

10TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT CLASS OF 2028



Walton High
School
Counseling
Department

Tonight's Agenda

Part I: Walton Counselor Presentation

- Graduation and grade promotion requirements
- Course registration procedures
- HOPE scholarship details
- Dual enrollment & college visits for junior year

Part II: Heather Meadows-Adamson, Applerouth Tutoring Services

- PSAT score report
- SAT vs. ACT
- Key Updated on the Digital SAT and the redesigned ACT
- What the shorter ACT format and new Composite score mean for students
- How these changes impact testing strategy

Who's Who in the Counseling Office



Walton Counseling Department

Counselors (top row): Laura Clary (A-Ch); Betsy Alpert (Ci-G); Donna Dunham (H-K);
Erica Watford (L-N); Latasha Jackson (O-SL); Lisa Fay (Sm-Z)

Support Staff (bottom row): Rebecca England (College & Career); Karen Schwartz
(Social Worker); Melissa Schrenk (Registrar); Collins Foster (504 Clerk);
Jen Burns (Scheduling Clerk)

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SCHOOL
COUNSELING
DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE

Walton High School Counseling Department

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[New Student Enrollment Information](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)



www.waltonhighcounseling.com

Graduation Requirements

Subject	Number of Credits Needed
English	4 credits (MUST INCLUDE: 9 th Lit or Lit & Comp 1, Lit & Comp 2)
Math	4 credits (MUST INCLUDE: Algebra, Geometry, Adv Algebra)
Science	4 credits (MUST INCLUDE: Biology, Physics/Physical Science, Chemistry/Environmental Science)
Social Studies	3 credits (MUST INCLUDE: World History, US History, Personal Finance & Economics/ US Government)
Health and Personal Fitness	1 credit
Career Tech/Fine Arts/Foreign Language	3 credits
General Electives	4 credits
TOTAL	23 credits

Promotion to 11th grade

**STRAIGHT
INTO
11TH GRADE**

Requires a total of 10 credits and must include:

- Must include 2 English credits
- Must include 2 Math credits
- Must include 2 Science credits
- Plus 4 additional credits

REGISTRATION CALENDAR 2026-27

RISING 11TH GRADE

Date	Event
Week of February 2	Teachers will do core registration (except science)
Wednesday, February 11 Thursday, February 12	Science registration
Wednesday, February 25 (extended HR)	Core registration letters will be given to students in homeroom. Students will receive information about the elective registration process and deadlines. **Elective Fair in Dining Hall
Monday, March 2	Cobb Virtual Academy (CVA) summer and fall course registration opens
Friday, March 6	Elective registration will be completed in homeroom
Friday, March 20	Links for mentorship and teacher apprenticeship close at 11:45 pm. Links can be found in the student's CTLS homeroom.
Wednesday, April 1	Waiver and zero period deadline. Waiver link will close at midnight. Link can be found in the students' CTLS homeroom.
Friday, May 8	Course requests posted in Student/ParentVue

COURSE CHOICES & PROGRESSION



Grades are the best predictor for placement choices.



GPA and course rigor are the top factors in college admissions. Colleges want to see positive progression in rigor and grades.



Challenging yourself appropriately is important. Rigorous courses prepare you for success in college.



Take the strongest curriculum where you can be successful, taking into account your interests, abilities, and potential college majors.



Requirements vs Expectations

High school graduation requirements may differ from college admission requirements

ACADEMIC PLANNING GUIDE



Available on the school counseling and Walton websites



FLOW Charts



All courses offered next year for each grade level



Course descriptions



Use in upcoming elective course registration

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOPE!

What are the different types of HOPE?

How is the HOPE GPA calculated?

What is HOPE Rigor?

