Course Title:	Grade 9 School Counseling
Grade(s):	9

Course Description
The 9th grade counseling curriculum is designed to support students as they transition into high school and begin building the foundation for future academic, career, and personal success. Students explore the question, *"How do I transition and find my place?"* through lessons and activities focused on high school adjustment, academic planning, and career exploration. Throughout the year, students learn essential skills such as credit tracking, four-year planning, career exploration, and Naviance navigation. Counseling lessons help students understand graduation requirements, begin identifying interests and strengths, and develop a plan for their high school experience. By the end of 9th grade, students will have a stronger sense of belonging, increased confidence in navigating high school expectations, and the foundational academic and career readiness skills needed for future success.
Approved Curricular Materials/Textbook(s)
CSCA Standards ASCA Standards

Unit Title	Unit Description (Include Unit Objectives)	Unit Pacing
Unit 1: Transition to High School	In this introductory counseling unit, students build the foundation for a successful transition into high school through lessons and experiences focused on academic planning, personal growth, and connection to the SHS community. Students learn the routines, expectations, and support systems available at Suffield High School while developing the skills needed to navigate the increased independence and responsibility of high school life. Through the First Year Experience program, students explore topics such as transition to high school, time management, effective decision-making, goal setting, graduation requirements, transcript awareness, and involvement in	Quarter 1

	extracurricular opportunities. Students are introduced to important academic and career readiness tools, including four-year planning, career exploration, and Naviance navigation. Lessons also emphasize social-emotional development, self-advocacy, and building positive relationships within the school community. As part of the unit, students meet individually with their school counselor to personalize their transition experience. These one-on-one meetings provide students with an opportunity to discuss goals, interests, academic plans, questions, and any challenges they may face as they adjust to high school. Counselors work collaboratively with students to ensure they feel supported, connected, and prepared for success throughout their freshman year.	
Unit 2: Career Exploration	This career exploration unit helps students connect their personal interests, strengths, and values to potential future career pathways. Through guided exploration using Naviance, students develop a deeper understanding of how self-awareness and career research support informed academic and future planning decisions. Students complete the Career Interest Profiler in Naviance to identify careers that align with their interests. Using their assessment results, students research career options and examine important aspects of each field, including required education and training, necessary skills, salary information, and future job outlook. Through activities such as the Career Scouting Report, students learn how high school courses, extracurricular involvement, and future educational opportunities can help prepare them for different career paths. Throughout the unit, students are encouraged to reflect on how their interests, skills, and values influence career choices and future opportunities. Counselors help students connect their school experiences to future goals while emphasizing that career exploration is a continuous process of learning about themselves and their opportunities.	Quarter 2
Unit 3: Understanding Graduation Requirements	In this unit, students focus on the essential components of academic success by developing a comprehensive understanding of graduation requirements. As they navigate their freshman year, students learn to identify the specific credits and courses necessary to earn a high school diploma, ensuring they remain on a clear	Quarter 3

	path toward their future goals. In collaboration with their school counselors, students engage in strategic goal setting by developing a personalized four-year academic plan that serves as a roadmap for their high school career. Students learn to compare their current schedules with graduation requirements, learn to track their own progress, and gain an understanding of how high school credits and extracurricular activities directly impact their post-secondary college and career options.	