



Ambridge Area School District

Central Administration Office • 901 Duss Ave. • Ambridge, PA 15003 • 724-266-2833 • 724-266-3981 fax

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Ambridge Area High School Counseling Department would like to welcome you and your student to the 2023-2024 Academic School Year at Ambridge Senior High School. We are looking forward to beginning a new and exciting school year! At this time, we ask that all parents/guardians please ensure you are signed up to receive the High School Bridger Blasts. The Ambridge Bridger Blasts relay important information in regards to upcoming events and testing, and general information from the High School Guidance Department.

In order to sign-up, please spell your whole name, student/students you should be receiving messages from and your up-to-date phone number and e-mail. If you have any questions, please contact the support helpdesk at helpdesk@ambridge.k12.pa.us

At this time, we would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves, so you can get to know a little about us as we welcome you to the 2023-2024 Academic School Year at Ambridge Area High School!

Linda Prevost, Prevention Specialist and SAP Coordinator, Grades 9-12th

Contact: 724-266-2833, ext. 2102 / e-mail: hsprevention@ambridge.k12.pa.us

Prevention services and the Student Assistance Program (SAP): The Prevention services and the Student Assistance Program (SAP) is traditionally rooted in drug and alcohol education and intervention. However, it has never been more apparent that there are far more barriers to school functioning than can be addressed through a drug/alcohol lens. Because of this, I can support students and family members with a whole range of needs, including drug/alcohol use, mental health, social challenges, truancy, and behaviors that may interfere with academic functioning. My door is always open to students who may need to talk or even just take a break. As the Student Assistance Program Coordinator, I will work with the Student Assistance Program team to help identify students who are experiencing barriers to their learning and success in school. SAP offers support to those students and their families, to help them overcome these barriers through interventions provided in the school setting, as well as outside referrals if needed. This process occurs with the permission and support of parents or legal guardians. Please contact me at the above number and I would be glad to assist you and your student!



Sarah Schaffer, LSW, School Social Worker Grades 9 – 12th

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro PA – BS, Bachelors in Social Work and a Minor in Psychology

The University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA – Masters of Social Work with a certificate in Children, Youth and Families, Licensed Social Worker (LSW)

Contact: 724-266-2833, ext. 7213 (Highland) or 2265 (High School) / e-mail:

sarah.schaffer@ambridge.k12.pa.us

Welcome Back to our students and families! Even though summer went by too fast, I am super excited to be starting my second year as a social worker for the High School and Highland Elementary. Prior to my position here, I worked as a Behavioral Health Specialist at George Junior Republic. I'm looking forward to getting to know our students this year and working with them in a variety of different ways. My role primarily includes supporting positive attendance, identifying barriers to student success in and outside of the classroom, promoting positive social and emotional growth, providing community resources to our students and their families, facilitating Social Skills Groups, Grief Groups, and much more. I am excited to continue to be a support to our students and their families

and help bridge the gap between school, home, and the community. I look forward to seeing you this upcoming school year! Hobbies: Traveling, Hiking, Baking and Reading



Chelsea Benedict, MA, NCC 9th and 10th Grade School Counselor

The Pennsylvania State University, State College PA – BA, Bachelors in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies

Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA – MA, Masters in Mental Health Counseling and Education, National Certified Pre-K – 12 School Counselor, National Board Certified Counselor, NCC

Contact: 724-266-2833, ext. 2482 / e-mail: cbenedict@ambridge.k12.pa.us

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! I am excited to be entering my ninth year at Ambridge Area High School as the 9th and 10th grade Professional School Counselor! Prior to working at Ambridge Area School District, I had worked at Ellwood City School District as a K-12 District Liaison / K-2 School Counselor and in the city of Pittsburgh and Centre County and surrounding areas as a Crises and Mental Health Counselor, and Rehabilitation Specialist. At Ambridge School District, I am looking forward to continuing to work with students, families and the community in supporting not only academic growth for all students but assisting in their social/emotional growth as well. The transition to High School can be challenging, but I am here to help assist in the process and to know that we are always here to answer any questions and support you and your student along the way! Testing areas that I specifically focus on include the PSAT 8-9, PSAT 10, Keystone Testing and 9th and 10th grade academic completion. I look forward to seeing you at Freshman Orientation and the upcoming school year! Hobbies: Spending time with my Family, Friends and Pets, Traveling and Sporting Events



Mr. Phillip Goerig, 11th and 12th Grade School Counselor

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH – B.S., Bachelor of Science in Agriculture

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH – M.S., Master of Science in Agricultural & Extension Education

Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA – M.Ed., Master of Education in School Counseling

Contact: 724-266-2833, ext. 2419 / e-mail: phillip.goerig@ambridge.k12.pa.us

I am beginning my first year at Ambridge Area High School and I am excited to be a part of the Bridger Community! Prior to my position here, I was a 4-H Youth Development Program Assistant at Ohio State University Extension- Coshocton County. Additionally, I have a variety of experience working in the commercial agriculture industry and machine shops. I am very passionate about developing our youth into capable and contributing members of society and assisting in their social and emotional growth! Furthermore, I am most excited to build relationships with students, parents, and the community at large! Please know that I am always here for support, academically, socially/emotionally or regarding career development. I am the contact for any questions regarding ACT, SAT, ASVAB, Advanced Placement Testing (AP) and the PSAT/NMSQT (11th grade.) Let's have a great school year! Hobbies: Spending time with my family and friends and cheering on my Ohio State Buckeyes! Go Bucks!

At this time, we look forward to meeting with your student, working with them on the importance of involvement at the High School level and understanding the academic requirements needed for graduation. As always, if you have any questions or concerns for the High School Guidance Department, please call 724-266-2833, ext. 2377 to be directed to the correct staff member.

Thank you, and we look forward to working with you this school year!
The Ambridge Senior High School Counseling Department