

COMMON CORE AND MMS COUNSELING

MMS school counselors are knowledgeable about Common Core State Standards and have participated in district training regarding the implementation of these standards. We collaborate with our colleagues to determine how CCSS will affect teaching and learning at MMS.

As school counselors, we identify barriers to student performance and gaps in equity and we share this information with colleagues during team meetings. We use assessment data to make recommendations on behalf of our students and we introduce interventions to fill performance gaps.

We play a significant role in managing school-wide policies that are impacted by student performance outcomes including registration of students, scheduling, recommendation and placement, connecting students to remedial supports such as Academic Support, and numerous tutoring venues.

We are a part of our school's leadership team and discussions. The school community seeks our advisement and consults with us.

As counselors, we are working towards integrating CCSS into our comprehensive school counseling. We believe that college and career readiness is not synonymous with college and career eligibility.

The CCSS use a backward design by using indicators of college and career readiness and stair casing the necessary skills and knowledge to reach these expectations.

The components of our comprehensive school counseling program support student achievement outcomes in order to help all students become college and career-ready.

They are:

- School-wide /multi-grade programming –
 - Early Awareness Financial Aid Evening
 - Career Interest Lesson and Interest Survey

- College and Career Readiness Day
- Youth Employment Program
- High School Options Lessons
- Meeting with High School Counselors for Course Registration
- Peer Mediation and Conflict Resolution
- Small Group Programming
 - Career Skills for Success Lessons
 - PACE PALS – Planning to Achieve College Excellence Mentor Program
 - College Knowledge Day at Eastern Connecticut State University
- Individual Counseling
 - Individual planning meeting with students focus on skill development for college and career success including communication, self-advocacy, time management and problem solving
 - Participation in team meetings for individual student planning
- Collaboration with Resources
 - Communication with Mansfield Youth Services to coordinate support programs including tutoring, mentoring and psychological services
 - Working with university outreach programs and older adult volunteers for tutoring supports

We have experienced with the adoption of CCSS an opportunity to heighten our focus of career exploration and college awareness. At the middle school level we are growing in our capacity to become knowledgeable about the working world, post high school opportunities, and financial aid and college admissions.