

# Preparing for High School Success: A Guide for 7th and 8th Graders



# Academic Excellence: Building a Strong Foundation

- Focus on core subjects: Math, Science, English, Social Studies
- Develop effective study habits and time management skills
- Seek help early if struggling in any subject
- Consider advanced courses like Algebra I or Spanish I in 8th grade
- Aim for strong grades to ensure appropriate high school placement



# Understanding Ohio's Graduation Requirements

There are 3 buckets you must fill to meet Graduation Requirements



Course Requirements, Competency, and Readiness

# Understanding Ohio's Graduation Requirements

## Course Requirements

Minimum 21 credits required for Hillsdale students:

- 4 credits each in English and Math
- 3 credits each in Science and Social Studies
- 0.5 credit each in Physical Education  
(or PE Waiver), Health, and Financial Literacy
- 5.5 credits in electives



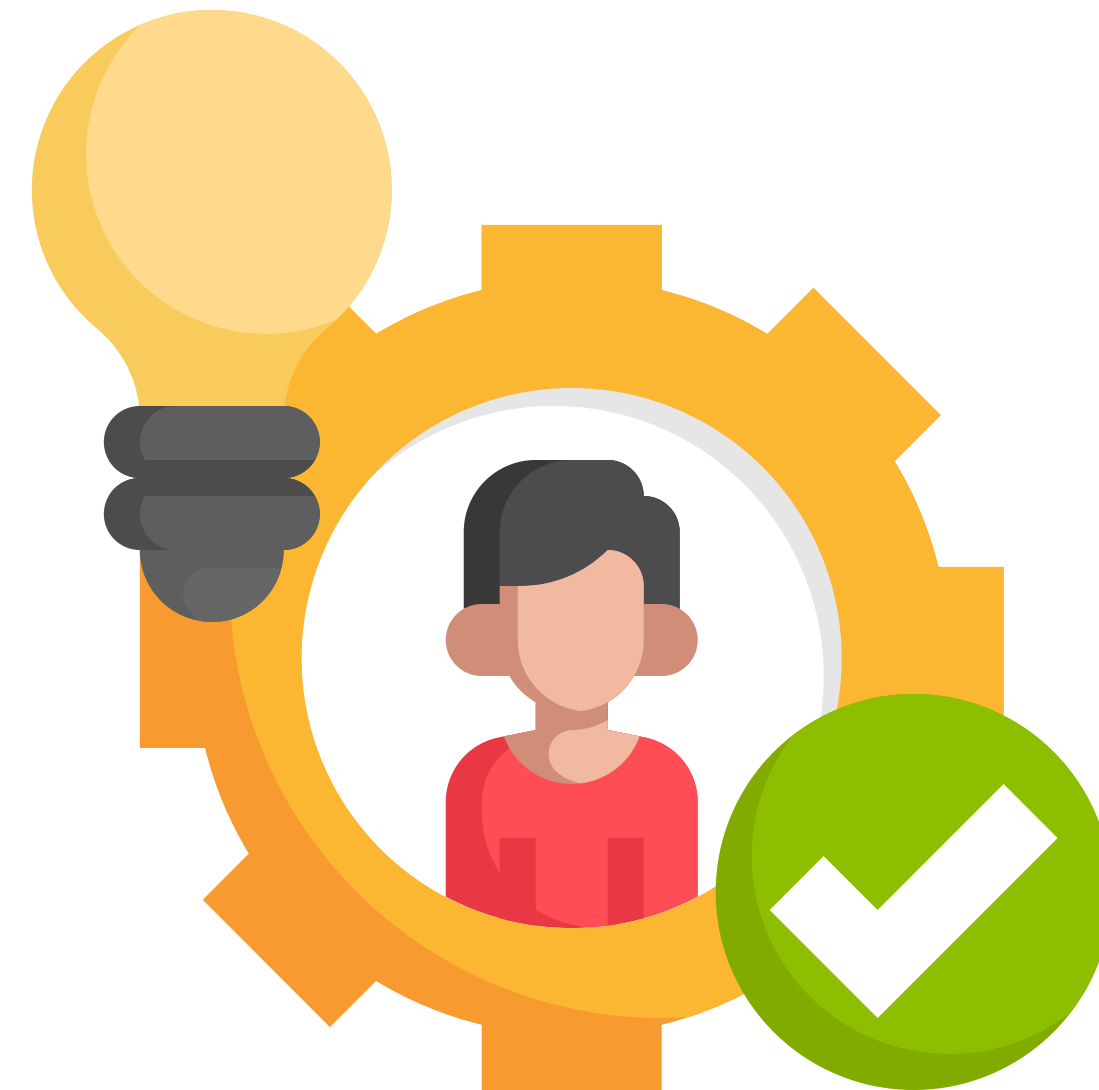
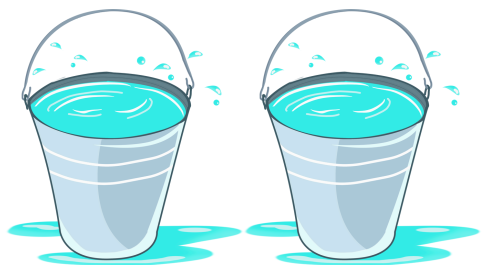


