



Learning outcomes:

After viewing this webinar you should be able to:

- 1. Discuss best practices when working with high school students and families in a virtual setting.
- 2. Identify and locate various technology tools and resources to aid you in your virtual high school counseling.
- 3. Describe at least one lesson you can use when counseling your high school students virtually.



Virtual Counseling

Benefits

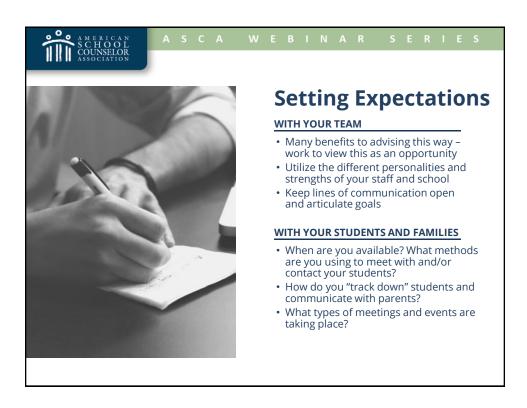
- Accessibility
- Safer, less emotionally exposed
- •When online some people selfdisclose more frequently than in person
- Opportunities to control disclosure (text, mic, video)
- •Familiarity in online mediums
- Preference to write/type
- •Teens can prefer online counseling over face-to-face

Challenges

- Privacy
- Technical issues
- Not all issues may be suitable for online environment
- Counselor boundaries
- •Non-verbal cues and observational data can be missed
- Responding to a crisis
- Network of local referrals
- Informed consent (if appropriate)

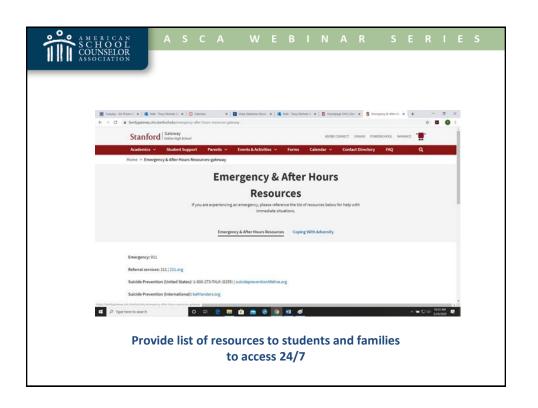








- In working to address social-emotional and academic needs of individual students, notify students, parents, and colleagues of counselor days and hours of availability.
- Make limitations regarding immediate access during business hours known to students, families, and teachers.
- Avoid use of personal devices for professional communication in most cases.





Setting

- For live video conversations, monitor appropriate physical location for both counselor and student.
- Select and switch modes of communication as appropriate; for example, an especially intense or sensitive conversation may be best handled via phone or video conferencing rather than by text/email.
- Use headphones whenever possible.
- Talk to students about safeguarding their own privacy.



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Plans & Protocols

- Plan ahead for crisis situations and develop a written protocol in collaboration with school administrators.
- Whenever a student may be in danger of serious and foreseeable harm, contacting parents/guardians as soon as possible is even more important in an online context.
- If the danger to a student is acute and parents/ guardians are not immediately available, contacting local first responders for a wellness check may be necessary.







Working with Students and Families

- One-on-one meetings: primary method; simplify by using a scheduling tool
- Small group meetings and peer support
- Regular class meetings: weekly in the spring
- Family grade level meetings
- Office hours
- College admission representative visits
- Parent association meetings
- Class- or issue-specific presentations as needed
 - Standardized testing
 - College decisions
 - Transition to college



