

About the Program

The Guidance and Counseling Program is a comprehensive one that is designed to meet the developmental needs of Ladywood high school students. Its purpose is to contribute to the overall success of student learning.

Our program adheres to both the National Standards for School Counseling Programs and the Michigan Comprehensive Guidance and Counseling Program. The Standards are based on providing success through activities designed to ensure students' academic, career, and personal/social development. The program is delivered through individual counseling, small group counseling, large group guidance, consultation, and coordination.

The Guidance and Counseling Program is composed of four programmatic components. First, through Guidance Curriculum, counselors teach, team-teach, or assist with learning activities on a large group basis. These activities are for Ladywood high school students and include such topics as study skills, career awareness, decision-making, personal responsibility, and personal safety.

Individual Planning is the second component, consisting of activities that assist students to plan, monitor, and manage their academic, personal, and career development. The counselor plans and directs activities relevant to student appraisal, advisement, and placement. Topics include college selection, financial aid, interest surveys, course selection, career exploration, and portfolios.

Third, Responsive Services consists of activities to meet immediate student needs and involves personal or crisis counseling,

consultation, information, and referral. Students often initiate this component.

Component four is Systems Support in which counselors manage activities that enhance the total guidance and counseling program. It includes counselors' participation in professional development activities, serving on school/community advisory committees, communicating with staff and community, coordinating community resources, and gathering information to enhance students' success.

Counseling Approaches/Backgrounds

Mrs. Epps and Mrs. LeVasseur are counselors who have graduate degrees in school counseling. They are committed to delivering a comprehensive guidance and counseling program to students. Additional information about them is provided below:

Mrs. Caryn Epps, M.A., School Counselor:

Caryn McCarthy-Epps has been a guidance counselor at Ladywood High School for the past ten years. Mrs. Epps holds a master's degree in School Counseling from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY. She received her Undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Brockport. Mrs. Epps believes that promoting student independence is the best way to foster academic success for our Ladywood students and lead them on the road to prosperity at college. Member MCGC, ACCC.

Mrs. Susan LeVasseur, M.Ed., School Counselor:

Mrs. LeVasseur received her Master of Education in School Counseling degree from Wayne State University as well as a State of Michigan Endorsed Professional Teaching and Counseling certification. She also holds a Bachelor of Education degree from Central Michigan University. Mrs. LeVasseur has ten years of counseling experience, nine of which are here at LHS, as well as five years teaching experience within the public school system. She is nationally board certified and has served as internship supervisor several times in the last few years.

Member of MCGC, MCA, ACA, ACCC.

The Michigan School Counselor Association provided format for this model brochure. MSCA is a state branch of the American School Counselor Association and a division of the Michigan Counseling Association

www.mich-sca.org

Counselor Assignments and Appointments

Students are assigned alphabetically to counselors. It is best to sign up for an appointment in advance. There are limited times when counselors are available on a walk-in basis, such as before or after school, or during lunch. Parents are encouraged to call for an appointment.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality means that the privacy of information that you share with your counselor belongs to you. You may share information with others as you wish, but we understand that you have a right to privacy. We will guard that privacy as much as is permitted by the law, ethics, and school rules. We recognize the legal rights and responsibilities of parents in doing what is in the best interest of their children. If you ask that information be shared with others, you and your parents will be asked to sign a release form. We will send only information you request unless mandated by law or ethics. You should know that there are exceptions where we are obligated to break confidentiality, including potential harm to you or someone else, state laws that mandate reporting of child abuse, or a court of law that requires testimony or student records. Counselors occasionally consult with other school professionals, but in such cases only information necessary to achieving the goals of the conference will be shared.

Additional Points

As professional school counselors we adhere to standards of practice that support you:

- right to respect and dignity as a unique human being
- access to a guidance and counseling program without prejudice or discrimination as to person, character, belief, or practice
- right to self-direction
- right to choice and responsibility for your decisions
- expectation of receiving guidance and counseling services that are within the accepted scope of practice relative to the training, education, and professional credentials of counselors
- right to privacy and to our compliance to laws, policies, and ethical standards relative to confidentiality

We recognize and abide by the American School Counselor Association *Ethical Standards for School Counselors* (1998) and the American Counseling Association *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice* (1997).



Ladywood High School

Guidance and Counseling Program Information Brochure

Welcome to the LHS Counseling Program. We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with a counseling program to benefit your successful educational experience at LHS. This brochure was developed to provide you with information about the program so that you make an informed decision about participating in it.

The purpose of the LHS Counseling Program is to assure that Ladywood high school students will acquire and demonstrate competencies in career planning and exploration, knowledge of self and others, and educational/career-technical development as they learn to live, work, and learn over their lifetime. We adhere to all aspects of the LHS Mission statement and our goal to witness Christ in all we do.

Counselor Assignments:

Mrs. Epps (A-L)
Mrs. LeVasseur (M-Z)