# Understanding Ohio's Graduation Requirements

## Demonstration of Competency.

Students must show they're ready for college or careers. This is done through:

- **Ohio's State Tests (must earn 684 or higher)**
  - Algebra I
  - ELA 2
- Alternate Pathways for students who do not meet the test scores:
  - College Credit Plus
  - College admission tests (ACT or SAT)
  - Career Experience & Technical Skill
  - Military Enlistment



# Understanding Ohio's Graduation Requirements

Ohio State Tests that are required:

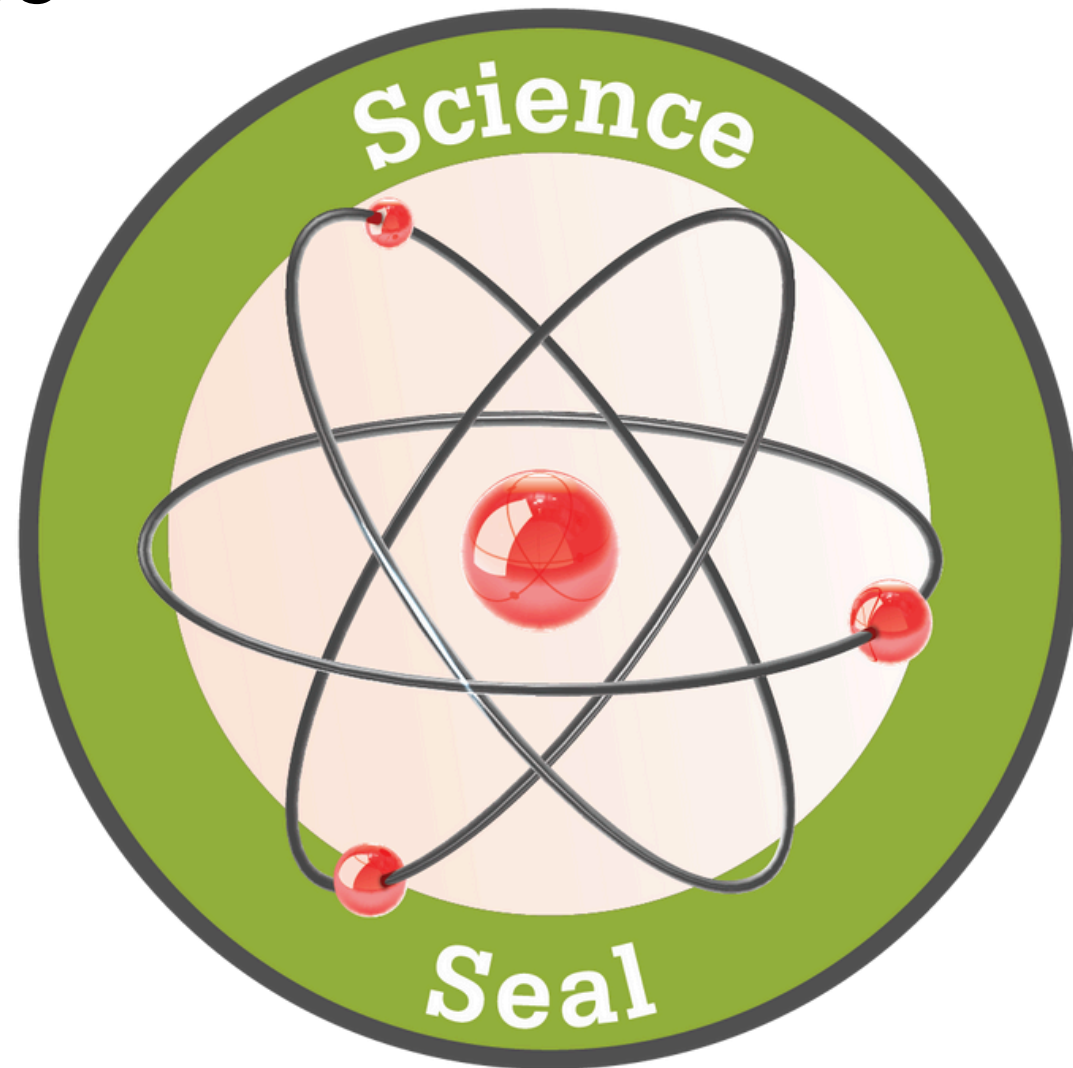
- English Language Arts 2
- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Biology
- American History
- American Government
- Scores on these tests contribute to graduation readiness



