



## Welcome to High School!

We would like to welcome you to high school, a very exciting time in a student's life. Below we are providing some helpful information to get you started.

Students are assigned to a counselor by the student's last name and then work with an administrator based on their counselor. The ninth grade assignments are as follows:

Student's Last Name	Counselor	Administrator
A - COVI	Ms. Galarneau galarneauc@guilderlandschools.net	Mr. Mazza mazzab@guilderlandschools.net
COVJ-HOGA	Ms Kaplan kaplana@guilderlandschools.net	Mr. Wolf wolfs@guilderlandschools.net
HOGB-MARI	Mr. Nolan nolanr@guilderlandschools.net	Mr. Wolf wolfs@guilderlandschools.net
MARJ-POU	Ms. Baumgartner baumgartnerl@guilderlandschools.net	Ms. Holmes holmesa@guilderlandschools.net
POV-SRIP	Ms. Murphy murphyk@guilderlandschools.net	Ms. Holmes holmesa@guilderlandschools.net
SRIQ-Z	Ms. Knapp knappa@guilderlandschools.net	Mr. Mazza mazzab@guilderlandschools.net



We are all located in the Counseling Center. If you would like to reach your child's counselor by phone, you may call 518-861-8591 X1300 and speak with one of our secretaries.



We maintain a google site with lots of great information which will become more and more relevant as your child progresses through high school. Check out our website here:

<https://sites.google.com/guilderlandschools.net/counseling-center/home>



School Counselors will be working with your child throughout high school to address academic, career and social/emotional needs. This begins with a brief meeting in September to introduce ninth graders to their Counselor and the Counseling Center to help them feel more comfortable approaching us if they need something. Students can email us directly with questions and concerns or even stop in before school, after school or during study hall to see if we are available or to make an appointment. We do our best to get back to students and parents within 24 hours.



Checking the eschool parent portal regularly will keep you informed of how your child is doing in each class. Grades are published at the end of every quarter as well as a progress report mid quarter. These grades are a snapshot, not live documents so checking eschool regularly will keep you better informed. Final grades for classes are based on the quarterly averages (and may or may not include a final exam). A final average of 65 is passing. Here is the link to access the parent portal: <https://parentportal-neric.eschooldata.com/Guilderland>



If you want to know what your child's assignments are that day, you and your child can log into their google classrooms together to take a look at current assignments. Students are expected to be growing into more independent learners and homework may involve studying in addition to producing more tangible assignments (something to turn in).

**Please contact the teacher directly if your child is struggling in a particular subject. Their email address is their [lastnamefirstinitial@guilderlandschools.net](mailto:lastnamefirstinitial@guilderlandschools.net).**

**You can also contact teachers through the *ParentSquare* platform, which is new for the 2023-2024 school year. You may create a login via this link <https://www.parentsquare.com/signin>.**

**Here is the list of Instructional Administrators, in case you need to contact them:**

Dr. Alex Finsel, English, Reading and Social Studies: [FinselA@guilderlandschools.net](mailto:FinselA@guilderlandschools.net)

Susan Marks, Math, Science and Technology: [MarksS@guilderlandschools.net](mailto:MarksS@guilderlandschools.net)

Shannon Elliott, Art, Music and Business: [ElliottS@guilderlandschools.net](mailto:ElliottS@guilderlandschools.net)

Robert Winans, Music: [WinansR@guilderlandschools.net](mailto:WinansR@guilderlandschools.net)



If your child seems to be struggling in everything, please contact us. Together we will figure out the next step which may include a schedule to get extra help with teachers after school (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, the days late buses are provided), with NHS tutors during study hall (students can drop into the NHS tutoring center in the library) or possibly a virtual meeting with all of the teachers to talk about what is going on and to make a plan together.



Please contact us if your child is experiencing any significant changes in their environment (divorce, death in the family, family illness). We will discuss how to best support the students in our building. When students are struggling with difficult issues in or out of school, we also have social workers who can check in with them. Our social work department has also created a wellness website where students can go for a variety of resources. The link is:

[WELLNESS WEBSITE](#)



If your child is not feeling well, please contact one of our school nurses at 518-861-8591 x1331.



If your child will be absent for the day, please contact the attendance office at 518-861-8591 x1105. Please encourage your child to reach out to the teacher directly for work they will be missing.



If your child needs tech support for their chromebook, they need to put in a tech request at this address:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem4UCPcguTfD6\\_dlviaAZmVwJAxbbRE97x1G2GZx27WUdRDw/v  
iewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSem4UCPcguTfD6_dlviaAZmVwJAxbbRE97x1G2GZx27WUdRDw/viewform)



We encourage all of our students to get involved in co-curricular activities, after all that is the fun part of high school! You can find the list of activities on the Guilderland High School website. (Coming soon, a list of clubs along with their advisors.) website:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSdtQ2s7HT\\_LMP2mmhxXAlrCyeVm8XsVH9iPaMjilgjH11pFL77IltO3COJjhBQL6fEXzSGZILQUf/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.gfe5cf2022f\\_2\\_107](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSdtQ2s7HT_LMP2mmhxXAlrCyeVm8XsVH9iPaMjilgjH11pFL77IltO3COJjhBQL6fEXzSGZILQUf/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.gfe5cf2022f_2_107)



School Counselors assist with students throughout their time at GHS to help them navigate high school and plan for their future. We meet with ninth, tenth and eleventh graders to choose their courses for next year in January. In the spring of ninth grade, we will make an academic outline for all of high school, incorporating graduation requirements and we include parents and guardians in that meeting with the student. We use a program called Naviance to explore careers and investigate colleges. School Counselors collaborate with local college admission offices to provide information related to exploring, selecting and applying to college. We also work with the military and other community organizations to help students explore alternatives to college.

**Regular attendance in school is one of the biggest predictors of student success!**