

Ways we are reaching incoming Freshmen:

Pre-recorded Videos (including tutorials)

Live Webinars (freshmen registration)

Zoom Meeting (to introduce students to 9th grade team and answer questions, another district holding one with admin, counselors, teachers, parents, and students)

Lesson learned: 2 different times for zoom meetings to be aware of parent availability

Forums

Google survey - sending individual email answering their questions and plugging upcoming events, copying parents on it

Create google classrooms earlier and engage in communication earlier - some districts created class of 2024 google classrooms to post announcements, etc. - invitations going out through district email

One district posted brief powerpoint on basics about the school, expectations, etc. (knowing may stay remote, addressed how support if they do or don't open)

SPED Zoom in the fall to talk about available support

Check-ins that students can come to over past few months (this district is 6-12)

Over summer for new families coming in have a trivia night with each class

Virtual Tours to show students the layout of the school

Scheduling:

Send out schedule for review and then google form if want to make changes

Many districts completed schedules prior to COVID closure

Entry Week Planning:

Think about social/emotional needs

Use Social Media to send out information

Utilizing text messages to reach out to students

Possible platforms with text ability:

- Signal Vine
- Microsoft Teams
- Google voice (text or call) - can use tap to translate add on with google
- Parent Square (can send out post to enrollees - parents have to sign out, individual or group messages, can send documents through it, can receive in their native language)
- Blackboard
- Google Classroom message that then pushes to their cell
- Remind

Conversations with 8th grade counselors about student needs we need to know about (i.e. SRBI, ELL, etc)

What other questions should we be asking middle school counselors?:

- Are there other students that they shouldn't be put with
- Any interests to help connect them
- Any social emotional needs
- Bereavement group run by social worker in one district - get names to share with them
- Some districts have meetings to get the counselors/social workers together to discuss transitioning kids
- One district hiring someone to go through all student files to see which students coming in have an IEP, 504 Plan, Medical Plan, etc.
- Attending 8th graders 504 meetings
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Resources for SEL/Lessons for Online learning:

EQ in your PJs - Covid SEL lesson plans: <https://school-connect.blog/eq-in-your-pjs-2/>

ASCA & CSCA websites Covid resources:

ASCA:

<https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors/professional-development/learn-more/coronavirus-resources>

CSCA: <https://cscawildapricot.org/Covid-19-School-Counselor-Resources/>

Closed with ideas on how to practice self care:

Yoga

Walking

Spending time with dogs

Shut off computer by 5 PM

Going outside

Reading outside

Cooking/learning new recipes

Hiking

Talking and Playing Online Games with friends/family