



Deans Program

The deans at Avenues provide individualized support for students in grades 6–12 as they make the transition from childhood to young adulthood. They help prepare them for their own unique future—whether that’s counseling them through the college process or readying them for other post-secondary pursuits.

Overview

The deans at Avenues are full-time advisors, mentors and advocates whose focus is the social-emotional well-being and academic success of their students. Deans also work closely with faculty and act as the point person between the school and a student’s family. Students are paired with the same dean for grades 6–8, a new dean in grades 9–10 and transition to their next dean in the spring of grade 10. Deans are well-versed in the specific developmental milestones of the age groups they cover.

Support and Advocate

SUPPORT:

- Work closely with faculty and act as a point of contact for parents and students
- Be available to meet with students on a drop-in or scheduled basis, whether one-on-one, in small groups or by grade level
- Help with research and answer questions about the Avenues program and any external programs (summer or college) that a student is interested in

ADVOCATE:

- Ensure students are appropriately challenged at school; work closely with teachers to make sure students are supported and/or extended academically as needed
- Serve as an intermediary between academic, social and home life

FOCUS BY GRADE LEVELS:

Grades 6–8

Transitioning to Upper Division and adolescence

- Coach students on executive functioning skills such as organization and time management
- Emphasize group dynamics and social interactions; help students develop strength through empathy and community

Grades 9–10

Developing healthy skills and habits

- Help students understand the high school transcript and the “permanent academic record”, and encourage future-focused decisions
- Start focusing on health and wellness, social and emotional wellness, identity and digital citizenship.
- Help students develop self-advocacy skills and build strong, healthy bonds with their teachers

Grades 11–12

Fine tuning and looking ahead

- Continue to support academic progress with a view to the student’s post-secondary plans
- starting in 10th grade, discuss appropriate plans and timelines for standardized tests like the SAT and ACT
- Help students find their place in our community so that they may be most successful in the communities they’ll join after Avenues
- Counseling through the college application process, identify best-fit programs and cultures, creation of a personal narrative, and relationships with teachers with teachers

“Students need someone in their corner who deeply understands the contextual factors influencing their lives. It’s our job to get to know the whole student so that we can help them make sense of their place in our community and the world, now and into the future.”

DAVIN SWEENEY
HEAD OF COLLEGE
COUNSELING
AVENUES NEW YORK



Looking Ahead to College

In grades 11–12, deans serve as college counselors, helping students find their ideal post-secondary paths. Our alumni attend a diverse array of institutions worldwide, from liberal arts colleges like Wesleyan and Bowdoin to Ivy League schools like Princeton and Columbia. They study at R1 research universities such as UChicago and UMich, as well as nearby schools like NYU and Barnard, and international locations like Trinity College Dublin and University of St Andrews. They are scientists, athletes, artists, and more—proud Avenues alumni making their mark globally.

