

HVRHS SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Prolonged School Closure

In the event of a prolonged school closure, the HVRHS School Counseling Department will implement remote counseling services to students during regular school hours. Since School Counselors do not provide long term therapy, our team has developed the following guidelines for outside mental health services:

- **Emergency mental health issue**

In the event of an emergency mental health issue, students or parents/guardians should call 911.

- **Emerging mental health issue**

In the event of an emerging mental health issue, students or parents/guardians should call 211. 211 connects callers, at no cost, to critical health and human services in their community. For more information, visit their web site at: <https://www.211ct.org/>

- **Outside agencies**

- Housatonic Youth Service Bureau in Falls Village. HYSB provides free behavioral health services and empowerment programs in partnership with public schools, local organizations, donors and volunteers. For more information, visit their web site at: <https://hysb.org/>
- Greenwoods Counseling Referrals in Litchfield. Greenwoods is a nonprofit organization that helps people find quality mental health care. Greenwoods is the only mental health referral service in Connecticut that provides personalized referrals by matching each person with counselors, therapists or other professionals with the expertise to help. They also provide financial help to those who are eligible. For more information, visit their website at: <https://greenwoodsreferrals.org/>

Remote/Virtual Counseling

The HVRHS counseling team will continue to provide comprehensive school counseling services via remote counseling during a prolonged school closure. These services include academic, career and social-emotional support. School Counselors will be available daily to respond to email inquiries and to schedule appointments for 1:1 phone or video conferencing. Our preferred platform for conferencing will be either through the use of Zoom or Google Meeting, depending on the scope of the conference. Students are also able to access their counselor via Google chat. This is recommended for a brief exchange but is not guaranteed to be 100% confidential since chat texts are stored. We will update the School Counseling website with any pertinent information, particularly with regards to the college application process for the Class of 2021 and the local scholarship information for the Class of 2020. <https://574885285963177039.weebly.com/>

Our best recommendation is to initiate contact with a counselor via email. Our contact information is as follows:

Robert Joeckel, Counselor: rjoeckel@hrhs.org
Kim McLeod, Counselor: kmcleod@hvrhs.org

Sharon Veatch, Counselor: sveatch@hvrhs.org
Kristina Simonds, Counseling Secretary/Registrar:
ksimonds@hvrhs.org