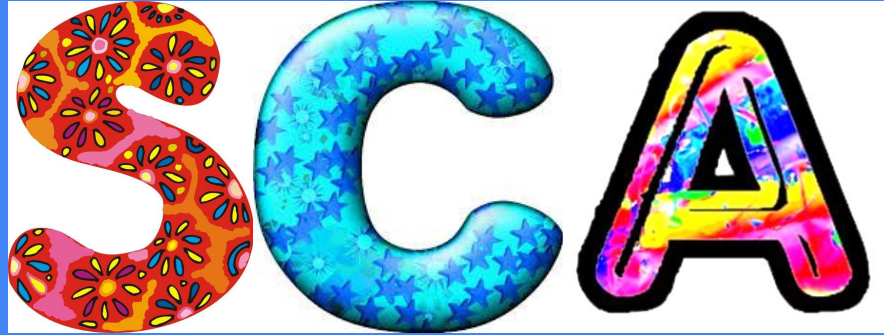


VHS



October 15, 2018

# VHS School Counseling

Jennifer Gadaleta, Lead Counselor  
Jennifer Da Silva, School Counselor  
Nicolas Dillman, School Counselor  
Kristen Tarantola, School Counselor  
Diane Newman, Administrative Assistant



# Agenda

- ❖ New counselor introductions
- ❖ Role of a School Counselor
- ❖ ASE Counselor and SAC
- ❖ Seniors Meetings/College application procedure changes
- ❖ Grade Level Push-Ins
- ❖ Individual Parent Conferences
- ❖ Winter/Spring panels
- ❖ TCNJ President visit
- ❖ Scheduling for 2018-2019



# New Counselors



**Ms. Tarantola** obtained a B.S. in Human Resources and Corporate Communications from Ithaca College in 1990, and spent a number of years in corporate HR and HR consulting. During that time, she developed knowledge of various industries and career paths, as well as insight to programs and opportunities at numerous colleges throughout the U.S. In 2015, Ms. Tarantola decided she wanted to use this experience to facilitate young people's decision making about post-secondary education, career, and work paths. She returned to the classroom, and in 2017, she received her M.A. in Counseling from Montclair State University's School of Counseling and Educational Leadership. She completed her field work at Morris Hills Regional School District, and most recently worked at West Essex Regional High School.

Ms. Tarantola is excited about the prospect of working with students that were born when she lived in Verona, from 1996-2004! She became a mom herself during that time, and is currently working with her own children, Grace and Mia, as they enter their senior year and identify plans for post graduation. Her girls are competitive swimmers, so much of her free time is spent at pools and YMCA's around NJ. She's a fan of big dogs, and enjoys hiking, skiing and gardening.

# New Counselors Cont.



**Mr. Dillman** comes to Verona after seven years as a school counselor at Livingston High School. After receiving a B.S. from the Boston University College of Communication in 2006, Mr. Dillman spent two years working in student services and financial assistance at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After completing his M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Boston College in 2010, he worked as a school counselor at a vocational/technical high school in Central Massachusetts before continuing his career in New Jersey.

Other interesting tidbits: Mr. Dillman loves cooking (and eating) and traveling, especially road-tripping through the US. He's been to 33 states and hopes to reach all 50 soon! A native New Yorker, he only recently moved out of his home state but is fully embracing the Jersey Shore, Taylor ham, egg and cheese, and Bruce Springsteen.

# Role of a School Counselor

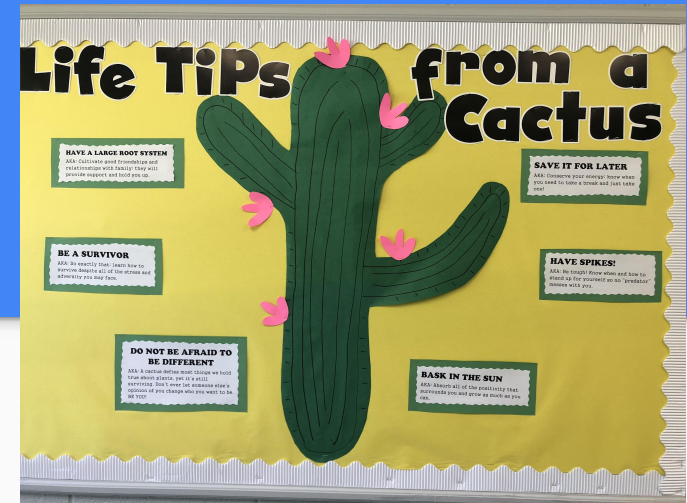
## Why High School Counselors?