ZELL MILLER

4-YEAR COLLEGE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Zell Miller Scholarship

- Requires 3.7 core high school (HOPE) GPA as calculated by GSFC
- Requires 1200 SAT Math and Reading or 25 ACT composite
- **Must earn a minimum of 4 credits from the academic rigor course list prior to graduating from high school.**
- Pays for two-year or four-year degree
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers **FULL** tuition
- Applies automatically for Valedictorian or Salutatorian
- Must maintain 3.3 GPA while in college

Zell Miller Grant

- Requires 3.5 *college* GPA for grant eligibility
- Does not require minimum test score
- Pays for certificate or diploma
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be GA Resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers **FULL** tuition (retroactively covers previous semester once 3.5 GPA is earned)
- Must maintain 3.5 GPA while in college

HOPE 4-YEAR COLLEGE

HOPE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Scholarship

- 3.0 core GPA as calculated by GSFC (can be earned in college)
- **Must earn a minimum of 4 credits from the academic rigor course list prior to graduating from high school. (Review your HOPE transcript on GAfutures.org)**
- Two-year or four-year degree
- Must graduate from a GA high school
- Must be a GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers a **percentage** of tuition

Grant

- No initial GPA requirement
- Technical certificate or diploma
- Must have a high school diploma or GED
- Must be a GA resident for at least one year (Green Card or citizenship)
- Covers a **percentage** of tuition

HOPE GPA

- The average of your core classes, which include ELA, math, science, social studies, & world lang (9th-12th)
- Includes
 - Academic Electives (ex. Algebra Support, Psychology, Yearbook, etc.)
 - ALL grades in these areas (PASSED OR FAILED)
- Core AP/DE earn Extra Quality Points up to a 4.0

Regular On-Level	Honors Level	AP/DE
A=4.0	A=4.0	A=4.0
B=3.0	B=3.0	B=3.5
C=2.0	C=2.0	C=2.5
D=1.0	D=1.0	D=1.5
F=0.0	F=0.0	F=0.0

[How to Check HOPE GPA in GAfutures](#)

HOPE RIGOR

The Class of 2028 must earn at least four credits in courses from the following categories to be HOPE/Zell Miller eligible

Advanced Math

- Adv Algebra, Precalculus, AMDM, Statistical Reasoning

Advanced Science

- Chemistry, Physics, Human Anatomy, Forensic Science

Advanced Placement

- Core subjects

University System of Georgia

- Dual Enrollment

Advanced World Language

- Level 2 and higher

DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Georgia's Dual Enrollment program allows high school students (10th – 12th grade) to earn college credit while working on their high school diploma.
- Dual Enrollment covers tuition, mandatory fees, and required textbooks.
- Student and parent/guardian are required to attend a mandatory Dual Enrollment Information Session if interested in pursuing Dual Enrollment.



[Dual Enrollment](#)

COLLEGE VISITS

■ College Visits In-Person

- Great way to start learning about colleges & discovering the best fit
- Juniors get 1 excused absence; Seniors get 2 excused absences
- Provide the attendance office with a letter from the admissions office confirming the student's visit or an email the student may receive after the visit thanking the student for visiting the campus

■ College Visits at Walton

- Each year over 100 college admissions counselors come to Walton to present information about their colleges
- Most colleges visit in early fall
- Please encourage your students next year to register and attend.
- Register in Naviance 25 hours in advance



PART 2
PRESENTED BY
HEATHER MEADOWS-ADAMSON
APPLEROUTH TUTORING
SERVICES

The PSAT, SAT/ACT, and College Admissions

Heather Meadows-Adamson
Premium Tutor, Applerouth Tutoring Services

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the presentation**



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Today

- Your PSAT Score Report
- SAT vs. ACT
- The Digital SAT
- ACT Changes
- Next Steps
- Q&A

Your PSAT Score Report



What is the PSAT?

- PSAT=Preliminary SAT
- Different types of PSAT
 - PSAT 8/9—only offered to 8th and 9th graders
 - PSAT 10—an option that can be offered to 10th graders
 - PSAT/NMSQT—offered to all 11th graders, sometimes also 10th graders (changes by school)
- **NOT used for college applications, must take SAT or ACT**

Why take the PSAT?

- Good practice for the SAT or ACT
- For Juniors, it's the first step for the National Merit Scholarship process
- Check your progress in school using percentiles and the College and Career Readiness Benchmarks

PSAT Scoring Scale

PSAT/NMSQT Score Reported	Details	Score Range
Section Scores	Reading and Writing (RW)	160–760
	Math (M)	160–760
Total Score	Sum of the 2 section scores	320–1520
Selection Index Score	$\frac{2(RW) + M}{10}$	48–228

- The PSAT scale goes to 1520
- PSAT and SAT scores are roughly equivalent. The PSAT is 80 points shorter and simpler.