# Understanding Ohio's Graduation Requirements

## Demonstration of Readiness

- Earn two diploma seals to show well-rounded academic and technical experience



# Diploma Seals - Earn 2 Seals (one must be a state seal)

## State Seals:

- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal
- College-Ready Seal
- Military Enlistment Seal
- Citizenship Seal
- Science Seal
- Honors Diploma Seal
- Seal of Biliteracy
- Technology Seal

## Local Seals:

- Community Service Seal
- Fine & Performing Arts Seal
- Student Engagement Seal





# Career Exploration: Discovering Your Path

- Use tools, like Naviance, for career interest inventories
- Participate in career days, job fairs, and professional talks
- Explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) programs
- Consider Career and Technical Education options at Ashland County West Holmes Career Center
- Engage in job shadowing opportunities



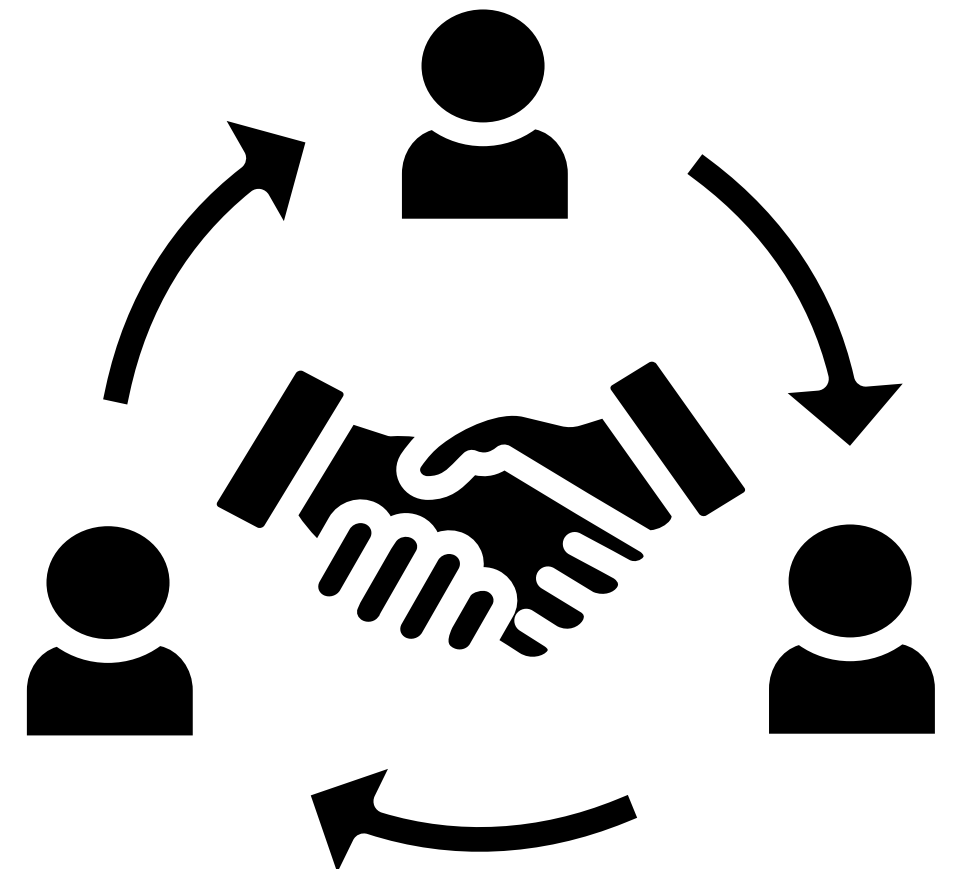
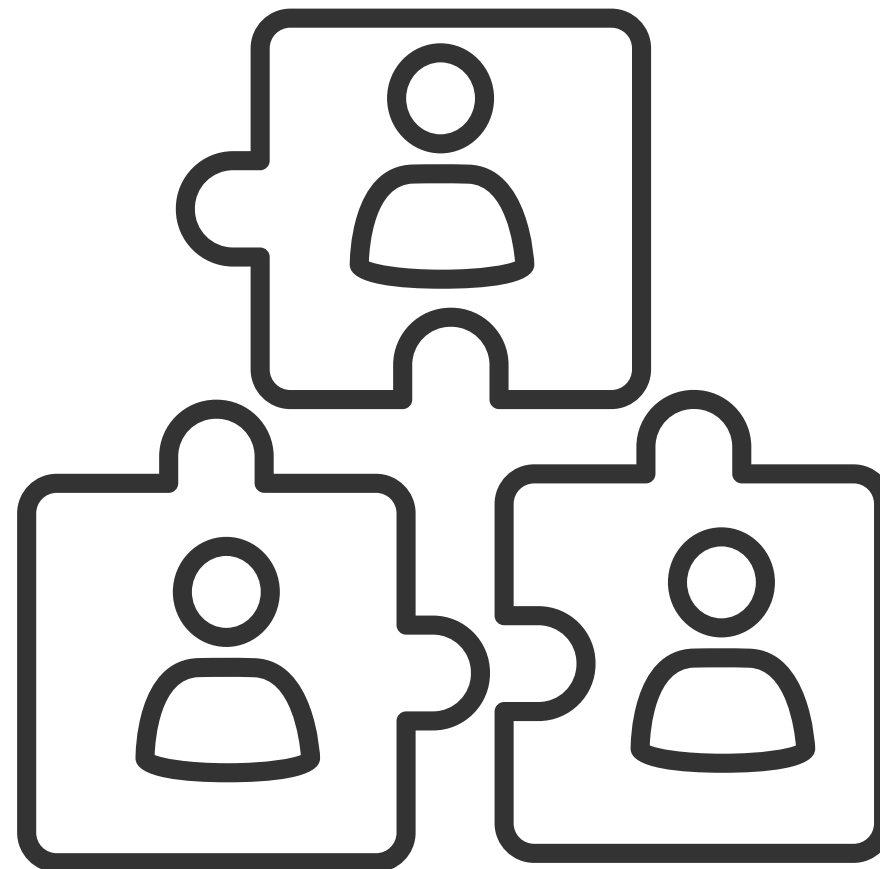
# Extracurricular Activities: Developing Well-Rounded Skills

- Get involved in sports, music, drama, FFA, or academic clubs
- Pursue leadership roles in student government or clubs
- Develop teamwork, communication, and time management skills
- Enhance college and job applications through involvement
- Balance academics with extracurricular activities



