



GPA Distance Counseling Guidelines

Gompers Preparatory Counseling team remains committed to supporting students' and families' mental and emotional health and well-being via virtual counseling during school closure as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. During times of uncertainty, our students may experience a host of emotions, including fear, anxiety, worry, and anger. Because our students' educational routine has changed, students may not only need additional academic support but may also feel disconnected and need social support.

GPA Counselors will be available to support the emotional and academic needs of our students, from a distance. In addition, the college counselors will continue to provide college guidance. To best address the concerns of our school community, the following document will clearly outline the Virtual Counseling practices and procedures being implemented by the GPA Counseling team.

Virtual Counseling Meetings

The GPA Counseling team uses either telephone or Zoom to conduct virtual counseling meetings, this will be determined by student and parent preference.

Scheduling A Meeting

As we adapt to the new virtual setting, counselors may offer specific office hours. To schedule a virtual counselor meeting, please send the counselor(s) an email with the subject line: Meeting Request. In the body of your email, please share the nature of your request as well as a few dates/times you are available throughout the week. Students and/or parents can email to request a meeting. The counselors hope to reply via email to a meeting request within 24 hours of the initial email. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours, please feel free to reach out again.

Confidentiality

Counselors will conduct virtual counseling meetings from home. Although GPA counselors strive to enforce best practices while working from home, we must also be transparent with the potential limitations of virtual counseling, so that all students and parents enter into a virtual counseling meeting fully informed. Counselors will establish a dedicated workspace from which to conduct virtual counseling sessions. During this time, counselors may be working from home alongside spouses, children, family members, and pets. Although counselors will surely safeguard in-home work spaces as best as possible, and will communicate the workspace environment needs to our families, we simply cannot guarantee a 100% confidential workspace, free of minor disruptions. Subsequently, we ask the GPA community for trust in our program's efforts to provide quality services to the best of our ability, understanding that minor disruptions may occur while working from our personal spaces. In addition, please refer to the [Zoom's FERPA Compliance](#) for more information on efforts to protect our students' educational records and confidentiality.

During Virtual Counseling sessions, The GPA Counseling team will continue to enforce our regular policies concerning student confidentiality, as outlined in the [ASCA Ethical Standards for School Counselors](#).



What Is and Is Not Confidential?



GPA Counseling Staff

6th & 7th Grade - Eunice Beltran ebeltran@gomperscharter.org

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10th & 11th Grade - Brenda Strickland bstrickland@gomperscharter.org

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Family Services Case Manager - Jane Kinyua jkinyua@gomperscharter.org