The Selection Index Score is only applicable to Juniors for the National Merit Scholarship

Your Score Report

PSAT/NMSQT Scores

TOTAL SCORE

1 120 | 320-1520 | 75th*

Score Range: 1080-1160
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 1100

SECTION SCORES

Reading and Writing | 160-760 | 60th* | **2**

Your Score Range: 590-650
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 600

Math | 160-760 | 70th*

Your Score Range: 490-530
3 Year Average Score (all test-takers): 510

* Percentiles represent the percent of 11th grade test takers from the past 3 years who scored the same as or below you.

Score range: This is the range of scores you could possibly get if you took the PSAT/NMSQT multiple times on different days.

Knowledge and Skills

View your performance across the 8 content domains measured on the PSAT/NMSQT. For more information on performance score bands, visit satsuite.collegeboard.org/skills-insight.

<h3>Reading and Writing</h3> <p>Information and Ideas (26% of test section, 12-14 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 680-800</p> <p>Craft and Structure (28% of test section, 13-15 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 550-600</p> <p>Expression of Ideas (28% of test section, 8-12 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 550-600</p> <p>Standard English Conventions (26% of test section, 11-15 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 420-460</p>	<h3>Math</h3> <p>Algebra (35% of test section, 13-15 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 610-670</p> <p>Advanced Math (32.5% of test section, 12-14 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 420-460</p> <p>Problem Solving & Data Analysis (20% of test section, 7-9 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 420-460</p> <p>Geometry & Trigonometry (12.5% of test section, 4-6 questions)</p> <p>Performance: 420-460</p>
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Juniors Only

