



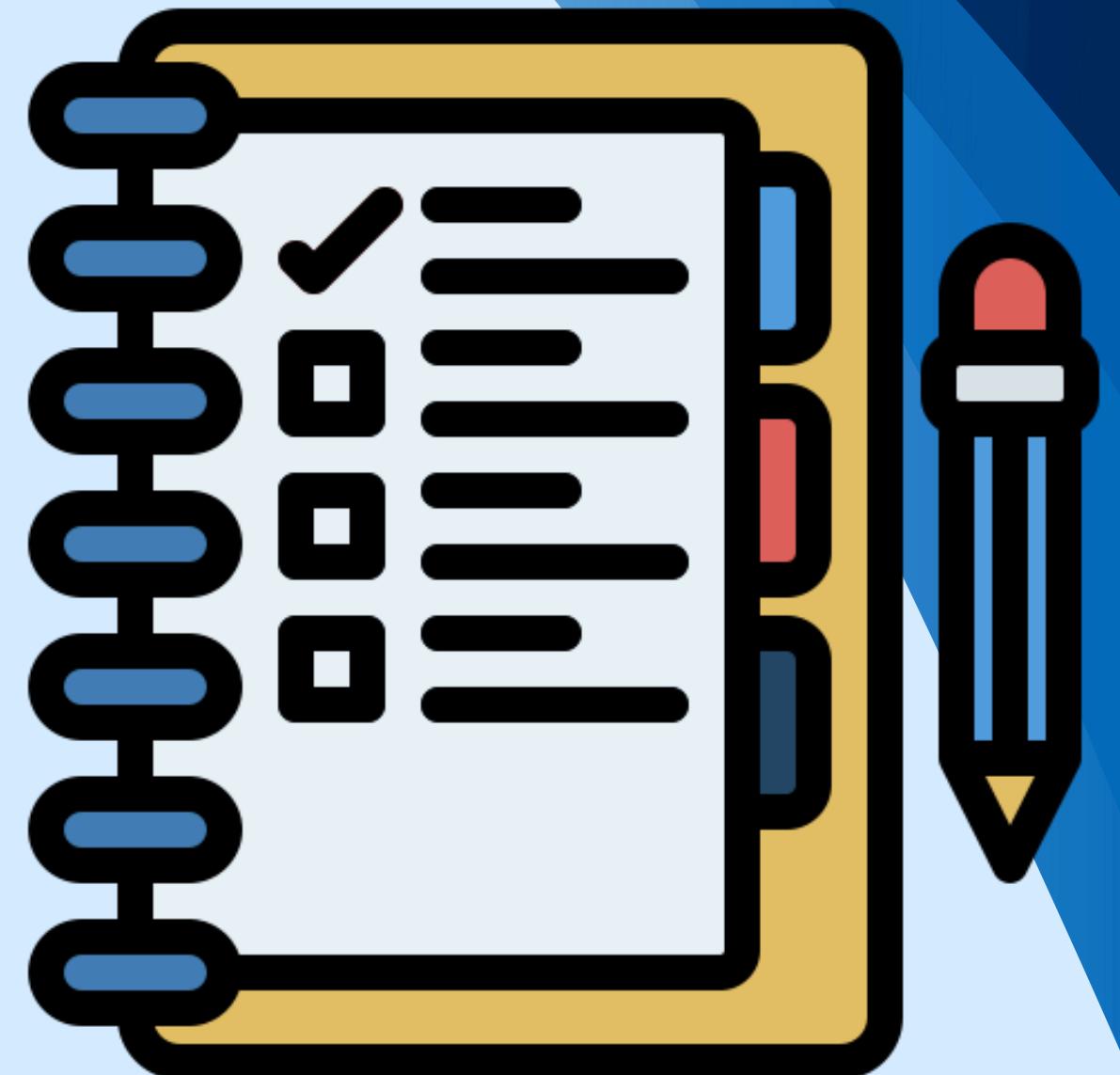
6th Grade Parent Night

Welcome to J. Taylor Finley Middle School

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

Agenda

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Student Support Services
3. Grades 7 & 8 Units of Study
4. High School Level Course Offerings
5. Scheduling Process for Grade 6
6. Role of the School Counselor
7. Planning for the future
8. Q & A Session



