

Serving our Students

Changes to School Counseling Assignments will Benefit CB Students and Families

Beginning in 2023-2024, school counselors at CBSD high schools will be assigned to students according to last name, rather than by house. These changes will enable our counselors to better serve students in several important ways...

Work with all the children in one family

- Understanding family dynamics helps counselors to better support students.
- Relationship building occurs more readily when the counselor works with multiple children. There is a trust that forms more quickly, allowing the student and parents to feel comfortable with the counselor.
- Counselors will have more time to support students since there would be less duplication of efforts by cutting back the number of families we work with.



More engagement with student body as a whole

- Counselors would be able to engage with all grade levels and develop stronger ties with students. It would be possible to understand social groups, which are often comprised of students in multiple grades.
- Turning over only 1/3 of our caseload each year allows students & counselors to get to know each other much more effectively. Building new relationships with 80 students rather than 250 is much more manageable. Additionally, for the 80 new 10th graders, many will have some familiarity since their family and counselor worked together with other children.

More well-developed relationships with staff

- Students would benefit from counselors who work with teachers across all grade levels. Having relationships with teachers allows counselors to work the middle ground between teachers & students. Counselors often work collaboratively to resolve issues on behalf of students, which works much smoother when relationships are established. Currently, counselors work with some teachers only every three years.

Counselors could be more beneficial to students in college/career counseling if they were active with these tasks during all three years

- Counselors could utilize experience learned in the annual college admission process to assist students in the next class. (It changes too much to be helpful to students under our current 3-year rotation).
- Relationships with admission counselors could be developed into partnerships to collaborate on behalf of students if they worked with seniors each year.



Students will have greater access to their counselor

- If the counseling tasks are spread amongst 6 counselors rather than 2, counselors will be able to better support our students. Currently there are not enough meeting slots for counselors to get to know all new sophomores, meet with all juniors regarding college planning, or support seniors with their college applications.

Creating a School Counseling Suite will enhance the services provided to students

- This will allow for increased inter-department collaboration between counselors, between counselors & teachers, and between administration & counselors. When there is consistency in practices, students across grades have a similar experience.
- It is important to maintain separate spaces between the counseling environment and the office designated for discipline. Currently when a student is called to the office (even to see a counselor) they fear being disciplined. In our previous guidance suite, we created sanctuary spaces that provided a respite to students throughout the day. With the increased mental health needs of our students, this is more important now than ever before.