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

NMSC SELECTION INDEX SCORE

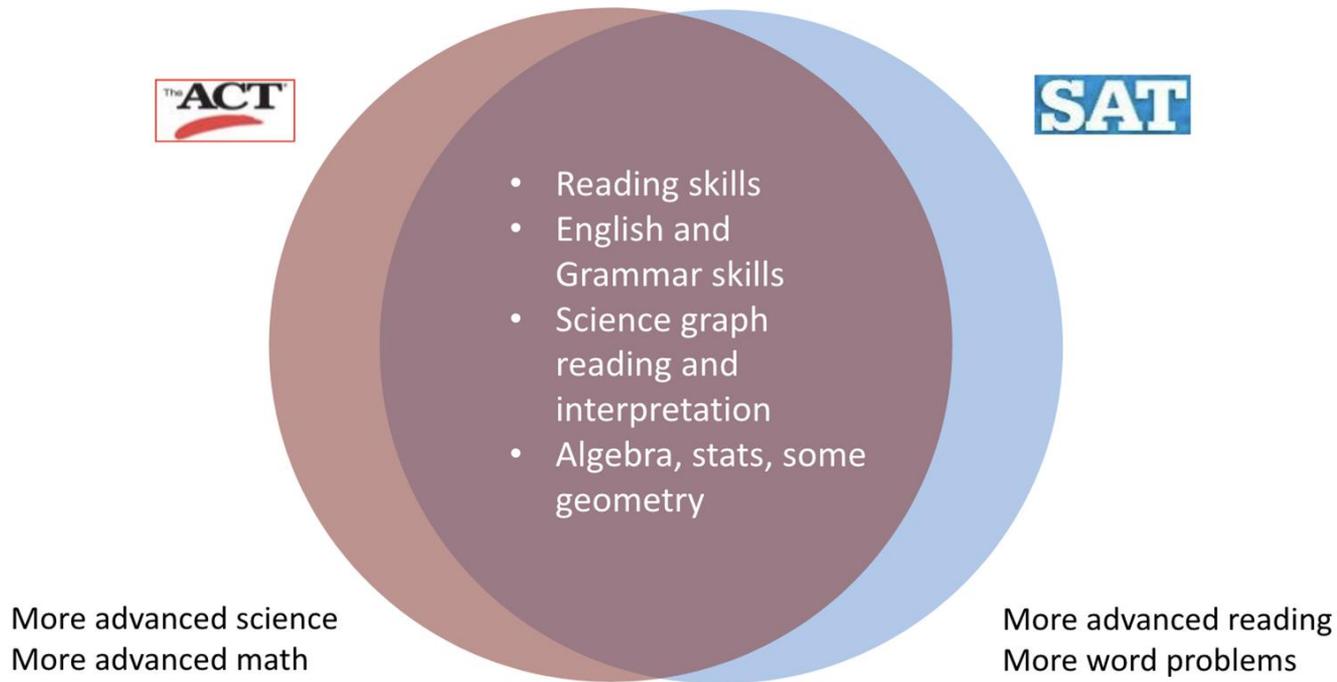
174 | 48-228

You meet entry requirements for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Look on page 2 of this report for more information.

SAT vs. ACT



The SAT and ACT have roughly 80% overlapping content

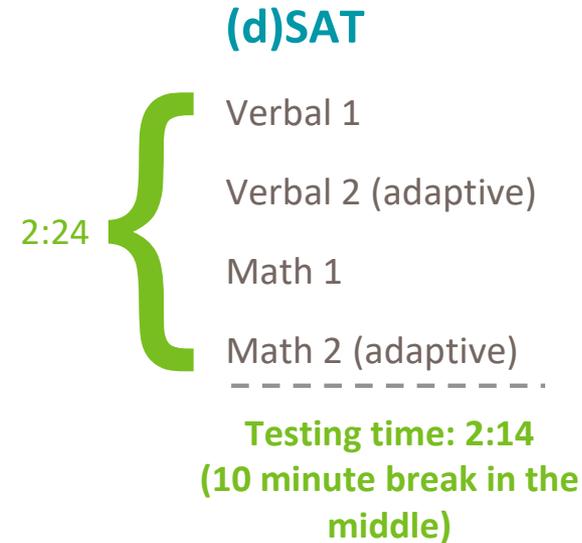
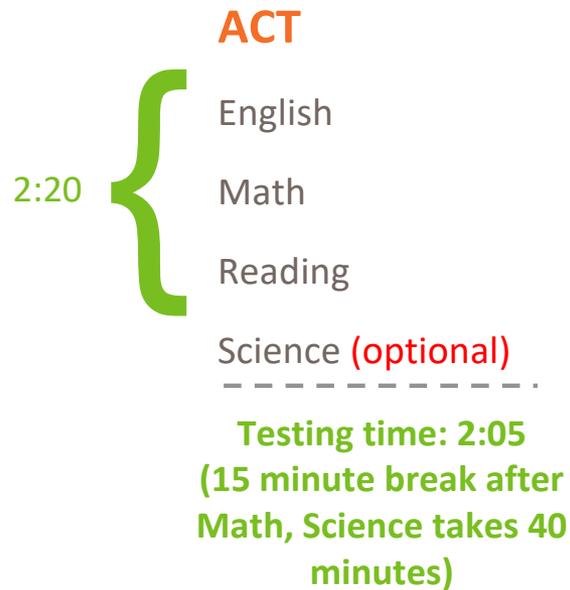


PSAT/SAT and ACT have moved away from each other in some ways



Shorter reading passages	Longer reading passages
Fewer grammar rules tested	More grammar rules tested
Focus on Algebra and graphing skills	Covers wide range of math topics
Digitally adaptive testing experience	Linear testing experience
2 hours and 14 minutes testing time	2 hours and 5 minutes testing time
2 sections with two modules each	3 core sections, 2 optional (Science & Writing)

Test Structure and Timing



Pace (seconds per question) is a big difference

Section	ACT	SAT	% Difference (dSAT vs. ACT)
Verbal (E/W + R)	52.3	71.0	36%
Math	66.7	95.5	43%
Science	60	n/a	N/A

The SAT has a more forgiving timing structure, which can benefit some students, but as we'll see, it's also a more complicated test.

The Digital PSAT/SAT



Why Digital testing?

