

February Counselor Corner

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we move into the second half of the school year, we want to keep you informed about important updates and opportunities for your students. This month's newsletter includes crucial information about course selection, college admissions, standardized testing, and academic success strategies. Please take a moment to review these updates and encourage your student to stay engaged and proactive in their education.

Course Selection Meetings for 9th-11th Grade Students: Counselors are currently meeting individually with all 9th-11th grade students to select courses for the upcoming school year. These meetings also provide an opportunity to discuss students' future plans, including college and career pathways. Parents, we encourage you to talk with your student about their academic choices and long-term goals. If you have any questions, please reach out to your student's counselor.

Important Update for Seniors: Seniors who have reconsidered their college plans or have decided to attend college immediately after high school should take advantage of a great opportunity! During the month of March, public colleges in Georgia are waiving admission fees. If your student is interested in applying to a public college, now is the perfect time to do so without the additional expense.

ACT/SAT Requirement for College Admission: Attention current 9th-11th grade students! If you plan to attend college after high school, please be aware that ACT and SAT scores will be required for admission next year. Testing waivers are no longer in effect. Be sure to plan ahead and register for these exams in a timely manner.

Tips for Staying Successful This Semester: As we move into the second half of the school year, it is essential for students to maintain good habits to ensure success:

- *Ask for Tutoring* – If a student is struggling in a subject, they should seek tutoring assistance. Many teachers offer help sessions before or after school.
- *Communicate with Teachers* – If a student does not understand a concept, they should ask questions and seek clarification from their teacher.
- ***Maintain Good Attendance*** – We are seeing an increase in student absences and tardies. **Missing one class period on our block schedule is the equivalent of missing two traditional school days. Students who miss class often fall behind, especially in End-of-Course (EOC) subjects like Algebra Concepts, Biology, American Literature, and Personal Finance & Economics.**

Parents, please encourage your student to stay engaged, seek help when needed, and attend school regularly. Your support makes a significant difference in their success!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the counseling office.