

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I hope everyone had a relaxing and stress-free summer vacation. I am excited to once again be a part of the dynamic counseling department at Fort Lee High School. I am a passionate educator with fifteen years in the profession and feel the benefits a student acquires from a properly executed guidance program cannot be quantified.

The beginning of a school year is full of possibility and there are numerous services available to help students get off to a good start. It is my responsibility to advocate for my students, increase their knowledge about post-graduation opportunities, and help them make the important connection between their high school record and specific college options. I have high expectations for all of my students and challenge them to take courses that are appropriate for their goals and interests. Here are a few of the events we already have planned.

**September 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00** – Senior parent night including financial aid information. All seniors and their families should attend.

**September 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30** – College Fair. Almost 90 higher education institutions will be present and all grade levels are encouraged to attend.

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** – The PSAT will be administered during school hours to all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students free of charge.

**October 20<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00** – Grade 10 Counselors and Parents breakfast. The various clubs available to students will be discussed to try and increase student participation and answer questions.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00** – Grade 11 Counselors and Parents breakfast. An introduction to the college planning process and Naviance will be presented.

**April 20, 2017** – College Planning Night. All grade levels are encouraged to attend for an in depth question and answer period with admissions representatives from various colleges.

There is ongoing individualized college planning sessions, scheduling meetings, and academic support provided through the counseling office. Additionally, I will be visiting classrooms conducting lessons about the SAT's and ACT's and helping students decide which assessment is right for them. We will work closely together to achieve post-graduation success! It's so rewarding to see a student get into his or her college of choice and accomplish goals we set in September.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason.

Sincerely,

*Tara M. Lawlor*

Tara Lawlor

FLHS School Counselor

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