

THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

FOR JUNIORS AND PARENTS

Welcome back to school! Things are in full swing in the Counseling Office. Each month, the Counseling Department will be updating events and happenings that students and parents should be aware of what is taking place.

THE EHS COUNSELING TEAM



- Ms. Nikki Plafcan, A-Br 848-3184 Nicole.plafcan@edinaschools.org
- Ms. Angela Kieffer, Bu-Ec 848-3122 Angela.kieffer@edinaschools.org
- Mr. Taylor Johnson, Ed-Hau 848-3142 Taylor.johnson@edinaschools.org
- Mr. Dylan Hackbarth, Hav-Lan 848-3125 Dylan.hackbarth@edinaschools.org
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- Mr. Bill Hicks, Post-Secondary Counselor 848-3127 William.hicks@edinaschools.org

Meet the Newest Member of the Counseling Team: Ms. Nikki Plafcan: Nikki is entering her first full year as a School Counselor at Edina High School. She has been a part of Edina High School for six years working in Special Education, Options Alternative Learning Program, was a Long-Term School Counseling substitute, and most recently, May Term Advisor. Nikki received her B.A degree in Secondary Education from Concordia College, and her M.S degree in School Counseling from Minnesota State University Moorhead. We welcome Nikki to the Counseling Department.

COLLEGE PLANNING

Standardized Testing:

- The **PSAT** is a practice SAT. Days to register are ***during the week of September 16th – 20th*** during all 3 lunch hours in the commons by the media center. The fee is \$25.00. *It is recommended that college bound juniors take this test to prepare for the SAT.* Juniors that take the PSAT can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program based on their results. For more information: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>
- The **ACT includes the following sections: English, Reading, Math and Science, as well as an optional Writing Test. Some schools may require the Writing Test, so be sure to ask before you register for the ACT.** These tests are offered 7 times throughout the academic calendar, most at Edina High School. Most juniors will start taking the ACT at the earliest in the December timeline.

College Search:

- Attend the **National College Fair** at the Minneapolis Convention Center on October 2nd and 3rd. There is a Wednesday evening session for students who do not want to miss school. If students do attend the day sessions on Wednesday or Thursday, they must have parent verification *prior* to attending. Students will need to preregister before attending. More information: <https://www.gotomyncf.com/Registration/EventSelectForState?stateName=minnesota>
- Over 200 plus colleges will be visiting Edina High School in the upcoming two months. Students are encouraged to stop in the College Career Center and listen and learn about these schools. Students need to get back on their Naviance accounts and add colleges to their “Colleges I’m Thinking About” and they will be notified via email when they are visiting EHS (see below). It is the student’s responsibility to get a pass from their teacher to attend these visits. More information: <https://www.edinaschools.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1842>
- Get back on to your Naviance account. Log in through the Edina Portal. This is the counseling department’s one-stop shop for all information for students in regards to the college planning process. For example, if students place a name of a college they are interested in – Click on “Colleges” and “Colleges I Am Thinking About”; students will receive an e-mail reminder when that school visits Edina High School. More information: :
- Start your post-high school planning in earnest. A good first step is to make sure you are following the Counseling curriculum through your ***advisory***. Each month, juniors will be working with the counseling curriculum through their advisory to update, guide and track

their post-secondary plans and college applications. The programming **for all 9th-12th grade** students and the goal for students each grade.

- Start thinking about MEA break and visiting colleges. These visits can be local to get you thinking about what you want in a school. It's easy to schedule a visit online at any school's admissions page or you can call their admissions office. Colleges in Minnesota and Wisconsin tend to fill up early, so book now!

BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR:

- ***COFFEE WITH THE COUNSELORS*** – Parents are invited to join two members of the Counseling Department for an intimate discussion of relevant topics. These sessions are for parents only and is limited to the first 50 respondents. Sessions are held in the Media Center beginning at 7:30 am and concluding at 8:30 a.m. Bring your questions. More information will be sent via email in the upcoming days on how to register.

<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
	<i>October 9</i>	<i>Testing/Getting a Handle on it!</i>

- ***FLEX BLOCK SEMINARS*** – Students are invited to join the Counseling Department to receive relevant information on topics pertaining to post-secondary planning, academic and personal issues. Flex blocks are held during the last period of the day (2:18-3:16 pm) on even days (Thursday).

<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
	<i>November 1st</i>	<i>Finding Out about Gap Year and International Travel</i>

- For more information on the school Counseling Department, visit us at <https://www.edinaschools.org/Page/5091>
- Lastly, follow us on Twitter to stay in touch with what is going on in the Counseling Office at EHS :@edinacounselors

