

MEET THE 8TH GRADE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

● **Mrs. Norton** ●

All About Me

Hello Highlander Students and Families! My name is Mrs. Norton and this year I am the School Counselor for 8th grade students. I am so excited to be a part of the Dunedin-Highland Middle School Community. This is my 11th year as a Pinellas County Schools School Counselor and I believe that together we can create a smooth transition to High School.

Things I Do On Campus

- *Student Advocate
- *Small Group Counseling
- *Individual Counseling
- *Scheduling
- *Articulation
- *Graduation Checks
- *College and Career Planning
- *Classroom Guidance
- *504 Coordination and Facilitation
- *Restorative Practices
- *Parent/Teacher Conferences
- *Conflict Resolution

Contact Me

Email: Nortons@pcsb.org

Ph: 727-469-4112 ext
2062



Mrs. Norton

"Focus on the Goal, Not The Obstacles"

-Unknown

- Stick to a schedule
- Track your assignments and what you are missing
- Make note of important dates and tests
- Keep track of your progress report grades
- Write down important phone numbers
- Notice all the helpful resources posted on our school website
- More tips and information can be found on <https://www.pcsb.org/dunedin-ms>



SETTING SMART GOALS

Specific- What exactly will you do?

Measurable- How will you know if you meet your goal?

Achievable- What steps are you taking to reach your goal?

Relevant- What makes your goal important to you?

Timely- When do you want to complete your goal?

Attendance Information

-After 5 calls/or notes a student must submit a doctors note for an absence to be excused.

-If a student accumulates more than 5 unexcused absence we will send a warning letter home.

-If a student continues to accrue unexcused absences they could be sent to truancy court.

What to do when you're absent from school

- Report the absence on our website or to the 8th grade House (ext. 2038)
- Have your student bring in a doctor's note
- Students should contact their teachers before (if possible) and after an absence to get missed assignments
- Contact Mrs. Norton if your absence will be over 3 school days

Connecting with Your Child's School Counselor

American School Counselor Association gives parents a guide to connecting with me as your school counselor. They say the following "Professional school counselors are trained in both educating and counseling students, allowing them to function as a facilitator between parents, teachers and the student in matters concerning the student's goals, abilities and any areas needing improvement. School counselors provide services not only to students in need, but to all students. Meet or contact your child's school counselor at least three times per school year. The beginning of a school year is an excellent opportunity to initiate contact with your child's school counselor and doing so can ensure your child's positive school experience. By communicating with one another at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year, parents and counselors can have a definite impact on a child's success. Discuss your child's challenges and concerns with the school counselor. As a parent, you know your child best. However, the school counselor can help you better understand your child as a student. It's important to encourage your child's expression of needs, hopes and frustrations. Learn about your child's school and social connections from the school counselor. When you need information or assistance, your child's school counselor can help you get in touch with the appropriate school officials; learn about school policies on behavior, attendance, and dress; know the school calendar of important dates and stay connected with the school in many other ways. The school counselor can also help you locate resources in the community when you need them. Work with the school counselor to identify resources and find solutions to problems.

If your child is having a problem at school, it is important to work with your child's school counselor to find solutions. Discuss resources available within and outside of the school, and get information on how such programs can benefit your child. Your school counselor can be a valuable partner in your child's education and preparation for life beyond school" (ASCA.org). If you've gotten to the bottom of this newsletter, Thank you! Send me an email at nortons@pcsb.org, with the title of your favorite book. I will enter you in a random drawing (drawing held on 10/1/2022) for an Amazon gift card. Lets have the best year EVER!

Manifesting a year of health, growth, safety and success,

Mrs. Norton