



golden eagles

Counselor's Information

Contact Information

Mercer County High School
1500 South College Ave
Aledo, IL 61231
Phone: 309-582-2223
Ext. 1
Fax: 844-990-4134

Guidance Counselors

Tami Hains
haindst@mercerschools.org
Catherine Staker
stakerc@mercerschools.org

Guidance Secretary

Ashley Clark
clarka@mercerschools.org



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Mercer County HS Guidance
Office



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Welcome Back MCHS!!!

Welcome to the High School Counselor's page!! This year we are excited to have added an additional counselor, Catherine Staker, and therapy dog, Cash, to our team. As the counselor at the high school, Catherine, Ashley, & I look forward to getting to know and working with the students. In our office, we work frequently with student's schedules and transcripts, making sure they are on target to graduate as well as taking the necessary classes that may be required or recommended at colleges they are interested in. Our office has an open door policy to any student that is having issues or difficulties in or out of school. Catherine, Ashley, and I



hope that every student will feel comfortable enough to come in to discuss these issues. Standardized testing is a big part of high school and several things are done within the school to help prepare students for these tests. All juniors will be taking the SAT this spring at Mercer County for free. Please follow the counselor's page on the website to see important

dates for these tests as well as other important dates including; college visits, recruiters, deadlines, & scholarship opportunities. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year here at Mercer County High School!!!

Tami Hains, Catherine Staker, & Ashley Clark

College Representatives at MCHS

College representatives meet with interested students September through December. Dates are announced on the daily announcements and in the monthly bulletin. Students must get a pass from the counselor's office at least one day prior to the visit & report to their class before leaving to meet with a representative. The following representatives will be at Mercer County High School:

St. Ambrose

September 26th - Advisory

Meet Catherine

My name is Catherine Staker and I am so excited to be part of the Counseling Department team with Ms. Hains and Mrs. Clark at Mercer Co. High School. I am originally from Geneseo and after high school spent a few years in Minnesota. I moved back to the Quad Cities area to attend graduate school at Western Illinois University, where I obtained my Masters of Education in School Counseling and became a Licenced Professional Counselor and National Board Certified Counselor. During that time, I met my husband, Colby Staker, who is a former Aledo Green Dragon. We now live in Viola with our two daughters, Chloe who is four and Cecelia who will be two at the end of September. We also have two dogs, Gracie and Cash. Cash and I are a professional therapy team and most days you can find Cash at the high school with me. He loves his new best friend, Cheerio and I would say our counseling department is very blessed to have two therapy dogs working along with us! In my spare time, which isn't much these days, I love to plant flowers and come up with landscaping ideas. I also love to be creative, decorate and plan parties. I am very excited for this school year, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Senior Jump Start

Senior Jump Start will be held on Tuesday, Sept 19th, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the High School Auditorium. We will highlight applying to colleges, writing for scholarships, college visits, deadlines, retaking the SAT, and touch base on Finan-



College Fall Preview Days/Open Houses

Seniors should be visiting to finalize their college selection by mid December. Juniors should try to visit 3 to 4 colleges before the end of the school year. Here are a FEW visit days that we found.....

Please stop by the counselor's office with any questions or concerns you may have about Post-Secondary plans.

<i>Eastern IL University</i>	<i>Oct. 9, Nov. 10</i>
<i>Northern Illinois University</i>	<i>Sept. 9</i>
<i>Coe College</i>	<i>Sept. 30, Oct. 21, Nov. 4</i>
<i>University of Iowa</i>	<i>Sept. 28, Oct. 2, 3, 5</i>
<i>Black Hawk College—QC</i>	<i>Sept. 28</i>
<i>Augustana College</i>	<i>Nov. 23</i>
<i>St. Ambrose University</i>	<i>Sept. 29</i>
<i>Western IL –Macomb</i>	<i>Oct. 9, Nov. 11</i>
<i>University of IL—Urbana</i>	<i>Sept. 11-15</i>
<i>Iowa State University</i>	<i>Oct. 10-12, 23-26</i>
<i>Illinois Wesleyan</i>	<i>Oct. 9, Nov. 11</i>
<i>Drake University</i>	<i>Oct. 6, Nov. 10</i>



SAT Test Dates—SAT.org

SAT No Essay—\$60

(late fee required—\$30)

The following SAT test dates are available for all high school students who wish to take the test. *Please note the SAT will be given here at the high school in April to all Juniors.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
October 7, 2023	September 7, 2023
November 4, 2023	October 5, 2023
December 2, 2023	November 2, 2023
March 9, 2024	February 23, 2024
May 4, 2024	April 19, 2024
June 1, 2024	May 16, 2024



*Fee waivers are available if you qualify. See the Guidance office with questions

ACT Test Dates ACT Plus Writing

ACT No Writing—\$63

ACT Plus Writing—\$88

Test option change - \$25

(late fee required—\$36)

The following ACT test dates are available for all high school students who wish to take the test:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Deadline</u>
Sept. 9, 2023	August 4	August 18
October 28, 2023	September 22	October 6
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 17
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 19
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 17
July 13, 2024	June 7	June 21



Guidance Counselors

Tami Hains

Catherine Staker

Secretary

Ashley Clark

Students may register on-line at www.act.org and use a credit card for payment. REMEMBER to include Mercer County High School's code 140008 on the registration information so the school has your ACT scores for your transcript. Keep in mind that the ACT can be taken multiple times & colleges do not care if scores go down on retakes. Colleges will not pull the highest scores from multiple dates but do take the highest scores from one single test date regardless of the number of times the test has been taken. **Fee waivers are available if you qualify.