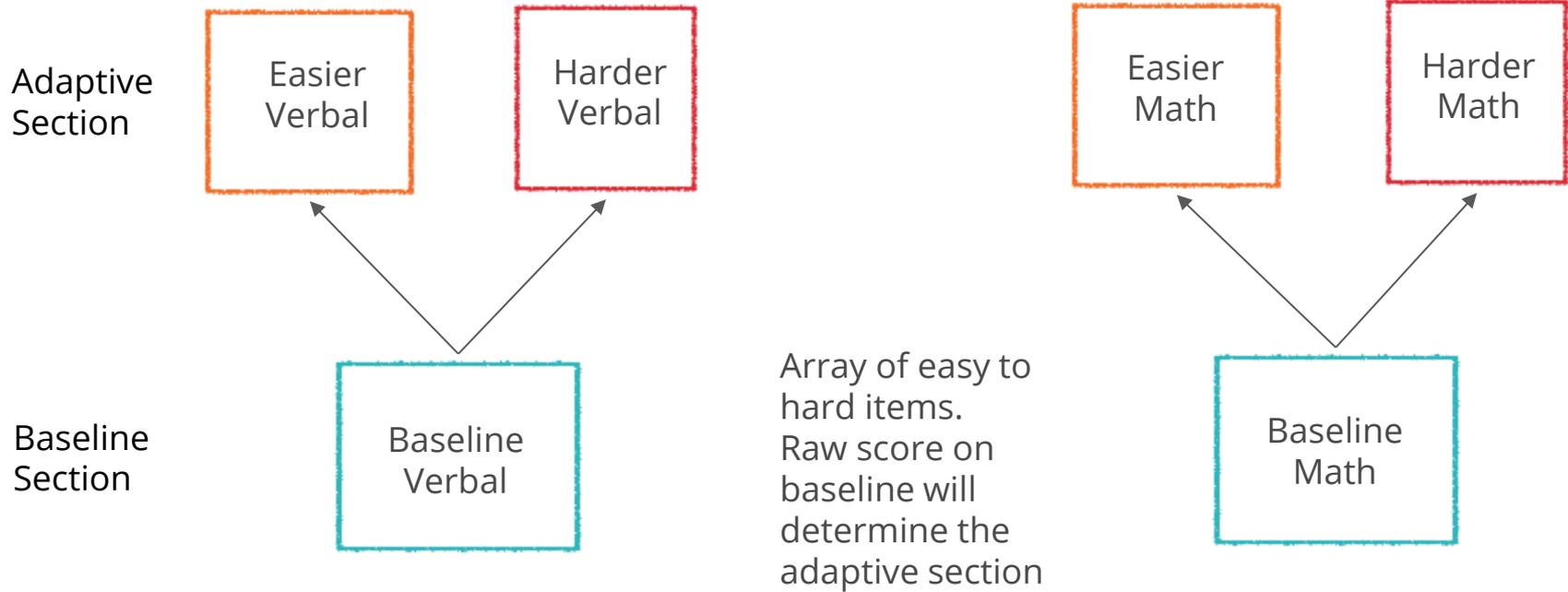
Digital tests have lots of potential advantages over paper ones.

- Eliminates the need for human proctors to manage time; makes the test **more consistent and reliable**
- Eliminates issues with bubbling or gridding in answers, or **the need for scantrons**;
- **Increases test security**, making it less likely whole test administrations will need to be cancelled;
- **Improves accommodations** available for students with learning differences
- Test can be **more efficient**, saving students time (and focus!)

What does “adaptive” mean?

- The new SAT will be **SECTION-adaptive**, as opposed to QUESTION-adaptive. Students will see reading/writing and math each twice. Section One will be set, and Section Two will vary based on how the student performs in Section One.
- The second module will adapt in only one of two ways- the questions will be, on average, easier than the baseline, or harder than the baseline
- In adaptive testing, there’s **no single, set test form**
- **Earlier questions** can affect students’ scores more than later ones

Adaptive Sections



ACT Changes



ACT Changes

What's Changing	What's Staying the Same
Shorter test — 75 fewer minutes and 44 fewer questions.	Core content and subject areas remain the same.
More time per question.	Same skills and knowledge assessed.
Math section now has 4 answer choices instead of 5.	Other sections already had 4 choices.
Shorter reading passages.	Reading section still measures comprehension and analysis.
Optional science and writing sections.	Colleges still receive a comprehensive ACT score.
	Both paper and online tests still offered.
	Superscoring still supported. ACT score scale (1–36) and benchmarks remain unchanged.

