

## **Advocacy at Richard Montgomery High School**

Teachers, school counselors, students, parents, coordinators, administrators and staff all work together to advocate for the needs of our students at Richard Montgomery High School. In order to do so effectively, we must have clear expectations about how to best advocate for needs and how to support one another. Below are suggestions for best practices for students, parents, school counselors, and coordinators. (As a best practice students should always initiate advocacy by contacting their teachers before pursuing other pathways.)

### **How students can best advocate for themselves...**

- Approach teachers before or after class or during lunch or after school to ask about materials, assessments, or other concerns.
  - Understand MCPS policies regarding grading and reporting. <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/grading/report-cards-secondary.aspx>
  - Discuss with the teacher what they can do to help students grow academically and meet with success.
  - If parent-teacher communication is what's called for, that contact will be more productive if the teacher has heard from the student first.
- If needed, ask a trusted adult to help you advocate for yourself (school counselor, ESOL counselor, teacher, staff, parent, etc.).
- Understand MCPS policies regarding grading and reporting (no extra credit, no "bumping" grades, etc.).
- Talk to the school counselor, if desired.
- If issues are unresolved, speak to department Resource Teacher.
- If applicable, speak to the appropriate Coordinator and/or Administrator.

### **How parents can best advocate...**

- Encourage students to self-advocate.
- Contact teachers after the student has contacted the teacher if concerns persist.
- When necessary, contact the department Resource Teacher.
- When necessary, contact the appropriate Coordinator and/or Administrator.

### **How school counselors can best advocate...**

- Listen to the student. Ensure student has already discussed with the teacher.
- Talk to and listen to teacher.
- Share student comments when appropriate.
- Develop intervention plans to address the needs of the student's academic, personal, college/ career plans and social-emotional well-being.
- Communicate with parents, staff, administrations and outside agencies as needed.

### **How the MYP and Diploma Programme Coordinators can best advocate...**

- Listen to the student. Ensure student has already discussed with the teacher and counselor.
- Talk to and listen to teacher.
- Share student comments with teachers regarding assignments, instruction, assessments, etc.
- Communicate with students, counselors, and parents.
- When applicable, assist teachers and students in developing a plan to elevate learning.
- When necessary, contact administrator for intervention.

### **How the Administrators can best advocate...**

- Listen to students. Ensure student has already discussed with the teacher, resource teacher, counselor and coordinator, if applicable.
- Talk to and listen to teacher.
- Share student's comments with teachers regarding assignments, instruction, assessments, etc.
- Communicate with students and parents.
- When applicable, assist teachers and students in developing a plan to elevate learning.