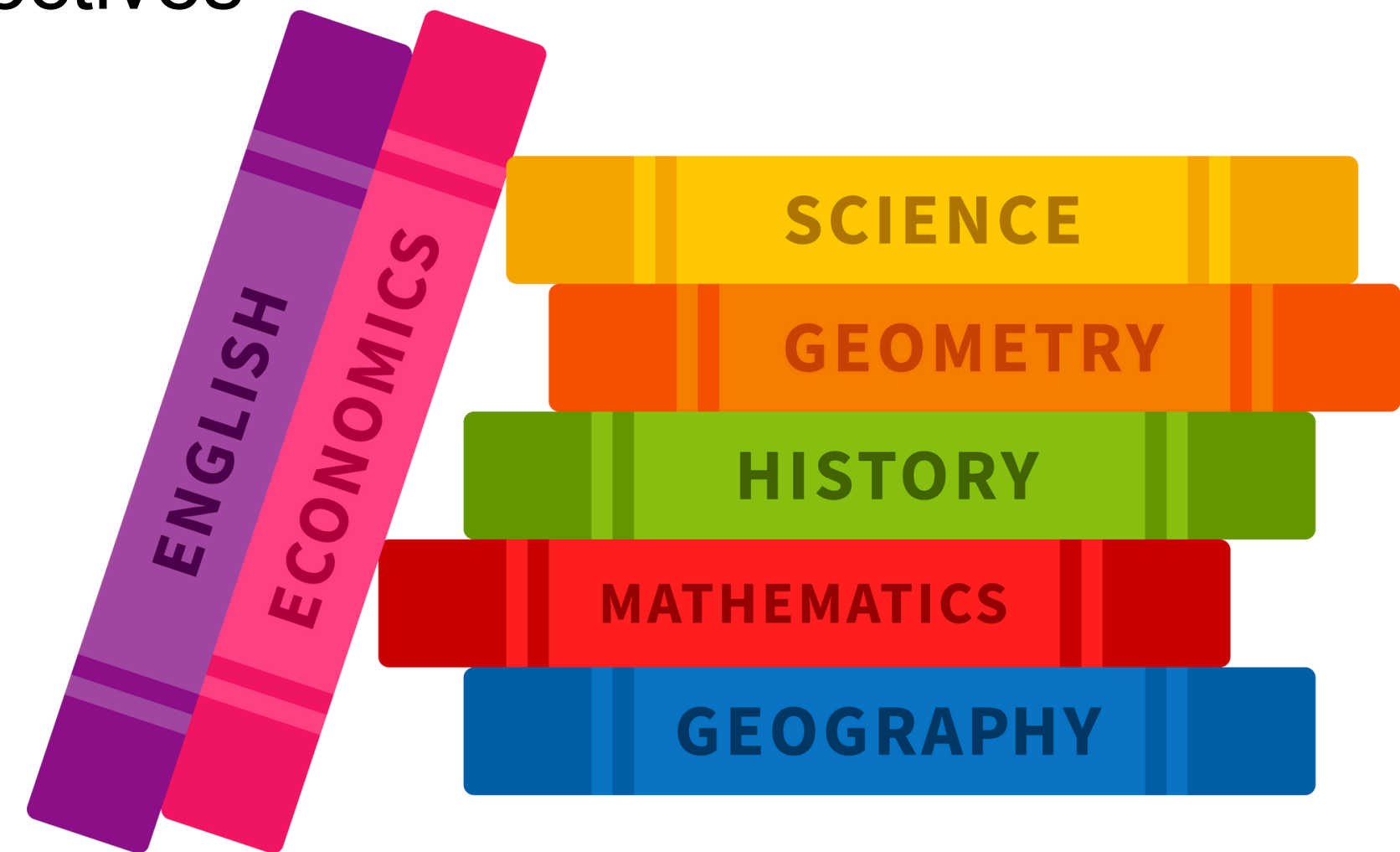
# Building Relationships: Teachers and Counselors

- Engage positively with teachers for mentorship and advice
- Schedule regular check-ins with school counselors
- Discuss academic progress and career goals
- Seek guidance on high school course selection
- Build a support network for your academic journey



# Planning for High School: Course Selection

- Meet with school counselor to discuss high school courses
- Consider advanced placement and college credit plus classes
- Explore electives aligned with interests and career goals
- Plan to fulfill fine arts credit requirement
- Balance core subjects with engaging electives





# Developing Essential Skills: Study and Time Management

- Create a consistent study routine
- Use planners or apps to track assignments and deadlines
- Practice effective note-taking techniques
- Learn to prioritize tasks and manage time efficiently
- Develop skills for handling increased high school workload

