

Monhegan School recognizes its responsibility, in cooperation with students' families, for the educational and emotional development of its students. Therefore, as part of its program, the school provides guidance services and consultation to the classroom teacher focused on self esteem, social skills, conflict resolution, and decision making. The number of visits (minimum of 4 per year) will be determined by the superintendent.

The aim of the guidance consultant is to support students with an approach to learning about him or herself, to assist the child in developing a healthy self-image, and to empower the child to accept ownership of the events of his or her own life, including knowledge of educational and life possibilities and the means to attain them.

Areas of emphasis include:

- self-expression
- self-awareness
- personal health and safety
- academic counseling and educational planning
- learning and reasoning skills
- interpersonal relationships and conflict resolution
- making school and residency transitions

When in private discussion with the guidance consultant, privileged communication is the child's right. Confidentiality will be honored except where mandatory reporting is necessary for the child's safety and/or protection.

The guidance consultant reports to the superintendent following any visits, following significant developments in staff/student needs, and throughout the secondary school transition procedure outlined below.

Secondary School Transition Procedure

With no secondary school on Monhegan Island, Monhegan students entering 9th grade, potentially face an abrupt transition from a small intimate community and school experience to an isolated introduction into a much larger school and mainland residence. To ease this transition, a Secondary School Transition Procedure is implemented by the guidance consultant in consultation with the classroom teacher and superintendent. Guidelines for this procedure are as follows:

Fall of 6th Grade:

- Meet for the first time with the student and parent(s) to discuss the 3-year timeline and plan for working with the family to explore secondary school options.
- Provide parents with a list of secondary schools that other Monhegan students have attended as a basis for research.
- Discuss the financial and housing differences between public secondary schools and private secondary schools. This may include discussing in-state or out-of-state schools, type of living arrangements for student, travel distance and finances.

Fall of 6th grade (by Thanksgiving Break):

- Meet with student and parents to continue planning for transition.
- Provide information to the family about test preparation and testing and/or prerequisites that may be needed for admissions.
- Talk to parents about the possibility of the student going to a summer camp to aid the transition of living away from home. Discuss scholarship opportunities that would help fund summer camp.

Winter of 6th grade (by February Break):

- Meet with student individually to begin assessing student's secondary school interests.
- Discuss with parents and student optional middle school visit(s) for the purpose of acquainting student with public and/or private school environments.

Spring of 6th grade (by June 1st):

- Encourage and assist student and parents to begin obtaining information from secondary schools in which they have an interest.
- Obtain applications and enrollment information from at least 3 secondary schools they are interested in pursuing.

Fall of 7th Grade

- Discuss secondary school options with student and parents
- Assist student/parents to practice researching 1 private school and 1 public school?
- Conduct interest inventory (related to what student is looking for in a secondary school)
- Follow-up on any middle school visits.

Winter of 7th Grade

- Ask student and parent(s) if they have questions and for status of their list of potential schools.
- Discuss any public school lodging questions/concerns with parent(s) if lodging with a host family is being considered.
- Practice filling out 1 application for 1 private secondary school, if applicable.

Spring of 7th Grade

- Encourage student visits to secondary high schools of interest during fall of 8th grade year.

Fall of 8th grade

- Check in with parents about status of application and/or enrollment process.
- Explore with student and parents their anticipations, concerns and anxieties of living off island and, possibly, away from family on Monhegan.
- Review student's application timeline(s) with teacher, if applicable.

Winter of 8th grade

- Check in with student and parent as they begin the application process, if applicable.
- Check in again about progress on the applications and talk about application deadlines, after Winter Break is over, if applicable.

Spring of 8th grade

- Discuss with each student their concerns and excitement about going to secondary school in the fall.
- Ask student and parents if willing to participate during secondary school in a survey about the transition from Monhegan School to secondary school.

Fall of 9th Grade

- Check-in with student during her/his 9th grade experience to hear how his/her transition is going.
- Check in with parent(s) of student.

Adopted: 04/23/07 by J. Boegel, M. Chioffi, & J. Stevens (replaces policy titled: Comprehensive Guidance Program adopted 05/25/91)

Revised: 01/26/17 by J. Stevens, M. Weber, & A. Iannicelli