



Cobb County School District  
*Planning for High School and Beyond*  
 2021-2022

Dear Families of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students,

The BRIDGE (Building Resourceful Individuals to Develop Georgia’s Economy) Act (House Bill 400) was signed into law in 2010 to create an atmosphere of motivating middle and high school students to learn because they see the relevance of education in their dreams and future plans. The implementation of the BRIDGE Law provides students with career counseling and regularly scheduled advisement to assist them with choosing rigorous and purposeful courses for high school and beyond.

The Cobb County School District middle and high schools use a web-based program called *Naviance* for career exploration. *Naviance* ([www.naviance.com](http://www.naviance.com)) provides numerous activities that students may complete during classroom lessons, advisement, small group meetings, or individual exploration. Below are the required activities your student will complete in 8<sup>th</sup> grade using *Naviance*:

Students will complete the <b><i>AchieveWorks Skills</i></b> assessment	This is an aptitude-based assessment that measures student’s creativity, conscientiousness, critical thinking, leadership, and social-emotional skills to help students develop the soft skills they will need to be prepared for college, career, and life
Students will complete an <b>Individualized Graduation Plan (IGP)</b>	Using their career interest and aptitude inventory results, students will complete an IGP to guide registration for 9 <sup>th</sup> grade courses. This IGP will be updated and used throughout high school to assist students and families with course selection.

Students will complete their IGP with the assistance of the school counselor. This plan will be based upon individualized results of *Naviance* activities, academic performance, teacher recommendations along with other relevant information.

Even though middle school students are not expected to make commitments to specific courses at this point, they will benefit from exploring multiple options and making plans that include taking rigorous courses. The IGP will be updated throughout high school and will tentatively map out a **plan** for core subjects and electives or courses of interest. The IGP can always be revised based on student academic needs and changing interests.

Families, teachers, and counselors are encouraged to consider individual student interests and skills when planning for high school. It is also important for families and students to know the specific programs and pathways offered by the high schools in their feeder pattern. Contact your student’s school counselor if you need additional information.

You may access information concerning graduation requirements and specific programs and pathways from:

CCSD School Counseling	<a href="https://bit.ly/CCSDschoolcounseling">https://bit.ly/CCSDschoolcounseling</a>
GaDOE CTAE	<a href="https://bit.ly/GADOECTAEinfo">https://bit.ly/GADOECTAEinfo</a>
GAfutures	<a href="https://www.gafutures.org/">https://www.gafutures.org/</a>
Career Clusters	<a href="https://careertech.org/career-clusters">https://careertech.org/career-clusters</a>

You may also have access to your student’s electronic portfolio in *Naviance* by setting up a parent/guardian account. Your student's school can provide directions and an access code upon request.

Sincerely,

Your School Counseling Department