Introductions and Welcome

Administrators:

- Traci Roethel - Principal
- Alexis Estrada - Assistant Principal
- Dr. Ricky Papandrea - Director of School Counseling & Testing, K-12

Dean

- Amanda Shaffer

School Counselors

- Michelle Handschu - Primary/Intermediate Counselor
- Lissanny Batista
- Alison Logan
- Paloma Ramlogan

Neighborhood Aide

- Idania Rivera



Student Support Services

School Counselors

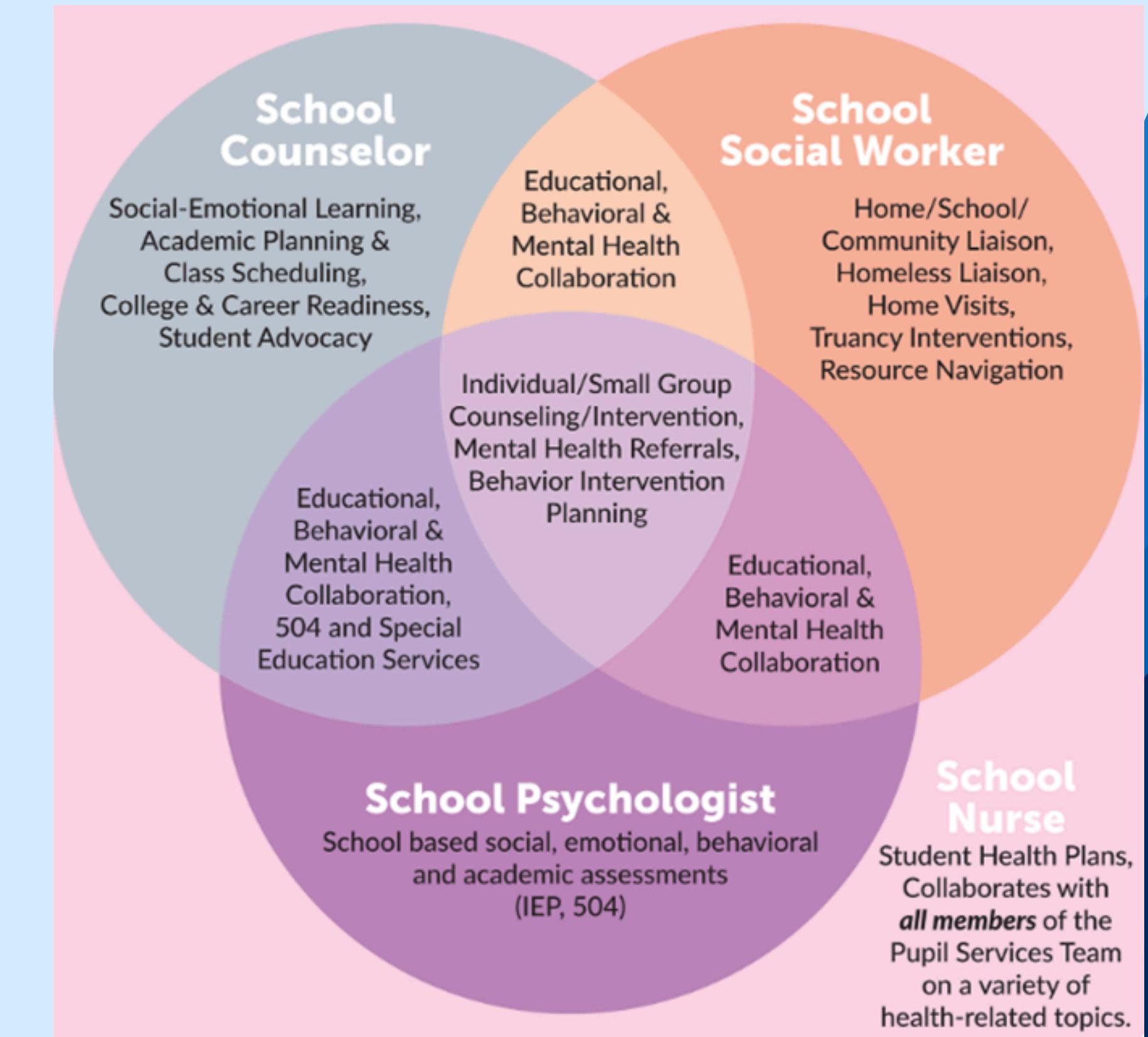
- Paloma Ramlogan (Bi-lingual)
- Lissanny Batista (Bi-lingual)
- Alison Logan

