

SECTION 9 - GUIDANCE SERVICES

The primary function of the school counselor is to assist students in attaining academic excellence, addressing conduct and personal problems, and to help with placement in post-secondary institutions.

The primary responsibilities include but are not limited to:

1. To counsel students as to career opportunities and post-secondary education. The school counselor also assists students in the selection of college and applications'/admissions' procedures. Financial aid information and scholarship information is also made available during an annual workshop for parents.
2. To counsel students regarding academic concerns. This includes academic scheduling, tracking of graduation requirements, and providing follow-up services dealing with academic deficiencies with options for improvement.
3. To counsel students regarding personal issues. To provide referral services to specialized agencies in conjunction with the school social worker.
4. To supervise the administration of all major competency-based testing. This would include the distribution of testing materials, applications, and the establishment of test deadlines.

As many of our students aspire to attend college, we recommend students to complete the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT). This testing is necessary in order to qualify for admission to many colleges and universities. It should be noted, however, that the ACT is now part of the Michigan Merit Examination and is offered free to high school juniors. Please contact the school counselor for information on test and registration dates for this school year.

In addition, the State of Michigan requires all schools with state accreditation to annually administer the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test series. This equates to the Michigan Merit Examination (MME) at the high school level that is taken during second semester of the junior year of high school. This test, which measures how well students have mastered the educational standards established by the State of Michigan, evaluates the core areas of Language Arts', Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Additional information on the MEAP/MME program is available in the counseling office.