Student Assistance Specialists (SASs) have expertise in the mental health and substance use field. They have master's degrees in Social Work or Counseling and most are licensed by the Virginia Department of Health Professions as Clinical Social Workers, Professional Counselors or Substance Abuse Treatment Practitioners. As members of the Unified Mental Health Team, Student Assistance Specialists support LCPS initiatives that promote student connectedness, enhance student resilience and educate about mental health and substance use issues. We provide educational presentations for students and parents, restorative practices, individualized and group support, referral services, coordination with providers, staff development and consultation with parents and staff.

To find your school’s SAS assignment, visit our website: https://www.lcps.org/StudentAssistanceServices

MEET OUR TEAM!

We have been busy this summer expanding the Student Assistance team. We are excited to welcome a group of professionals who bring with them a wide range of clinical experience and many years in the field of mental health and substance use prevention and treatment. Most importantly, a larger team means more opportunity to support the mission of improving student overall well-being. We will now be able to provide almost a 1:1 ratio of Student Assistance Specialists to school clusters. Since our team is growing and our school assignments are changing, we’d like to introduce and re-introduce ourselves. Meet the team below!
BLAISE CARLAND, LCSW
Freedom HS Cluster
I have worked in the mental health and substance abuse field in a variety of settings for 29 years. I am passionate about educating the community with a focus on preventive and proactive measures to combat early addiction. Outside of work I enjoy hiking and collecting watches.

KEITH ROBINSON, MSW
Dominion & Potomac Falls Clusters
This is my 16th school year in LCPS. I am a Native Washingtonian who currently resides in Anne Arundel County MD. I enjoy being a father and spending time with my family and friends. I also enjoy coaching football and helping young athletes develop.

MEGAN MARSHALL, LPC
Heritage Cluster & North Star School
I have been working in the mental health and substance abuse field for a total of 19 years, 15 of which were in outpatient substance abuse with adolescents and adults and the past 4 serving as a SAS in LCPS. I am passionate about educating people about the disease of addiction and the gift of recovery. I love everything outdoors, especially running, swimming, hiking, and climbing.
FIONA BROWN, LPC
Rock Ridge Cluster
I am in my 5th year as a Student Assistance Specialist, having spent 10 years prior in community mental health & substance use treatment and private practice. I enjoy educating students to increase awareness and reduce stigma about people struggling with mental health and substance use. When I’m not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, watching sports, getting active and traveling.

KIM HAGER, LPC
Tuscarora Cluster
Prior to joining the SAS team in 2012, I worked as a substance abuse clinician for Loudoun County for 15 years where a majority of my duties were dedicated to working with LCPS students and their families. I love to help students identify their unique strengths and positive relationships which serve as protective factors to reduce the potential for alcohol/drug misuse. When I’m not working, I like to spend time with family and friends, practice yoga, watch sports and participate in any outside event.

AMY EMERY, LPC
Woodgrove & Loudoun Valley Clusters
I have been working in the field of addiction and mental health awareness for 18 years and have been a Student Assistance Specialist with LCPS for 8 years. Prior to working for LCPS, I was a clinician on the substance abuse team for Loudoun County Mental Health for 10 years. In my free time I enjoy boating, snow skiing, cooking, reading and spending time with my two children.
DARREN MADISON, LCSW
Lightridge Cluster
I have approximately 30 years of experience as a counselor in residential treatment facilities, juvenile and domestic court, and 13 years as a Student Assistance Specialist. I enjoy helping students and their families navigate through obstacles that may be impacting their school experience. In my spare time I love to read, coach youth sports, and travel.

AMY EWAYS, MSW
Independence Cluster
Hello! Although I’m new to the position of Student Assistance Specialist, I have been with LCPS since 2005. I started my career with LCPS as a school social worker and then transitioned to the Restorative Practices Grant Specialist. I am very excited to join the SAS team and the staff in the Independence High School cluster!

