

# TESLA COUNSELING SENIOR NEWSLETTER

## Academic Counselors

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### Your Counseling Team:

- ◆ **Mrs. Welcome**—I starting working in LWSD in 2012 after taking a long break from my career for family. I feel fortunate to be working with the staff and students here. Students can pick up/drop off forms, set up some appointments and get general information from me. You will see me posting scholarship information and encouraging students to apply. My family and I have lived in this area for more than 17 years, I have three adult children and my youngest is a freshman at Western. Welcome to the Counseling Center! (And yes, my last name really is Welcome.)
- ◆ **Molly Touran** —I recently moved to the area after living in Tacoma, where I completed my M.Ed. in School Counseling at the University of Puget Sound. Before that, I completed my undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. I grew up in a very STEM-focused family, so being at STEM feels a lot like home. I am excited to help our students navigate all the ups and downs of high school: whether it's meeting to plan a schedule that sets them on a fulfilling academic path, offering reassurance and coping techniques when things feel overwhelming, or advising on resumes, applications, and career plans. When I'm not in my office, you might find me running along Lake Washington, hiking in the Cascades, or watching a Michigan football game!
- ◆ **Jessica Strange**—After taking a year off last school year, I am excited to be back on campus, working with the students, staff and Tesla families again! Prior to STEM, I worked in California schools in the Bay Area and once my family and I moved up to Washington, I started working at STEM in 2013. I love being able to walk alongside students and families as they navigate high school and prepare to apply to colleges. Whether the need is to explore more into career pathways, editing support for college essays & applications, or working through a stressful time, my goal is to meet my students wherever they are and offer the support and resources they need. When I am not on campus, you will find me with my three young boys (5, 2 & 1). When I am not doing the endless amounts of laundry they create, we are playing hide and seek, playing soccer in the house (yikes!), building Lego creations or visiting a nearby park to blow off some energy! :)
- ◆ **Kelly Wescott**—I am delighted to be in my fourth year here at Tesla STEM! Prior to STEM I've spent my career as a Counselor at an alternative high school, a program for gifted teens, and counseling college-aged students! I am a proud graduate of UW for both my Bachelor's (Psychology) and Master's (School Counseling) degrees. I love the Apple Cup (especially this year!), skiing, and spending time with my own teenage girls. I also love helping teens as they journey into young adulthood and work towards becoming their best possible selves!

### First Quarter's Grades:

First Quarter end on November 7th, with grades being posted to Skyward on November 14th. We hope that you are regularly checking Skyward (for grades) and Powerschool (for class assignments) to help plan for projects and upcoming tests. For help with Parent Access registration and login info, please go to [LWSD Parent Access Page](#) We highly encourage students to make use of teacher's office hours if they need additional help! Faculty Office

# COUNSELING NEWSLETTER, continued

## **Senior Graduation & College App Updates:**

- ◆ If you have not already had your Senior meeting with your Counselor, please do this soon! Meeting with your Counselor and submitting your Senior College Packet is a mandatory component of your High School & Beyond Plan (a state graduation requirement). Those of you who need a Counselor Letter of Recommendation must meet with your Counselor to submit/review your Senior Packet a minimum of 3 weeks prior to your application deadline.
- ◆ Please remember to write your Counselor's name and email on college applications if your colleges are part of the Common App, or if they specify that they would like transcripts or documents sent electronically from your high school (eg. transcript, school report, school profile, recommendations). Make sure to do this at least 2 weeks prior to needing to "submit" any electronic applications, as Counselors do not have access to upload any information (GPA, recommendation letter, etc) until you provide your Counselor's email in your application.
- ◆ For paper (snail mail) transcript requests, please complete and return a Transcript Request Form at our Main Office. You will need to allow 3 school days to process your request.
- ◆ Ms Wescott was in 12<sup>th</sup> grade English classes on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, discussing seniors' graduation requirements as well as organizing the starting pieces of college applications. A copy of the PPT is located on the Counseling Powerschool page under College & Career Info -> College Application Tutorials and Senior Tips. This is a new section of our Counseling Powerschool page, also including college application tips and info on accessing dual credit grades/transcripts.

## **Financial Aid**

- ◆ On September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, STEM hosted a College Financing presentation by Seattle University. Those of you who were not able to attend the presentation can view the PPT on our Powerschool page -> Financial Aid Resources (look on the Right tab).
- ◆ Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) forms and the CSS profile (used by some private colleges for Merit Aid) should be completed within the next two months (or sooner if necessary for any of your colleges' scholarship opportunities!). Please refer to our Counseling Powerschool page -> Financial Aid Resources for the FAFSA website, helpful guides, and clear steps for FAFSA completion.

## **PE waiver via the Fitness Assessment or Written Fitness Plan:**

Many of our students will be opting to meet LWSD's PE/Fitness graduation requirement through the Fitness Assessment or Written Fitness Plan. This option is available during 11th and 12th grades only. Information, including submission dates, Study Guide, Plan & Grading Rubric are available at <http://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/curriculum-instruction/high-school-guide/graduation-requirements/physical-education-credit-options>. Assessment/submission dates this year are Nov 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. *(please note the district moved back these dates by 1-2 weeks to allow more time for completion)*

## **Tutoring:**

If you are looking for more help in your senior classes, please use resources STEM has to offer:

- ◆ Teacher office hours-your teachers have set office hours and are available to help!
- ◆ Individual/Group Peer Tutor to be matched with. You can choose to meet on campus or even Skype if that works better in your schedule! If you are interested in more information about being matched with a Peer Tutor or would like to become a Tutor yourself to earn credit, please contact Ms Strange directly at [jstrange@lwsd.org](mailto:jstrange@lwsd.org).