WEEKLY

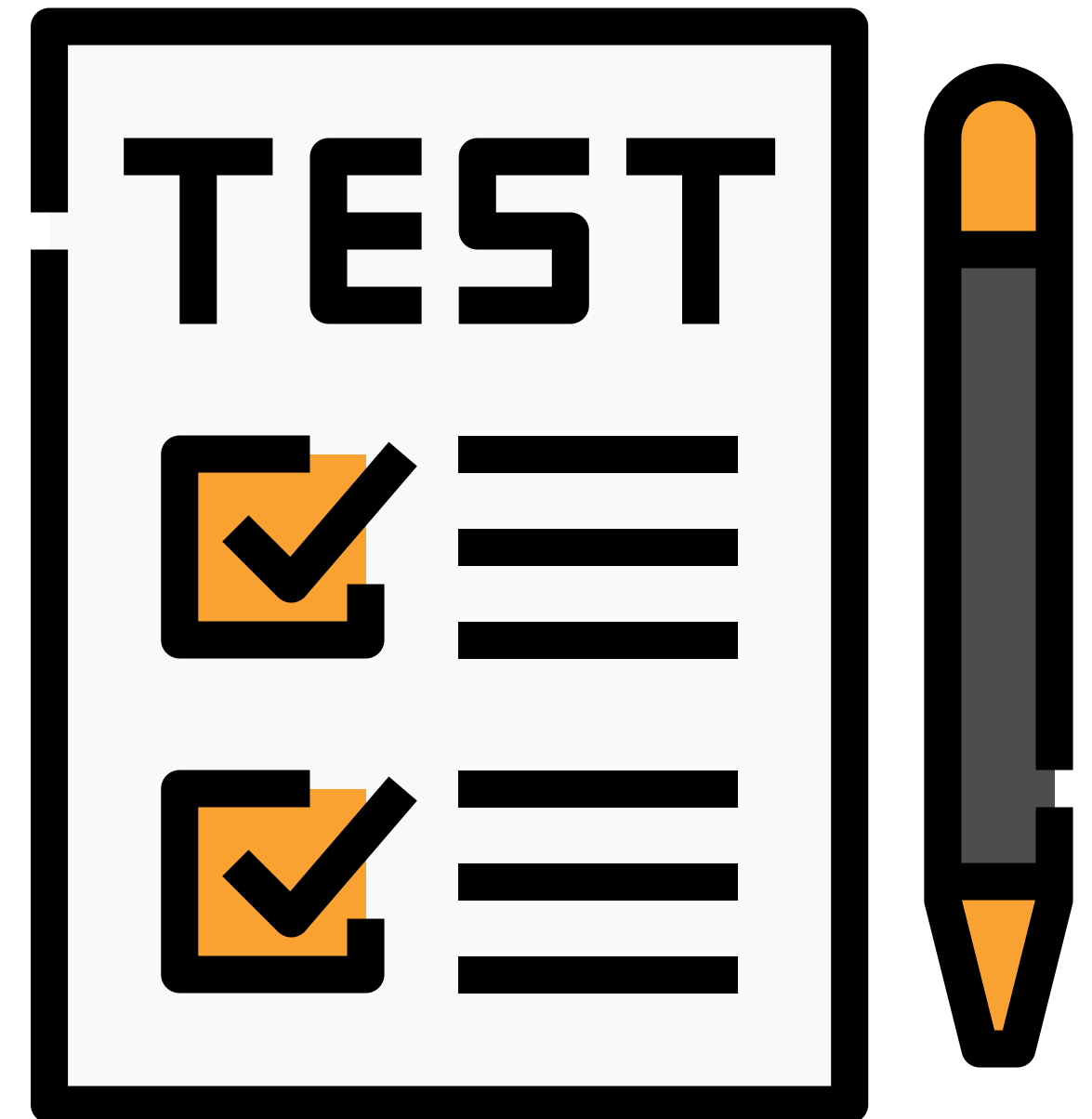
PLANNER



# Standardized Test Preparation

- Familiarize yourself with ACT/SAT formats
- Utilize free resources like Khan Academy for test prep
- Take practice tests to identify areas for improvement
- Develop test-taking strategies
- Start early to reduce stress in later years

Practice  
Makes  
PROGRESS



# Personal Growth: Social-Emotional Development

- Take responsibility for your academic progress
- Develop stress management and coping skills
- Participate in G.R.I.T. lessons for emotional resilience
- Practice self-advocacy and communication
- Seek help when facing personal or academic challenges