HEATHER RAINEY, LCSW
Loudoun County HS Cluster
I am in my seventh year working as a Clinical Social Worker and in my first year as a Student Assistance Specialist. In my spare time, I love to hike with my dog, Ollie, cook, travel and check out new restaurants.
JASHAN GREWAL, LPC, LSATP
Briar Woods Cluster
I have over a decade of experience working with people who have Co-Occurring Disorders in outpatient and residential treatment settings. In my free time I enjoy going on walks with my husband and son.

IMANI HAGANS, LPC
Park View Cluster & W.O. Robey School
I have been in the mental health field for over 10 years working with clients from all walks of life in both inpatient and outpatient settings. I am passionate about helping people to access and develop their inner strengths. In my personal time, I am focused on spending quality time with my family.
SARA SHERRICK, LPC  
Broad Run Cluster  
I have worked in community mental health in Loudoun and Fairfax, in a hospital behavioral health setting and in private practice with children and adolescents. I am most passionate about mental health/substance abuse crisis management and interventions as well as working from a trauma informed perspective. In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my kids; working with ceramics, paint, or embroidery; or playing with my high energy female Labradors.

SUCHITA PALIT, MA, LPC-R  
Stone Bridge Cluster  
I have spent the last 10 years working in a variety of settings from outpatient to residential and crisis care facilities. I adopted my first puppy earlier this year and have fully embraced the dog mom life. I enjoy quality time with my family, being a foodie, and all things comedy. I’m excited to join the LCPS community!

UPCOMING EVENTS
Substance Use Trends & Student Assistance Services

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
6:30 - 8:00 PM

Find out what’s new in teen substance use, gain strategies for supporting your student, and learn about school-based services

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81968969931?pwd=L3ZLSVNqMndCbnNWL1Q2TGlHbWmNjdz09

Meeting ID: 819 6896 9931
Passcode: 7ZyNgA
One tap mobile
+13017158592 US (Washington DC)
+13126266799 US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 819 6896 9931
Passcode: 546792

CLICK TO JOIN ON 9/23 @ 6:30PM:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81968969931?pwd=L3ZLSVNqMndCbnNWL1Q2TGlHbWmNjdz09
Loudoun Serenity House & SAARA
is proud to announce...
1st Annual Loudoun Recovery Fest
It’s Celebrate Recovery month and we want to share it with you! Come spend the day with us learning about our partners and the community resources available to you and your loved ones. Let’s celebrate the gift of recovery with food, drinks, kids games, raffle prizes and most importantly fellowship because...Together We Do Recover!

Sunday, September 26, 2021
12:00 – 4:00 pm
Algonkian Water Park Shelter
47001 Fairway Drive, Sterling, VA

VIEW RECENT STUDENT ASSISTANCE PRESENTATIONS HERE

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT RESOURCES
These resources are not maintained or endorsed by Loudoun County Public Schools. LCPS is providing them as a helpful resource but is not responsible for their content.

INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE

https://www.lcps.org/Page/223622 - Parent/Student SUD information
https://www.lcps.org/Page/201540 - Alcohol Information
https://www.lcps.org/Page/184676 - Drug Information
https://www.lcps.org/Page/201538 - Tobacco and E-Cig Information
https://easyread.drugabuse.gov/ - Easy-to-read drug facts
Tobacco and Nicotine education, advocacy and cessation resources

COVID-19 & Substance Use

Stanford study on vaping increasing COVID-19 risk

DEA website - drug-specific information, pill identifiers, social media trends

Addiction Policy Forum website—provides educational videos and articles

Education and tips for parents on talking to their children about substance use

SUPPORT FOR YOU AS A LOVED ONE

Resource for families

Online Support Community for parents/caregivers

Support for family members of someone struggling with addiction—Zoom meetings

Support for children of parents struggling with addiction—Zoom meetings

Find online Alateen meetings

Addiction Policy Forum website for finding and navigating the treatment experience

FIND A TREATMENT PROVIDER

SAMHSA treatment locator

National Helpline

Online Recovery Community: Self-Management and Recovery Training

Recovery community based on Buddhist Principles, virtual meetings available

Virtual Narcotics Anonymous meetings

Virtual Alcoholic Anonymous meetings

LCPS listing of community treatment providers