

Date: September 16th, 2021
To: LPSD School Board Members
From: Tim Welch and Stephen Fink
Re: School Counseling Report

The year has started off great for our Counseling Team. Myself, Tim Welch, am happy to be back working with LPSD and with Stephen in the Counseling Department. It is great to be back!

So far this year we have been able to meet a few times as a team and see what we want the year to look like. Stephen is a half time counselor/teacher and will be working from 8-9:30 and 1:30-3:30 as a School Counselor and I am full-time. This gives Stephen a chance to work with some younger students in the District and in Newhalen in the morning and open for older students in the afternoon.

As a team we are getting ready to meet with, at least, all the 10th-12th grade students in the next two weeks to be able to check in with them and see of any needs or concerns that we can help them with. These meetings will be coordinated with their teacher for a Zoom call. During these next few weeks we will be reaching out to Principals and staff to meet about their specific site and community needs, too.

Our Counseling site within the District's page is being updated with resources for students and parents, a better way of contacting us, and short Mental Health tips/exercise videos that they can access anytime. The Teacher's Counseling page is also being updated with these videos, recorded lessons, College and Career Information, and other helpful social-emotional-learning resources.

Starting in October, and through the whole school year, we will be meeting with each class for a whole group lesson about a Monthly topic. We understand the hardships of scheduling these meetings so that is why we are going to try once a month scheduled, but teachers can request more lessons per their classroom needs.

Our Team feels that we can still provide a robust Counseling Program for our students, meeting their Social/Emotional, Personal/Behavioral, and Academic needs from afar via Zoom and in person when we can be at Student Activities.