

Counselor's Corner

Centennial Middle School



FEBRUARY 2023

Friends Matter

Who your child hangs out with matters when it comes to academics and college-going attitudes. It's probably no surprise that teenagers value their peers' opinion more than those of their parents. Having a group of friends who plan to attend college is more influential on college-going rates than parental encouragement.

- The American Council on Education reports that **students are four times more likely to enroll in college if a majority of their friends also plan to attend.**
- Another study has shown that social network influences a student's academic achievement. **A student whose friends have good grades is more likely to have good grades, too.**
- Peer tutoring and mentoring can also positively affect academic achievement. One study showed that **students who take part in peer mentoring or tutoring reported improvements in test scores, grade point averages (GPAs), and course pass rates.**



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Did You Know?

Students who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely to have a higher GPA, have better attendance, and expect to earn a bachelor's degree.

Myth Buster

MYTH: Teens value the opinions of their peers, so parents cannot influence them.

REALITY: Families have a strong influence in their child's planning and decision-making for high school and beyond.

Families can influence their child by setting high expectations and through encouragement and motivation.

For example, when families show that they believe their children are capable of high achievement, their children are more likely to set high goals, work hard, and persist in the face of challenges.

When families place a strong value on learning and hard work, children are more likely to be successful.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

- **9th Grade Registration (current 8th graders):**
 - **March 8th:** High School Counselors Visit CMS
 - **March 9th:** Freshman Orientation @ SHS
 - **March 14th:** Registration is Due in History classes
- **8th Grade Registration (current 7th graders):**
 - **March 16th:** Reg Video during Patriot Period
 - **March 23rd:** Registration is Due Online only
- **7th Grade Registration (current 6th graders):**
 - **March 2nd:** Spring Preview Night @ CMS
 - **March 6th-10th:** CMS Counselors visit Elem schools
 - **March 15th:** Registration is Due Online only

Student Checklist

- Get involved!** Try a sports team, volunteer, or join a club.
- Talk with friends and family** about your interests, careers, and possible college choices.
- Take advantage of every opportunity to participate in enrichment programs** (on the weekend or in the summer) and field trips.

Family Checklist

- Encourage your child to get involved in school and community.** Suggest sports, school clubs, or volunteer opportunities that reflect your child's interests - it doesn't matter what it is, it's just important to be involved!
- Get to know your child's friends and their parents.** Know who your teen is spending time with and take advantage of opportunities to meet friends and their parents at school or community events.
- Encourage your children to take the most challenging courses they can handle.** Tackling tough courses can give them confidence and prepare them for higher-level high school classes.



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.