**September Counseling Update**

**Welcome to HHS Class of 2025!**

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.

HHS Counselors:   
Katie Boynton Students with the last name A-E: [keboynton@mcpsmt.org](mailto:keboynton@mcpsmt.org)  
Ben Martin Students with the last name F-K: [bdmartin@mcpsmt.org](mailto:bdmartin@mcpsmt.org)  
Morgan Troutt Students with the last name L-Q: [rtroutt@mcpsmt.org](mailto:rtroutt@mcpsmt.org)   
Jessica Buboltz Students with the last name R-Z: [jlbuboltz@mcpsmt.org](mailto:jlbuboltz@mcpsmt.org)

**Class of 2025 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 be inviting your 9th grader to the Counseling Google Classroom when we visit them in the beginning of October to share our Freshmen success curriculum.

**Success in class**

The Counselors will be working with 9th grade English teachers to talk to your students about Freshmen success (and success in high school). These presentations will happen at the beginning of October. We look forward to visiting classes and getting to know our new 9th graders.

**How do I see my counselor?**Students have a number of options to see their counselor. They can always drop-in to Counseling before school, during lunch, office hours or with permission from their teacher. They can also email us directly or complete the student services form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeOOvm6ScQxdaCVodQKRnYrgvwmg6fyu9Tu1uh_V6nNFITP4w/viewform?usp=sf_link>

The best way for parents to reach us and to request an appointment is via email. We are happy to schedule phone conversations, virtual meetings or in-person meetings.

**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.

**Schedule change process**

September 3rd was the deadline to request a semester 1 schedule change. We are still working through academic misplacements and some students may be moved based on STAR testing and a need for math support to better serve their needs. Dropping a class after the deadline will result in an F in the class.

Counselors will address requests for semester 2 classes and schedule changes within the upcoming months.

**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>

**Infinite Campus Student Information System**

MCPS utilizes the Infinite Campus information system. As a parent, you can view your students attendance, assignments, schedule and much more. There have been some technical difficulties in the transition. If you are having trouble logging in, or need password information, please email Susan Elliott for help. [selloitt@mcpsmt.org](mailto:selloitt@mcpsmt.org) To log in to IC, visit this link: https://missoulamt.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/missoula.jsp

**COVID update**

Please read and stay updated on District and County Health Department regulations. [District COVID Update page](https://www.mcpsmt.org/Page/15088)

**High School Traffic Education**

High School Traffic Education is run through the Lifelong Learning Center. Contact your counselor if you would like scholarship information. For more information, check out their website: <https://mcps.asapconnected.com/#ProgramID=1635>



**Social Worker Highlight:**

Tracy Ledyard, MSW

School Social Worker

Room 206A

[taledyard@mcpsmt.org](mailto:taledyard@mcpsmt.org)

728-2400 ext 6062

Hello and Welcome to Hellgate High School. My name is **Tracy Ledyard** and I am the School Social Worker. My office is on the 2nd floor in the Student Services Area. I am no longer in the role of substitute school counselor or FRC/FIT coordinator.

**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:

* referrals 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

**We are in the process of hiring a new Family In Transition Coordinator** (FIT for short) works with families who are “In Transition” as defined by the Federal McKinney - Vento Act. They 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 the absence of having a school coordinator, please let your school counselor know if this describes your situation and they will connect you to Colleen Lehman, the District Coordinator. She can be reached at [clehman@mcpsmt.org](mailto:clehman@mcpsmt.org) 728-2400 ext 1080.

**Student Support Services**

Hellgate has a unique process to make sure students have access to support throughout the day. Students who are struggling to stay in class due to social/emotional issues can request a “blue card” from their teacher. They will be given a 5 minute break to try to regulate and then sent to Student Services if they need more time and someone to talk to. Support staff available to students include school counselors, school psychologist, school social worker, dean, advanced programs coordinator, and administration. We are here to help. Students can also make an appointment with any of the above through email or using the following link: <https://forms.gle/btK13W9QoDb7bYCK8>

**Project Success at Hellgate**

**What is Project Success?**

Project Success is a free school based service that provides substance use prevention education and early intervention services for students.

Early intervention for students who may be at risk for use or have a friend, family member or loved one struggling with substance use or a substance use disorder.

Prevention education through high school classes and individual meetings with students.

Referrals to resources needed to assist and support students and families.

**Distance Learners:**

For students who are participating in online learning or who want to connect on days that they are not in the building, Project Success is now offering Zoom Telehealth meetings. Just email, call or stop by to make an appointment.

**How can I make a referral?**

**email: Shelley Grados (sgrados@mcpsmt.org), phone 406-728-2400 ext: 6612 Rm # 264**

**Some useful websites:**

**How to talk to your kids about drugs:**

<https://vertavahealthtexas.com/talking-kids-about-drug-alcohol-abuse/>

<https://drugfree.org/article/spotting-drug-use/>

<https://drugfree.org/drugs/>

<https://drugfree.org/article/is-substance-use-normal-teen-behavior/>

**WEEKEND FOOD BAGS** are available for students to grab every Friday. These are provided through Missoula Food Bank and contain small grab and go food for the weekend if needed. These are available outside room 164D. No sign-up required.