

COLLEGE CORNER

by Academic Advisor
Shannon Strange



At CCS, preparation for college begins as early as sixth grade! Students entering middle school actively begin their journey toward higher education. As Academic Advisor, I am honored to partner with parents, students, and teachers to guide students throughout their secondary years at CCS.

Sixth Grade

- Meet with student
- Focus on organization by learning to switch classes
- Recommend attendance to the "Future Seventh Graders" meeting

Seventh Grade

- Analyze possible high school level courses to be taken in middle school (i.e: Algebra, Spanish I and II), thus allowing students to take higher level courses in grades 9-12
- Recognize Duke Talent winners (See below) who are eligible to take the college entrance exam in seventh grade in preparation for the PSAT to be taken in sophomore year and SAT/ACT exams in junior and senior years
- Evaluate middle school elective options to determine best courses for the student's gifts and talents



Duke Talent Search

The students shown below were recognized by the Duke Talent Recognition Program:



Front row (l-r): Will Aimone, Jackson Gilbreath, Jake Fredrickson, Chris McKee, Will Echols. Middle row (l-r): Travis Vick, Ben Holman, Allison Sommers, Madison Clark, Kristin Beach. Back row (l-r): Shason Briscoe, Andrew Rincon, Noelle Horan, Mariza Lashley, Ashlyn Boone

The Duke Talent Search is in its 30th year and is the largest program of its kind in the nation. This program identifies academically talented seventh graders based on standardized test scores achieved while attending middle school. Candidates are identified and invited to complete either the SAT Reasoning Test or the ACT Assessment college entrance examinations. Taking the SAT or ACT in seventh grade gives students an opportunity to practice and become familiar with the exams that play a major role in college admissions. Students' early experience with the college entrance exam is helpful in preparing them to take the test in high school. All talent search participants receive resources and publications to assist the students' educational growth.

Eighth Grade

- Recommend possible honors classes to be taken in high school
- Develop a four-year plan of action to prepare for acceptance to the college of choice
- Recommend attendance at the "Future Freshmen" meeting, at which students meet teachers and principals and are given information about high school courses, extracurricular activities, and much more

**2010 Future Freshman Meeting:
May 4**

Freshman Year

- Meet with student the summer prior to the freshman year to finalize four-year plan and challenge student to take the most difficult courses that seem attainable
- Introduce academic resume and encourage student to begin tracking community service, extracurricular activities, honors, awards, employment, and other activities in preparation for college admissions requirements