**Academic:** Individual student planning, I&RS, 504

**Career/College Readiness and Planning:** Through push-ins, programming, student conferences and parent conferences.

**Personal/Social:** provide planned, short-term and goal-focused counseling through individual and group counseling means as well as crisis intervention. Can provide referrals for long-term, intensive counseling when necessary.

\*\*Confidentiality Explained...



# Creating a Welcoming and Safe Space



# Academic Success & Engagement Program (A.S.E.)

Verona Public Schools has contracted a private provider, Ms. Kaity Rodriguez, LCSW. Kaity Rodriguez is a clinical social worker with extensive experience working in counseling students through issues such as Anxiety, School Refusal and Avoidance, Depression, ADD/ADHD, Bullying, Low Self Esteem, Anger Management, Impulse Control, and other school-related issues. In the public school system, she has worked as a counselor, a Child Study Team member, and consultant to teachers staff and administration. Ms. Rodriguez creates and fosters a safe, nonjudgmental and fun environment so students are able to discover feelings, thoughts and conflicts that might be impeding their potential in and out of school.



# Senior Meetings & College Application Process

- ❖ Seniors sent invites on September 13 with link to Google calendar.
- ❖ Individual conferences are set to end on the 17th but some students may meet multiple times after that date.
- ❖ Meetings are typically for students only- why?
- ❖ Senior College Checklist was given to students in their meeting invite and again in hard copy during meetings.
- ❖ Transcript Request Process: Paper from Electronic- why?



# Grade Level Push-Ins



- ❖ Freshmen- October 22-26 in World History classes
  - Setting up Naviance, Learning Style Inventory
  - Grit Scale
- ❖ Sophomores- December 10-15 in Phys. Ed. Classes
  - Career Interest Inventories
  - College search in Naviance
  - Other topics TBD
- ❖ Juniors- June 11-14 in English classes
  - College Essay

# Individual Parent Conferences

- ❖ Only district in the area offering individual parent conferences for every grade, every year.
- ❖ Allows for truly individualized planning for every student.
- ❖ Meetings last 45 minutes to an hour.
  - Juniors- November/December
  - Sophomores- January 2- February 8
  - Freshmen- February 4- 15
  - 8th grade- 30 minute meetings at VHS- March 14, 18, 20, 26, 28 & April 2



# Panels



- ❖ **Recent Verona Graduate Panel: January, Date TBD**
  - Looking for college freshmen and sophomores to come and speak. If you know someone interested, please have them reach out to Mrs. Gadaleta- we will provide lunch!
  - Program offered during the day.
  - One assembly for juniors and one for seniors.
- ❖ **College Admissions Counselor Panel: March, Date TBD**
  - Night program for students and parents.
  - Trends in higher education
  - What are admissions counselors looking for when reviewing an application?

# TCNJ President Visit

Dr. Kathryn Foster will be visiting her alma mater, Verona High School on December 7, 2018. She will be participating in a Roundtable discussion with administrators, counselors and student government representatives.

She will then be speaking in an assembly format for the juniors and seniors.



# College Tours???

- ❖ We are looking to plan a college tour for juniors this spring. Open to ideas!!!
  - Hoping to see 2-3 colleges in one day.
- ❖ ~Plan to begin with a day trip and open to overnight trips in the future.



