = 3 \text{ credits}$

COVID update

Please read and stay updated on District and County Health Department regulations. [District COVID Update page](#) One protocol restricts visitors to the building, and this

includes Parent and guardians. Emailing school counselors will be a great avenue for staying in touch with us.

High School Traffic Education

High School Traffic Education is run through the Lifelong Learning Center. For more information, check out their website:

<https://mcps.asapconnected.com/#CourseGroupID=16943>

We're here to help!



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