Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

The Academic Advising (AcAd) process for the 2019-2020 school year is underway. It is important to have students and parents/guardians aware of course offering options, and to select appropriate alternate elective choices. The courses selected should be based on the student’s ability, past record of academic achievement, interest in the subject, career goal(s), and teacher recommendations. As classes reach capacity, school counselors will exchange first choice electives with a student’s alternate elective. To help students and parents/guardians make informed decisions, we have outlined different opportunities for you. All documents, timelines, videos pertaining to academic advising will be posted on the SJHS website (stonewallhs.pwcs.edu), hover on Our School, hover on Counseling Department and click Academic Advising. Please check there for all pertinent information and any updates.

Open House for Rising Ninth Grade Families
On April 4, 2019 from 6 – 8 pm, we will host a Rising Ninth Grade Open House for students and parents/guardians. At this event, participants will gain knowledge about the IB Programme, the PWCS course catalog, graduation requirements, diploma types, GPA, differences between middle school and high school, omitting a grade for high school credit taken in middle school, VHSL sports eligibility, and other pertinent academic advising information.

Rising Ninth Grade Academic Advising (AcAd)
In January 2019, middle school students will be shown a video produced by SJHS school counselors. This video will explain the entire AcAd process and help students prepare for the visit by SJHS staff. In February 2019, SJHS staff will travel to the middle schools for academic advising. Someone from the SJHS staff will meet one-on-one with the rising ninth grade students to select their courses, develop a plan for graduation, and briefly discuss postsecondary plans. The SJHS staff traveling to the middle schools will consist of Counselors, MYP/IB team, Special Education Case Managers, ESOL Case Managers. Below is the calendar of the academic advising process for rising ninth graders.

- Gainesville Middle School – Jan. 30
- Stonewall Jackson Middle School – Jan. 31 & Feb. 1
- Parkside Middle School – Feb. 5
- Marstellar Middle School – Feb. 6
- Pennington Traditional School – Feb. 7
- Bull Run Middle School – Feb. 8

Students who are absent during academic advising will be registered by their 8th grade counselor. Please contact your school counseling department for more details. The Prince William County course offering book is available at www.pwcs.edu. There will be no schedule changes after June 30, 2019. Alternate courses will be substituted for any full or canceled courses. Level changes (ex. Pre-IBDP Eng. 9 to Eng. 9) will be honored only if classroom space is available.

Sincerely,
Dr. Richard Nichols
Principal

Sincerely,
Jason D. Supon
Director of School Counseling