Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to Bladensburg High School! This year is a very exciting year for you, your child and our staff. This is the beginning of your student’s high school career, and it is important for you to start off the year organized, prepared, and informed. It is our mission of the Bladensburg High School Counseling Department to encourage all students to reach their highest academic and personal potential through a comprehensive counseling program, which includes academic, social-emotional, and college & career counseling.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information to help you and your student have a successful 9th grade school year.

Bladensburg High School will have a virtual 9th Grade Orientation Parent/Student meeting that will be held on Thursday, August 27th at 10:30am and every Thursday in September at 10:30am via Zoom. This meeting will discuss graduation requirements, attendance, grades, testing, SchoolMax, service learning hours and etc.

Our 9th Grade counseling department consists of two Assistant Principals, two 9th grade School Counselors, one Registrar, two Secretaries and a Parent Engagement Liaison:

**Assistant Principal:** Dr. José Taboada, II (A-L)
**Email:** jose.taboado@pgcps.org
**Ms. Cindy Martin** (M-Z) **Email:** cindy.martin@pgcp.org

**Counselors:** Ms. Tisa Gray (A-L) **Email:** tisa.gray@pgcps.org
**Ms. Shay’La Ruffin-Hooks** (M-Z) **Email:** shayla.hooks@pgcps.org

**Registrar:** Ms. Marva Cramer **Email:** melva.cramer@pgcps.org

**Secretaries:** Ms. Melissa Wells **Email:** mwells@pgcps.org
**Ms. Monica Carino-Flores** **Email:** monica.carinoflores@pgcps.org

**Parent Engagement:** Ms. Celia Lee **Email:** celia.lee@pgcps.org

**Scheduling:**
- Bladensburg High School operates on a block schedule, using an A Day/B Day rotation. Students take eight classes total and have four classes each day, with English taken everyday. Classes are approximately 90 minutes in length. The schedule of A-Day/B-Day can be found at Prince George County Public School (PGCPS) website.
- The Counseling Department follows the PGCPS **guidelines regarding schedule changes.** Please refer to the change in schedule policy on the PGCPS website.
SchoolMax:
- We encourage parents to use SchoolMax (https://family.sis.pgcps.org) to monitor student academic progress. This web-based program allows you to view your student’s assignments, grades, and attendance on a daily basis. If you need assistance with your username and/or password, please contact a secretary and/or parent engagement personal.

- **If any of your contact information (address, phone number, and/or email) has changed,** please contact the Registrar as soon as possible. Just updating the emergency card DOES NOT mean the information will be updated in our computer system as we may require additional documentation. This is extremely important so we can make sure you receive important school mailings and phone calls.

Reopening Plan:
- We encourage parents to visit www.pgcps.org/reopen to view and monitor the upcoming Fall 2020 Reopening Plan.

Staying Connected:
- **College & Career Updates:** Do you want to receive information about summer programs, PSAT/SAT college & trade school fairs and tours, college visits to BHS, scholarships, financial aid, and all other things pertaining to college and career readiness? Please sign up for the Remind text messages, join our google classroom and log on to our zoom meeting.

Graduation Requirements:
The following is the School Board approved **Graduation & Promotion/Retention Requirements**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Required Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Education</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language or Career Completer Program</td>
<td>2 - 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Promotion Requirements:

**9th Grade to 10th Grade:** Five total credits; including one English credit and four additional credits

**10th Grade to 11th Grade:** Ten total credits; including two English credits, one mathematics, one science and one social studies credit

**11th Grade to 12th Grade:** Fourteen total credits; including three English credits, two mathematics, one science and one social studies credit

As always, we are very interested in building relationships with students and parents. Please contact us as soon as possible if you have a question or concern regarding your student, so we may address it effectively. We welcome your emails, phone calls, and face-to-face conferences. We simply ask that you call or send an email in advance to make an appointment to meet with us so we can give you the attention you deserve.

We look forward to meeting you during the virtual 9th Grade Orientation Parent/Student meeting that will be held on **Thursday, August 27th at 10:30am and every Thursday in September at 10:30am via Zoom** (it is our expectation that every family attends at least one virtual 9th Grade Parent/Student Orientation meeting via zoom).

**Class of 2024 - Communication**

**Remind Group:** Text @b8dfb3 to 81010

**Google Classroom Code:** uotcsti

Please register via zoom to attend the orientation meeting:

- **Go to:** www.zoom.com
- **Click:** Join A Meeting,
- **Type In:** Meeting ID: 821 3961 0400
- **Password:** Class2024

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Sincerely,

**Tisa Gray**
Tisa Gray

**Caseload:** First Time 9th Graders (A- L)
301.887.6700 ext. 80364
tisa.gray@pgcps.org

and

**Shay’La Ruffin-Hooks**
Shay’La Ruffin-Hooks

**Caseload:** First Time 9th Graders (M - Z)
301.887.6700
shayla.hooks@pgcps.org