# Setting Long-Term Goals

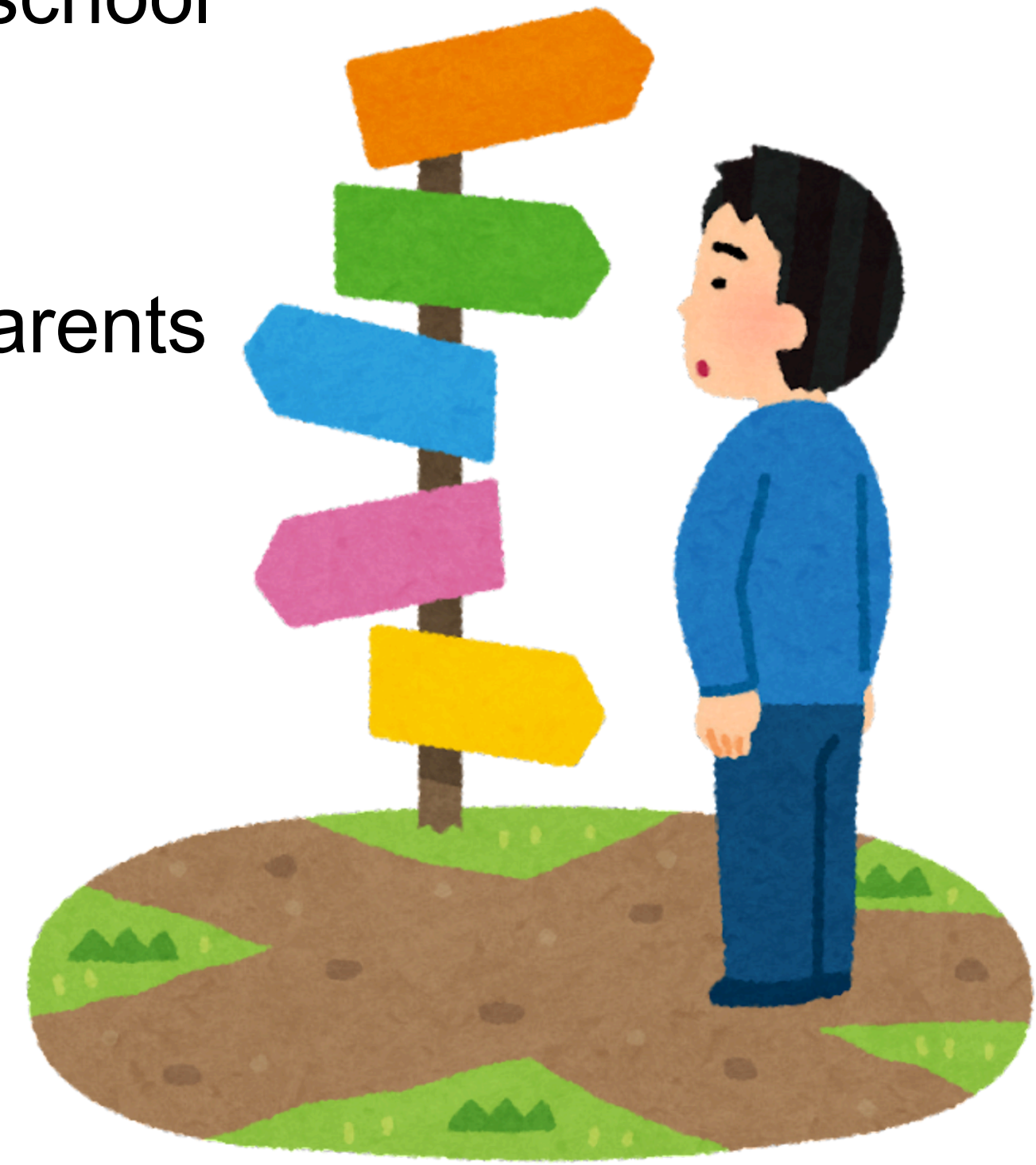
- Reflect on potential career paths and interests
- Consider college, military, or workforce options
- Set academic and personal goals for high school
- Start thinking about scholarship opportunities
- Align course selections with future aspirations





# Exploring High School Pathways

- Understand the difference between college prep and career tech tracks
- Research specialized programs offered in high school
- Consider early college credit opportunities
- Explore industry credential options
- Discuss pathway options with counselors and parents



# Transition to High School: Final Preparations

- Meet with School Counselor to discuss high school course selections
- They can help you understand graduation requirements, advanced coursework options, and any prerequisites for specialized programs.



# Questions to Consider

- What career paths interest you most?
- Which subjects do you enjoy or find challenging?
- What extracurricular activities align with your interests?
- How can you improve your study habits?
- What are your main goals for high school?

