



8th Grade Advisement Checklist for Students

The 8th grade year is a pivotal year in getting ready for high school. It is a critical planning year and one that takes careful thought about course, career, and after high school decisions. It is very important that students experience a smooth transition to high school. With thorough planning and career exploration and support from school counselors as well as parents/guardians, 8th grade students will make thoughtful college and career ready plans. For you college and career ready could mean college/university, technical college, specialty school, military or a skilled job. During the 8th grade year, three careers are explored and the BRIDGE Advisement/Individual Graduation Plan is created with the assistance of school counselors. Two valuable resources are GaCollege411 www.gacollege411.org and The College Board's Big Future www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org websites. Below is a checklist to make certain that you make a smooth transition into high school:

Month	Advisement To Do Checklist:	
August		
	8.8.1	Be a Planner! Think about setting personal goals for academic achievement as well as developing good organizational skills. Encourage strong reading and math skills.
	8.8.2	Ask yourself about the career interest inventories that you completed during 6th and 7th grades and were saved to your GaCollege411 portfolio. Link for Career Interest Inventories: https://secure.gacollege411.org/Career_Planning/Learn_About_Yourself/default.aspx
	8.8.3	Reflect upon the Career Cluster or Career Clusters that your student might be interested in. Link for Career Clusters: https://secure.gacollege411.org/Career_Planning/Explore_Careers/Explore_Careers.aspx
	8.8.4	Consider the importance of being enrolled in challenging courses, if you qualify for advanced and or high school courses offered at the middle school.
	8.8.5	Go to the Fair! Discuss with your parent/guardian the PROBE Fair opportunity at the high school. This is an annual opportunity where both parents and students can speak directly with military, technical school and college/university representatives. It is never too early to begin gathering information.
	8.8.6	Remember, the counselors in the counseling office are available to help you. Contact the counselor regarding any of your questions or concerns.
September		
	8.9.7	Attend the PROBE Fair held in early September at one of the district high schools if you and your parent/guardian would like to do so. Location is announced during August.
	8.9.8	Think about how course work is going including any major project deadlines.
October		
	8.10.9	Review the <i>High School 101</i> guide that is provided to you during mid-October. This guide is for both students and parents and is an informational tool that is used to complete the BRIDGE Graduation Plan during 8th grade, but also provides information about high school. In addition, begin to review the <i>Career Planner</i> . The link for the Career Planner is: http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/userfiles/2/My%20Files/Career%20Pathways%202013-2014.pdf?id=441922
	8.10.10	Plan to attend the BRIDGE Advisement Informational event at the middle school. It will be very helpful to have reviewed the <i>HS 101</i> guide along with your parent/guardian before coming to this event.
	8.10.11	Reality! After you attend the Reality/Pathway Fair at the high school during the school day during October, reflect upon what you learned from this event.
November		
	8.11.12	Attend the BRIDGE Advisement event and listen to high school as well as middle school counselors as they prepare you for the high school years and beyond.
	8.11.13	After the BRIDGE Advisement opportunity, complete the Honors/Advanced Placement course registration process via the school district website for next school year, if applicable. Middle school counselors will also provide you assistance with this during the BRIDGE Advisement Planning session at the middle school in December or January. This opportunity is a scheduled event.
	8.11.14	Complete three career choices via the GaCollege411 website. This BRIDGE advisement task is facilitated by the school counselor.
	8.11.15	Talk with people who are involved in the career interest area(s) that you have selected.
December		
	8.12.16	Plan, Prepare and Plan! Attend the mandated by Georgia law, BRIDGE Advisement session at the middle school. This event may be held at the middle school in December or January. Sometimes you will hear this event referred to as BRIDGE Advisement or a “face-to-face” opportunity to work on the BRIDGE Advisement Plan. By Georgia law a parent or guardian must be involved in the creation and approval of this plan along with the 8th grade student. A BRIDGE Advisement document is used. There is information about this document included in <i>HS 101</i> . During this important opportunity, your student finalizes his/her high school course requests for the 9th grade year. You may also want to take another look at the <i>Career Planner</i> right before your scheduled BRIDGE Advisement session.

		Link: http://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/userfiles/2/My%20Files/Career%20Pathways%202013-2014.pdf?id=441922
	8.12.17	Think about testing-out of up to three EOCT courses. The school district website along with school counselors has information during December, January and early February should you have questions.
	8.12.18	Review the financial literacy resources that are on the GACollege411 website. Link: https://secure.gacollege411.org/home/Mapping_Your_Future/Mapping_Your_Future.aspx
January		
	8.1.19	Stay Focused! Continue to monitor your work and grades.
	8.1.20	Be sure you have completed the Honors/Advanced Placement course registration process via the school district website for next school year.
February		
	8.2.21	Update the Individual Graduation Plan using the BRIDGE Advisement document. School counselors assist with this process during classroom guidance.
	8.2.22	Plan to attend the March BRIDGE Advisement opportunity at the high school typically held the Monday prior to Spring Break. This <i>Welcome to High School</i> event covers these topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purpose of Informational Night ➤ Review of Steps Taken for Smooth Transition ➤ BRIDGE Advisement, Plans of Study, and Career Planner & High School 101 Guides ➤ Advisement and Course Requests for 9th Grade ➤ Dual Enrollment Information ➤ Academic and Career Information ➤ Extra-curricular Opportunities
March		
	8.3.23	Think High School! Attend the March BRIDGE Advisement opportunity at the high school typically held the Monday prior to Spring Break. This <i>Welcome to High School</i> event covers these topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purpose of Informational Night ➤ Review of Steps Taken for Smooth Transition ➤ BRIDGE Advisement, Plans of Study, and Career Planner & High School 101 Guides ➤ Advisement and Course Requests for 9th Grade ➤ Dual Enrollment Information ➤ Academic and Career Information ➤ Extra-curricular Opportunities There may also be a required Honors/AP informational session connected to this BRIDGE Advisement Opportunity.
April		
	8.4.24	Remember to monitor your course work and grade progress.
May		
	8.5.25	Attend Honors/AP Information event, if held in May at the high school that your student will attend next year.
	8.5.26	Remember high school counselors are available to help assist you as well as middle school counselors. Consider emailing the counselor, if you have questions or concerns regarding next school year.
	8.5.27	Register via the school district website if you are interested in taking SB289 Online courses during the 9th grade year. Information is available on the district website during April through mid-July. Students who are not registered by the end of June will not have this opportunity available for the next school year.
June		
	8.6.28	Think Summer! Plan to attend the Freshmen Orientation opportunity at your high school. This event is typically held in July.
	8.6.29	Read over the summer.
	8.6.30	As high school begins, please review this important information about the HOPE Scholarship: Students and parents must monitor the HOPE grade point average throughout high school on the student's My411 account. The final, verified gpa with the Georgia Student Finance Commission is used for HOPE Scholarship eligibility as well as Zell Miller Scholarship eligibility. The final verification process is in June after your student graduates from high school; however, you can monitor the HOPE gpa at the close of every semester beginning in late January of the ninth grade year. General HOPE Scholarship information may be found on this link: https://secure.gacollege411.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/HOPE_Program/Georgia_s_HOPE_Scholarship_Program_Overview.aspx Rigorous course information may be found on this link: http://www.gsfc.org/main/publishing/pdf/2012/Course_List.pdf All core courses taken in grades 9-12 are calculated in the HOPE gpa. No middle school courses taken for high school credit are calculated in the HOPE gpa.