# College Visits

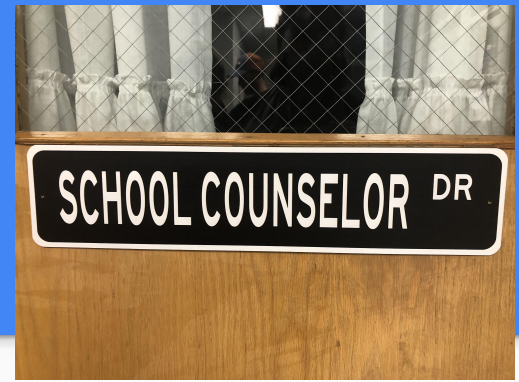
We have an awesome list of 85 colleges sending admissions representatives to meet our students. Some examples:

- Scranton
- George Washington
- Sacred Heart
- Ithaca
- Penn State
- U Del
- Villanova
- Boston University
- Quinnipiac
- UConn
- High Point University
- U Mass, Amherst



Amherst College  
Photo by Ms. Tarantola

# Scheduling for 2019-2020



- ❖ Initial teacher recommendations will be collected in December 2018.
- ❖ Electives will be input in Genesis during parent conferences for 8th-10th graders. *Students will be asked to choose at least 6 electives of interest.*
- ❖ Juniors will meet with their counselor again to choose courses in February/March. Courses will be entered in Genesis at that time.
- ❖ Parents will be given the opportunity to have one final review of course requests in March before Master Scheduling begins.
- ❖ Students schedules will then be released on or before July 14.



# Scheduling Continued



- ❖ The counseling office will be staffed by at least one counselor between July 15 and August 15.
- ❖ Schedule changes during that month will only be permitted for:
  - The correction of a clerical error in the schedule.
  - A recommendation from the Child Study Team.
  - A student wishing to eliminate a study hall and take an additional course, which does not entail the dropping of any other courses.
  - A student wishing to eliminate an elective to take a study hall.
- ❖ There will be no schedule changes permitted between August 15 and the 2nd cycle of school.

# FAFSA Nights

We have had 2 FAFSA nights.

- The first was an introductory with HESSA Representative explaining the FAFSA Process
- The second was a guided workshop where parents had the opportunity to work on and complete their FAFSA.



# Week of Respect and PBSIS

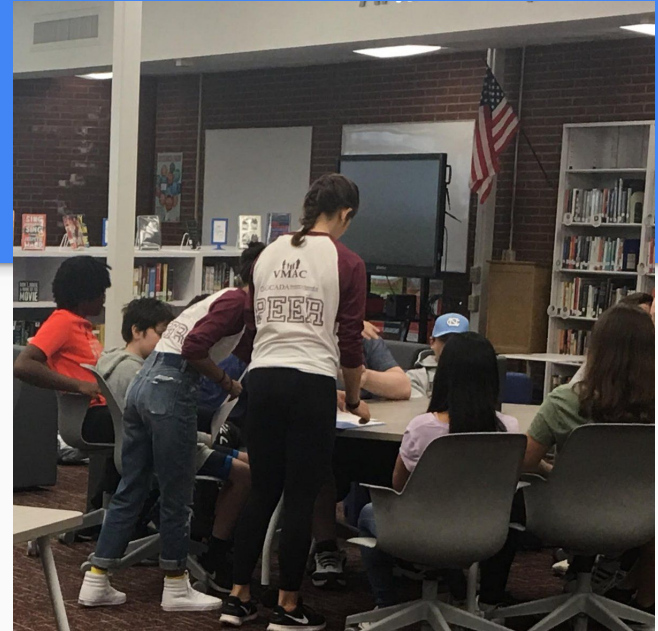
- ❖ For Week of Respect, counselor planned daily announcements given by students regarding respect as well as BlueUp Day for World Bullying Prevention Day.
- ❖ Students created a Chain of Respect during lunch and Peer Leaders created a bulletin board at HBW using the chain.
- ❖ All staff members contributed to planning activities.
- ❖ Counselors are all playing an active role in PBSIS: Positive Behavioral Supports in Schools.
- ❖ Week of Respect culminated with our 1st Verona Values Celebration.



# Peer Leaders

Our Peer Leaders are working with our Freshmen every month to ensure a smooth transition.

Thank you to VMAC for their support for such a wonderful program.



# Other Items:

Our Student Council recently went to James Caldwell HS a summit. They shared ideas and collaborated with many local high schools.



# Spirit Week

Spirit Week is this week (the week of October 15) which will culminate with a pep rally and a homecoming game.