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Online Tools & Resources

Shared documents and calendars

Reflection and goal setting: Goal Worksheet

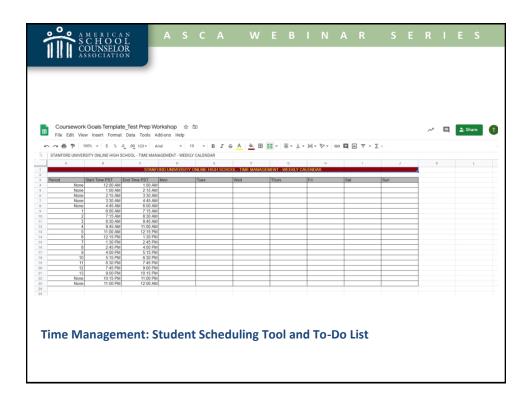
Academic example: Assignment Tracker

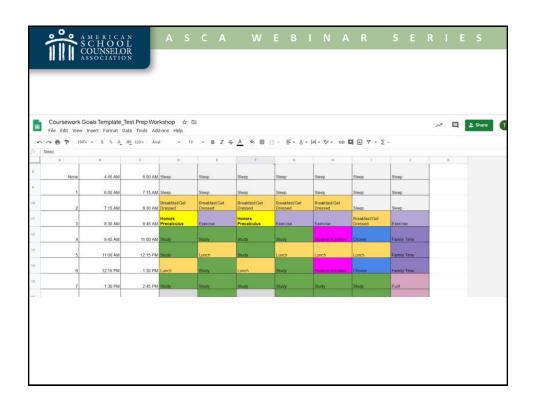
https://www.challengesuccess.org/

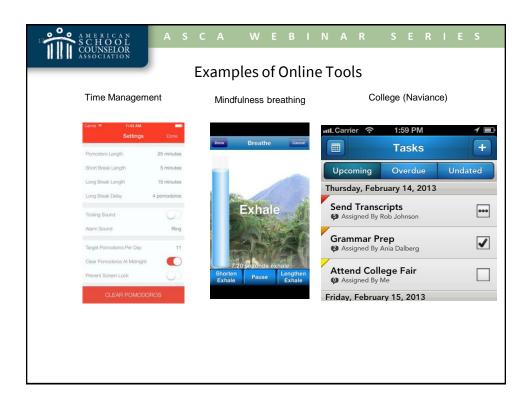
>> Connecting students with supportive online communities

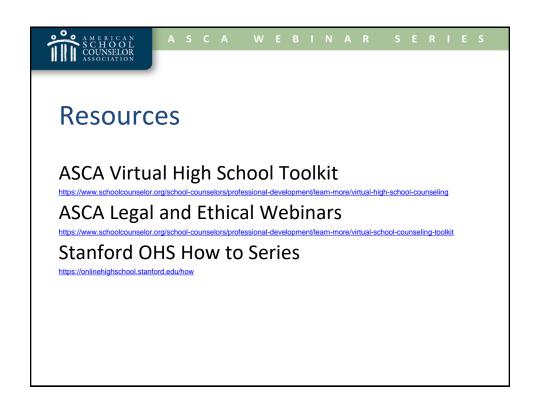
•Teen Line: https://teenlineonline.org/

Trevor Project: https://www.thetrevorproject.org/















Activity: Mindful Movement



- Provides a helpful break from long periods of sitting at a computer working on assignments or attending online classes.
- Key aspects of mindfulness:
 - Openness to whatever is happening now
 - An attitude of kindness and friendliness
 - Returning to awareness of the present moment
- Practicing mindful movement is primarily an awareness exercise; we pay close attention to how different parts of the body feel as we move.



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Activity: Mindful Movement

- Stay seated, or stand up! We will try two short mindfulness exercises in movement.
- It's OK to leave your earbuds in or headset on; we will be standing in place and moving only in a limited manner.
- Stand upright and relaxed, with feet about hip-width apart and parallel. Eyes may be open or closed.
- Be gentle with yourself throughout the exercises, and respect any physical limitations you might have.



Mindful Movement: Raising Arms

- As you breathe in, raise your arms out parallel to the floor. Hold for a few breaths, noticing how your arms and shoulders feel. Where are muscles under tension, and where are they relaxed?
- As you breathe in, raise your arms overhead, palms facing each other. Hold for a few breaths.
- As you breathe out, slowly lower your arms parallel to the floor. Hold for a few breaths.
- As you breathe out, slowly lower your arms to a resting posture.



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Mindful Movement: Shoulder Rolls

- Move your shoulders forward, up, back, down in sequence.
- Combine these movements into a smooth motion, coordinated with the breath: forward and up as you breathe in, and back and down as you breathe out.
- After a few breaths, change so that the shoulders are moving in the opposite direction.
- Notice how your body feels now, and how this might be different from a few minutes ago. In an online group setting, students could share their experience with mindful movement exercises.



Mindfulness Activities

Many other mindfulness exercises can be conducted effectively in an online setting, including the following:

- · Breath counting
- · Breathing with mindfulness
- · Body scan meditation
- · Progressive muscle relaxation
- · Awareness of emotions
- Non-identification with thoughts
- Cultivating kindness
- · Mindful self-compassion



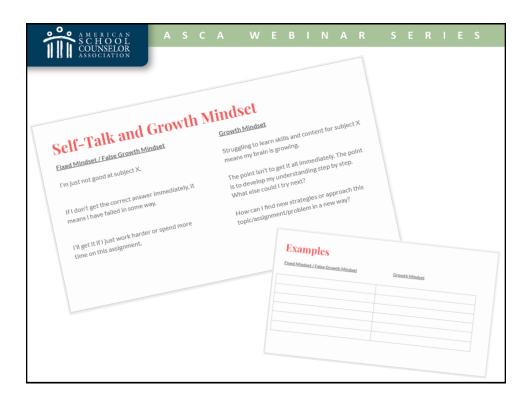


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Lesson: Growth Mindset



- Explore the concept of growth mindset with students, distinguishing it from fixed mindset and reviewing some of the research evidence supporting the benefits of growth mindset.
- 2. Ask students to share their reactions to this information.
- 3. Give students a quiz to locate their current position on a continuum of fixed mindset to growth mindset.
- Ask students to work collaboratively with their own selftalk, toward developing a growth mindset perspective on academic challenges.





Lesson: Growth Mindset

- Many counseling lessons could be delivered online, either individually or in a group setting.
- Students can be asked to share by writing on a slide, speaking on microphone (optionally with video), or in text chat.
- Breakout rooms could be used during interactive exercises to give all students greater opportunity to share and offer feedback.

