

# Hey Counselors!

## Answers to real questions asked of the Guidance Dept.

**Why do you always complain about your caseloads?** Both the American and Illinois School Counselor Associations recommend the student-to-counselor ratio be 250:1. Our current ratio is nearly double at approximately 475:1 (Current enrollment is 1891). What we find frustrating is that high caseloads make it difficult to meet the needs of our students the way we were trained to. We are slowly making strides toward implementing the Developmental Model of School Counseling. This model supports the students in 3 areas: social-emotional, educational and goal setting. There is no contract language protecting students' needs from the growing number on our caseload. To learn more please visit [www.schoolcounselor.org](http://www.schoolcounselor.org)

**Why do you put kids in the wrong classes?** Prior to registration, teachers make recommendations based on test scores and grades earned in their classes. It is the counselor's job to enter in the recommendation and make sure the student is enrolled for all necessary graduation requirements. If the teacher would like to change his/her recommendation, s/he should contact the appropriate counselor and the change will be made when the correct form is filled out. If teachers choose to double check a student's placement at the end of the year, please contact the appropriate counselor.

**Why do you overload classes?** The administration was told to build the master schedule at 29. When students needed a class to meet a graduation requirement, we had no choice but to overload the class temporarily. To relieve the overloads, 2 new teachers were hired and another teacher was given an additional section of an elective so we were able to move approximately 85 students' schedules around to balance the sections as best we could. However, we know several PE sections are still overloaded and we have not received any directives on what to do regarding them.

**Why do you tell a student they can't move to a different section of my class when I know I have openings?** Most times, moving a class has a domino effect. We can't move from one section to another without it affecting one or more classes. If a student is misplaced, we will change a schedule.

**Why won't you call a parent for me when a student is failing my class?** Parents have specific questions about their child's performance, assignments and classroom structure that we do not know about. If you would like to have a parent conference and need help coordinating it, we would be more than happy to help.

**Why is registration starting so early this year?** Per several conversations with lead teachers at the end of the last school year, it was perceived that if the students' course requests were entered in the computer earlier, the master schedule can be built earlier. At this time we are scheduled to be done by mid February. The counselors will do their part to enter in the requests. After that it is out of our hands.

Have a question you would like answered? You can email them to Amanda Smith or if you want to remain anonymous, just drop a note in her mailbox.