Social Workers

- Kathryn Costa
- Karla Sanchez (Bi-lingual)
- Dennis Scruggs

School Psychologists

- Mary DiBenedetto
- Jasmina Nakevska (Bi-lingual)
- Andrea Becker



NYS Middle School Units of Study

Subject	Grade 7	Grade 8
English Language Arts	One Unit of Study	One Unit of Study
Social Studies	One Unit of Study	One Unit of Study
Science	One Unit of Study	One Unit of Study or One $\frac{1}{2}$ Units of Study (ES)
Mathematics	One $\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study	One Unit of Study or One $\frac{1}{2}$ Units of Study (Algebra I)
Technology/Computer Science	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study
Virtual Enterprise (Elective)***	-----	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study
Family and Consumer Science	$\frac{1}{4}$ Unit of Study	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study
Physical Education	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study
Health	-----	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study
The Arts	$\frac{1}{2}$ Unit of Study (Art) and 1 Unit of Study (Music)	One Unit of Study (Studio in Art) or 1 Unit of Study (Music) (Optional)
World Languages	One Unit of Study	One Unit of Study

*** Courses may be substituted for RTI services and other support classes ***

High School Level Courses

High School-Level Courses Offered at J.Taylor Finley Middle School (Grade 8)

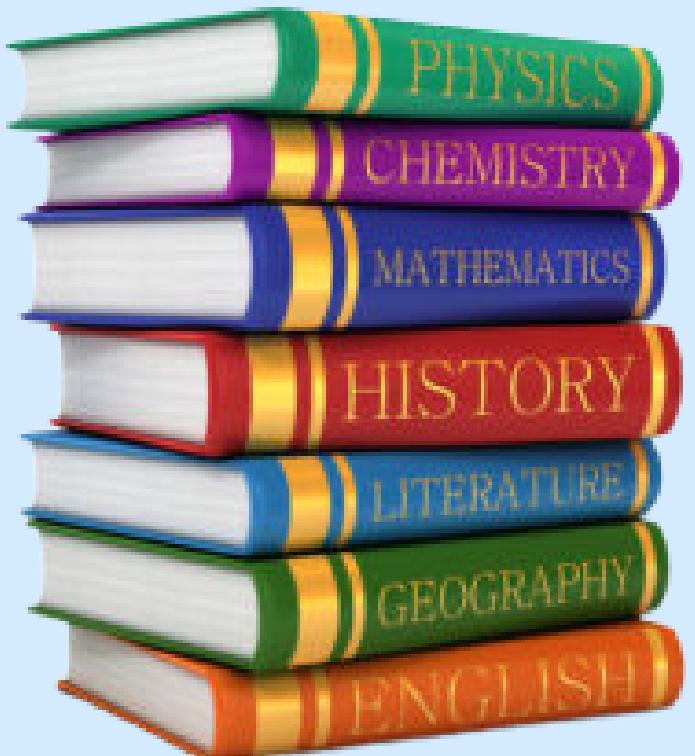
Science: Earth and Space Science – (Regents Exam at the end of the course)

Art: Accelerated Studio in Art

Math: Algebra I - All Students (Regents Exam at the end of the course)

World Language: Spanish, French, Italian, or Latin

Benefits: Students can earn up to four high school course credits



Scheduling Process for Grade 6

World Language Selections:

- Woodhull Intermediate School: Students will continue with their current World Language Selection; No Changes will be permitted.
- Jack Abrams STEM Intermediate School: World Language Clubs have been visiting classes at Jack Abrams Stem Intermediate School to provide students with information regarding World Language Course Offerings.

