

November 5, 2023

Hello Parents and Guardians,

Many of you know me as the South Wasco County High School art teacher and careers teacher. Recently, I have additionally accepted a new role as the Dean of Academics here at SWCHS. I wanted to reach out and let you know what I hope to build into this new position and invite you to contact me at any time to schedule a meeting about your student's interests and needs.

One of the pieces I am looking forward to implementing in this position is a practice of meeting with students and their guardians as soon as they enter as freshmen to begin building a highschool-to-career academic plan that a student can follow, and also adjust as needed, throughout high school. This pairs nicely with what I will be doing with them in my careers courses, but it offers me an opportunity to meet with all freshmen and their families to get input as to what opportunities they would like to see for their students during their high school years. For instance, would they like to plan their courses so that they can have room in their schedule to take college courses during their junior and senior years? Or would they like to have the opportunity to visit various trade workplaces and experience job shadows in the trades? I will be helping students schedule their classes each semester to help ensure that they are taking the classes they need to graduate and are well prepared for the post-secondary training, education or experience they are seeking. A successful transition into many careers begins with the appropriate high school coursework as a base which includes careful planning beginning their first year in high school.

I will also be monitoring all students' grades closely at the high school so that any downturn in a student's grades can be addressed promptly, while they are still able to turn their trajectory around and earn a passing grade and earn credit in each of their courses. Every class and every credit counts once freshmen step in the door and throughout all four years in our highschool. We want to prevent students becoming credit deficient at all costs. I will be a communication link to parents so that they are aware as soon as we see any grades of concern on our side.

I will also be monitoring student attendance closely so that any attendance issues can also be addressed promptly and we can work together to support students and identify and address obstacles they may have that are causing their poor attendance. Attendance is so closely related to academic success that it is critical that all students be here every day that they possibly can. I will be sending home more information about attendance soon.

In addition to teaching the careers classes, I am also the coordinator for both the AVID and ASPIRE programs, so I will be able to share more information about how these programs are supporting College and Career Readiness in our school.

This position is new and being defined and shaped currently. So, if there are ways that you feel I can best serve our district as the Dean of Academics, please share your input with me or with our principal, Mark Endsley, so that we can design a position that best supports our students and serves as a liaison between the district and our families to ensure student success.

I would like to ask that each guardian fill out the form linked below, so that I can make note of who would prefer email communication, phone communication or mailed communication in an effort to make sure we connect in a way that is most helpful to you. [English Form](#) [Spanish Form](#)

I look forward to meeting with you and serving in this new capacity.

Sincerely,

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