



# Agora's Counselor Corner

## Middle School Guidance

Spring 2019



### Meet the Middle School Counselors!



**Mrs. Fallon Nicholas, M.Ed**

7th & 8th Grade- Last Name A-K

Mrs. Nicholas has been at Agora since 2012. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Millersville University and later went on to receive her Master's Degree in School Counseling from West Chester University. Mrs. Nicholas is passionate about helping students reach their highest potential by supporting students' development in academics, career and social/emotional aspects. In addition to counseling, Mrs. Nicholas enjoys spending time with her family and mini labradoodle, Duffy, working on DIY projects and watching Philadelphia Sports (especially the EAGLES!)

E-mail: Fallon Nicholas (Admin or Teacher) in 365



**Mrs. Lauren Stenson, M.Ed**

7th & 8th Grade- Last name L-Z

Mrs. Stenson earned her graduate degree from West Chester University in School Counseling K-12 and her undergraduate degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Child and Family Studies. She started at Agora in 2016. She is extremely excited to be a middle school counselor and is passionate in helping her students reach their personal and academic goals! In addition to counseling, Mrs. Stenson likes spending time with her family, gardening, running, traveling, and hanging out with her cat, Cosmo.

E-mail: Lauren Stenson (Admin or Teacher) in 365

**Visit the Website for more info:**

<https://agora.org/elementarymiddle/>

### MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**REMINDER: SPRING BREAK IS APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>-22<sup>ND</sup>**



**HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE!**

Happy Spring! Can you believe we finished Quarter 3 on March 29th and are on Quarter 4 of the school year! Semester 1 report cards (*average of quarter 1 and quarter 2*) are posted in your Sapphire Community Portal. Quarter 3 grades will appear on your report card as "In Progress." **Report Cards will be available in Sapphire on April 8<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **Access Sapphire Community Portal through ClassLink!**

*Forgot Credentials & Need Help Logging into your Classlink or Sapphire?*

Agora Technical Support:

- Email: [support@agora.org](mailto:support@agora.org)
- Web: [support.agora.org](http://support.agora.org)
- Phone: 844-507-8233

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION CRITERIA:**

In order to pass the school year, a student must pass at least 3 out of 4 core courses with a cumulative (average) final grade of a 60%-D or higher to be promoted to the next grade level. **Final grades are the average of Semester 1 and Semester 2 grades.** Our Principal, Mrs. Kozar, e-mailed all students who failed one or more classes for semester 1. If you have a question about promotion, please contact your school counselor. Make each quarter count and finish the school year strong!

*\*\*\*Newly enrolled students starting after 1/1/19 will earn their prior school's Semester 1 (S1) grades, which will be averaged with their Agora Semester 2 grade to calculate their final grades at the end of the year. School Counselors do not enter S1 grades until the end of the year, so S1 grade will not appear on their S1 report card until their final report cards are published. **If we do not have your prior report card, you will receive no S1 grades and your promotion status will be determined by your Agora grades at the end of the year. Please submit your S1 report cards to us ASAP!***

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE SELECTION ASSEMBLY:**

Mrs. Nicholas and Mrs. Stenson will hold two assemblies to review 8<sup>th</sup> grade course selection. The assembly will cover course selection, graduation requirements, credit requirements, and how to select courses. The assembly link will appear on your class connect schedule on **May 10<sup>th</sup> or May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Information and reminders will be sent out via e-mail as we get closer to the assembly. Stay tuned!

*\*\*\*Any Special Education student taking PASA will not participate in the assembly, please contact to your Special Education teacher regarding courses for next year.\*\*\**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CAREER COURSE:**

CAR005\_MSCareerExp\_0

**The Career Course was DUE on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019!** If you have not completed the **REQUIRED & GRADED** assignments, please complete them **NOW**. New students starting March 11<sup>th</sup> and after have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to complete the course.

All middle school students (synchronous and asynchronous) are **REQUIRED** to complete the Middle School Career Course except for Special Education Level 4 and Life Skills Students  
**Log-in & Check!**

Students should have completed the following assignments in the course:

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade: "CAR005 MSCareerExp Gr7"**

Under 1: An Introduction to Careers

- Introduction to Careers Question One

Under 2: Career Key

- Lesson Two: Career Key

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade: "CAR005 MSCareerExp Gr8"**

Under 1: An Introduction to Careers

- Introduction to Careers Question One
- Introduction to Careers Question Two

Under 2: Career Key

- Lesson Two: Career Key

Under 3: Organization & Time Management

- Lesson 3 Artifact 5
- Lesson 3 Artifact 6

Under 4: Career Plan

- Career Plan

### **24/7 Hotline Numbers for Immediate Support:**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741 741

Teen-to-Teen Hotline (suicide or self-harm): 310-855-4673

TREVOR Project: 866-488-7386

Trans Lifeline: 877-565-8860

## **PSSA TESTING:**

**PSSA Testing Window: 04/15-05/03**

Mrs. Nicholas & Mrs. Stenson will be out of office 4/15-4/17 due to PSSA testing.

- You will be automatically assigned to a testing site that is closest to where you live.
- Messaging will be sent out by e-mail about your testing site. Contact your family coach with any questions.
- You may be out a different week than your teachers and classmates.
- Be aware that schedules may be modified while teachers are out for testing.
- Check Agora.org and your e-mail often for updates regarding PSSA Testing.



## **Community Service Project- Alex's Lemonade**

### **Stand:**

We are excited to announce that Agora will be participating in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Alex's Lemonade Stand Community Service Project during PSSA testing!

Each testing site will be collecting small donations/coins to help Agora raise money for **Alex's Lemonade Stand**, which is a charity that funds research to help children fight cancer. **Our goal this year is to raise \$250. Every \$50 raised helps to fund 1 hour of research.** Every \$50 we raise will fund 1 hour of research.

Start checking under the couch cushions for some spare coins! Every little bit helps and together we can do so much! *Your participation is completely voluntary and you are not required to donate.*

**Please bring your donation to the PSSA site the week you are assigned.** There will be a collection jar at the testing site for donations or talk to a staff person at your site for assistance.

