

WEST ORANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

West Orange School District Virtual Counseling

During the virtual schedule, the West Orange School Counseling Department will be providing student services both in-person and virtually. Parent conferences will be held via telephone, through Zoom video conferencing or Google Meets. In – person meetings can be scheduled with some counselors. School employees will not interact with students or parents via social media platforms or accept friend requests.

Should you not wish for School Counselors/SAC to communicate, if necessary or requested, with your child via telephone, Google Meets, or Zoom, please email your child's [School Counselor or SACs](#) and indicate.

If you or someone you know is in a crisis situation, here are some resources for immediate assistance:

- **[West Orange Police Department](#): Call (973) 325-4000**
 - **[2nd Floor Helpline](#): Call or text 888-222-2228**
 - *A confidential and anonymous helpline for New Jersey's youth and young adults.*
 - **[NJ Mental Health Cares](#): Call 1-866-202-HELP (4357)**
 - *The state's behavioral health information and referral service now also offers free, confidential help to people dealing with anxiety and worry related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.*
 - **[National Suicide Prevention Helpline](#): Call 1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
 - *Connect to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center 24/7*
 - **[Performcare - Mobile Response Services](#): Call 1-877-652-7624**
 - *Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to help children and youth who are experiencing emotional or behavioral crisis. The services are designed to defuse an immediate crisis, keep children and their families safe, and maintain the children in their own homes or current living situations (such as a foster home, treatment home or group home) in the community.*
 - **If it is an emergency, call 9-1-1.**
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Confidentiality and Privacy

It is important to note that, though the district's Google platform as well as Zoom are FERPA and COPPA compliant, confidentiality and privacy cannot be guaranteed with services provided through online platforms. In no circumstance may sessions be recorded by any party. The School Counseling Department will take reasonable steps to ensure user identity.

In a face-to face setting under typical school circumstances, and to the best of the counselor's ability through virtual means, information students share with the counselor is confidential. The student's right to privacy is guarded as much as permitted by law, ethics, and school policy. All meetings held with the counselor will remain confidential unless the student or parent gives permission to share information with related parties. As professional School Counselors, we respect the rights of confidentiality of personal information disclosed during the course of a conversation between ourselves and students, except in the following cases:

- If the student presents a danger to him/herself.
- If the student presents a danger to others.
- If the student has been neglected or abused by others.
- If required to do so by court order.
- If the parent or adult student gives permission for the information to be shared.

As mandated reporters, we are bound by Federal and State law to break confidentiality in the situations mentioned above and will do so to protect our students and to remain legally and ethically true to our profession. The professional School Counselor/SAC may consult with other school professionals but will only share information necessary for achieving the goals of the consultation.
