



GCMS High School 8th Grade Parent Night

Josh Carter
School Counselor



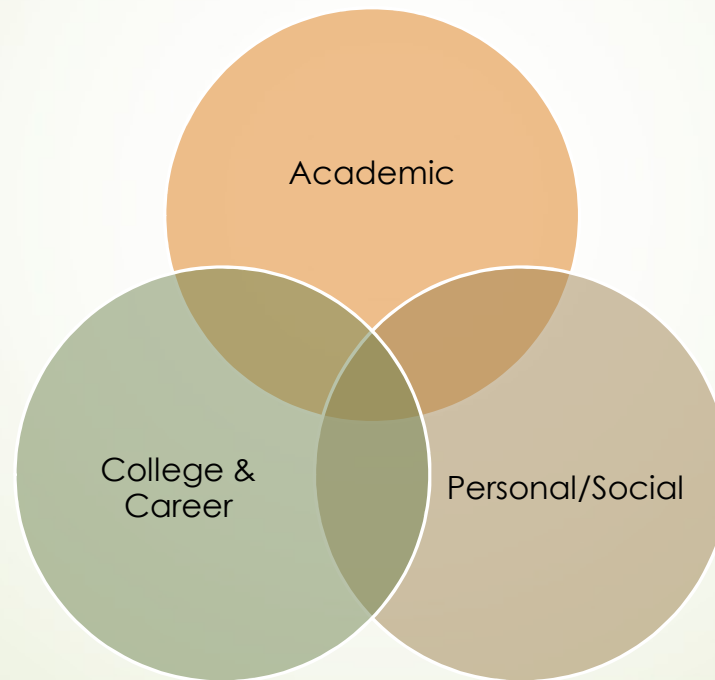
Comprehensive School Counseling Program Vision

The vision of our school counseling program is that all students will graduate academically prepared, personally/socially equipped, and ready to pursue their college and career aspirations.

This vision is based on the following beliefs

- All students deserve access to high-quality education
- All students can learn with the proper tools and supports
- All students should graduate high school and be prepared to pursue a career or post-secondary education

Comprehensive School Counseling Program Elements





Academics

Earning Credits

- Passing a semester is $\frac{1}{2}$ credit
- Exceptions: Driver Ed & Careers $\frac{1}{4}$ each
- Students must have a passing grade at the end of the semester to earn any credit in a class

Promotion

- You gain sophomore, junior, and senior status by passing classes and earning credits, not by getting a year older.
- 5 credits are needed to be a Sophomore, 11 to be a Junior, and 17 to be a Senior.



Graduation Requirements

✓ **4 years of English**

- *Includes Speech*

✓ **3 years of Math**

- *Includes Algebra*
- *Includes Geometry*

✓ **2 years of Science**

✓ **1 semester of Health**

✓ **2 years of Fine/Applied Art**

✓ **2 years of Soc. Studies**

- *Includes Am. History*
- *Includes Civics/Gov*

✓ **1 semester of Cons Ed**

- *Includes Economics or*
- *Resource Management*


✓ **4 years of PE (or waiver)**

✓ **25 Total Credits needed**



Course Load

- A normal load is 6 classes plus PE and Study Hall
- Research course options before selecting
 - If requests are fulfilled, students may not change their schedule
 - Students may NOT drop a class just because they don't like it or are failing it
 - Remember to choose carefully
- Students can only have 1 study hall



What if I want to change my schedule?

Schedule changes are to be requested for serious educational reasons only.

- To meet graduation requirements
- To meet IEP requirements
- To meet scheduling requirements
- Failing or near failing first semester of a full-year course that is not required for graduation
- Excessive absences
- Medical Reasons



Driver's Ed Eligibility

- Pass 8 classes over the previous two semesters
- Freshmen may not begin until 2nd quarter
- Freshman year, we will have to look at 8th grade grades
- Other considerations:
 - Birthday
 - Class space
 - Absences
 - Excellent disciplinary record
 - Failing academic courses



Activities & Clubs

- Sports
- Band
- Flags
- Dance Team
- Chorus
- FFA
- Red Army
- NHS
- Student Council
- Interact Club
- Scholastic Bowl
- Variety Show
- Musicals
- FCA



Sports

- Baseball
- Boys & Girls Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Football
- B & G Golf
- B & G Track
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Tennis
- Co-ed Soccer
- Co-ed Wrestling
- Dance



Extra Curricular Eligibility

- Grades are checked weekly
- One failing grade in a single subject during any week will be eligible for up to 3 weeks
- One failing grade in a single subject for more than 3 weeks will be immediately ineligible
- More than one failing grade in multiple subjects in any week will be immediately ineligible
- More than 1 failure on a semester grade card will be immediately ineligible for entire following semester



4-Yr College Entrance Requirements

- 4 years of English
- 3-4 years of Math
- 3 years of Science
- 3 years of Social Studies
- 2 years of Fine Arts or Foreign Language

*These are general requirements for most 4-year colleges/universities. Check the specific school of interest for exact requirements.



2-Yr Colleges Entrance Requirements

- Students meeting GCMS graduation requirements are generally accepted into 2-year colleges (Parkland, Heartland)
- Getting into the college does not guarantee that students qualify for college-level coursework



Parents & The Transition

High school can be a time of growth and maturity, but also a time of struggle and stress as they approach the doorstep of adulthood.

Parents can be the greatest source of **support and stability** through the sometimes turbulent seas of high school. Three key areas parents can support their teens:

- Love
- Boundaries
- Accountability



Contact Information

If you would like to talk to Mr. Carter or set up a time to meet he can be reached the following ways:

carter.josh@gcmsk12.org

217-784-4292 (GCMS High School office)