Composite score is only
English + Math + Reading

New in 2026: Desmos
available for digital test-
takers

Next Steps



Next Steps

- **Meet with your counselor**
- **Create a college list**
 - Gather data on GPAs and test scores
- **Get baseline SAT/ACT scores**
 - How do these compare to the middle 50th percentile scores from your list of schools?
- **Check your calendar**
 - Plan for three tests and stop once you reach your goal
- **Prep if you need it**
 - Rule of thumb is to start practicing and studying 8 weeks before your official test date

What is superscoring?

Superscoring allows students to combine top section scores from different test dates to form **a new composite score**, the only score to be used in the admissions process.

The vast majority of schools will superscore the SAT, and many will superscore the ACT. Always check with the admissions office of every school your student wants to attend!

Test Date	Verbal	Math	Composite
March	630	670	1300
May	610	630	1240
June	660	650	1310
Superscore	660	670	1330

Test Optional Admissions

- Definition: A college will consider an application complete and review it, even if the student has not submitted SAT or ACT scores.
- Early Action/Decisions are becoming more important
- Many schools going back to test required or test conditional

Why test scores still matter for many schools

- Test scores are a hedge against the grade inflation and grade compression that have been rampant in the US, making “having all A’s” not so special.
- Test scores are a strong predictor of graduation within 4 and 6 years
- Test scores are a helpful way to compare a broad, diverse group of applicants (useful for state schools)
- Test scores help differentiate students who might otherwise look similar (highly selectives)

National testing dates



If possible, plan to test 2-3 times. You may be “one and done,” but you want to build some slack into your plan, just in case. Students usually need to start preparing 8-12 weeks before the test.

Which Test To Try First?

Both of them, ideally, to establish baselines and see which format you prefer (practice, no need to take official tests)

1. Start with your **STRENGTH**. If none,
2. Prep to your **PREFERENCE**.
3. If prep is not yielding results, switch to the other test. If you have to switch, more than 80% of the content transfers

Testing is typically a Junior Year activity

- The overwhelming majority of students can wait until sophomore year has concluded to begin test preparation
 - **Completing Advanced Algebra is beneficial**
- Different students will choose different schedules
 - Consider your busiest season for extra curricular activities and plan around that
- Some students will be ready to begin preparation earlier in the Junior year or even the summer before.
- Waiting until Senior fall to start puts too much pressure on too few test dates.

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Q&A

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FINAL THOUGHTS

CREDIT OPTIONS DURING THE SUMMER

Cobb Virtual Academy (CVA)

www.cobbk12.org/cobbvirtualacademy

- Initial credit or credit recovery
- Cost is \$275 per 0.5 credit
- Asynchronous instruction
- Summer registration opens March 2
- Classes open May 4
- New for Summer: No final exam exemptions and PF equipment not required

Georgia Virtual School (GAVS)

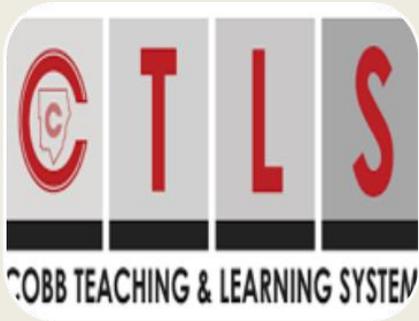
www.gavirtualschool.org

- Initial credit or credit recovery
- Cost is \$250 per 0.5 credit
- Asynchronous instruction
- Students may take a GAVS course only if CVA does not offer the course (e.g., German I)
- Summer registration opens on Sunday, March 1
- Classes open June 1

CCSD High School Summer Credit Recovery Program

- Credit recovery only
- Free
- In-person instruction
- Location: Wheeler HS (bus transportation to and from Walton to Wheeler)
- Registration opens on March 1 in ParentVue
- Classes are from June 8 – June 23

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CTLS Parent



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questions