*Monday - PJ Day*

*Tuesday - USA Day*

*Wednesday - College Attire Day*

*Thursday - Student/Teacher Switch Day*

*Thursday Night: Hallway Decorating*

*Friday - Class Colors & Pep Rally*

*Seniors = white*

*Juniors = black*

*Sophomores = maroon*

*Freshmen = gray*



# 2018 AP Results



As a result of AP exams taken in the spring, **39 students were honored as AP Scholars** because they received scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. **14 students were named AP Scholars with Honor** because they received an average of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. A large group—**32 students—we named AP Scholars with Distinction** for receiving an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Finally, **9 students were honored as National AP Scholars**, which is the designation for students who receive an average of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. This was the largest cohort of National AP Scholars since 2009.

# National Honors Society

National Honor Society started a new program where they will be pushing into classrooms to help teachers help students in specific areas. For example, if students is working in Algebra 1 on problems, an NHS student can come into the class to help the student and teacher and check work. NHS Tutoring is available for all students in Verona.





# Lip Dub and a Trip

- Ms. Demaio is working on a school wide lip dub which is tentatively planned for November.
- Also, Ms. Demaio is working on a travel abroad learning opportunity to Costa Rica.



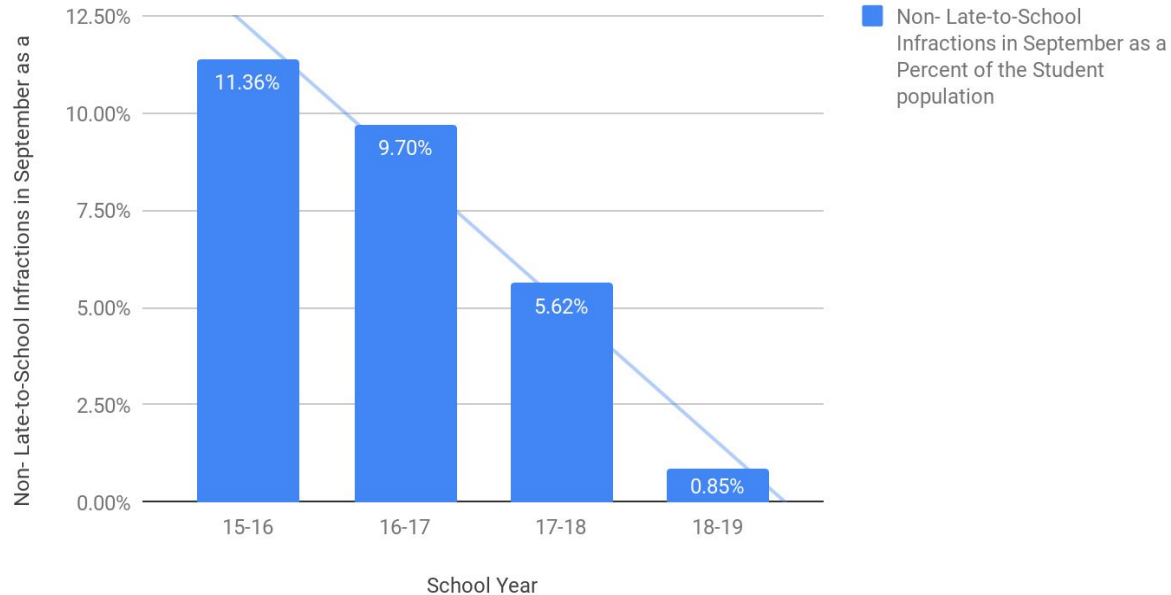
# School Conduct:

The efforts of increased student engagement, reinforced expectations, and a culture of kindness has resulted in an approximately **65% decrease** in a suspension from school over the last three years. Additionally, when comparing discipline referrals in September of 2015 to September of 2018, we have seen the **referrals decrease in relation to the school population by 93%**.



# School Conduct:

Non- Late-to-School Infractions in September as a Percent of the Student population vs. School Year (some student may have had more than one



# School Store

The VHS Business Department has reopened the school store. They are just getting off the ground and we look forward to seeing their progress.