Fine & Performing Arts:

- Students will be scheduled for either Art or Music, but they will not be able to take both during the same Academic Year.
 - Music Selections: Band, Chorus, Orchestra, or General Music

Scheduling Process for Grade 6

Course Selections:

- Course selections from parents are due by January 23, 2026 .
- Ms. Handschu will meet with students individually to review course selections and academic progress. Afterwards, entries are completed in eSchool.

Student Schedules Released:

- Course placements and schedules will be posted on the parent portal and the student Portal in August.



Role of the School Counselor

Assist Students in Setting S.M.A.R.T. Goals:

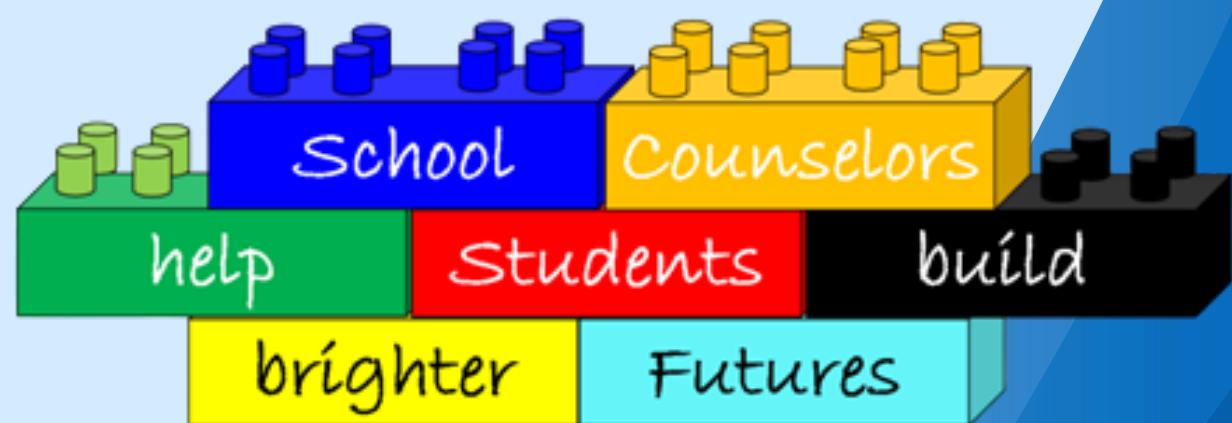
- Guide students to establish Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound goals, and help them create action plans to achieve those goals.

Identify and Leverage Academic Strengths

Explore Interests, Abilities, and Career Options

Promote Independence and Accountability

Address Social-Emotional and Relationship Concerns



Planning for the Future

(College and Career Readiness)

High School Course Registration and Credits: Students enrolled in high school-level courses earn credits toward their diploma, with all courses also appearing on the official high school transcript.

Continued Dual Language Studies: Dual Language students maintain their language proficiency by continuing language courses throughout high school.

Transcribed Grades and Credits from Grade 7: Both the final course grade and credits earned in grade 7, along with the Checkpoint B exam grade, are recorded on the student's high school transcript.

Career Exploration through Naviance: Career exploration programs are introduced in grade 7 via the Naviance platform, helping students begin to plan and explore future career pathways.

Parent and Student Portal

Benefits:

- **Real-Time Access to Information:** Provides up-to-date attendance, grades, schedules, and progress reports.
- **Improved Communication:** Strengthens parent-teacher-student collaboration with instant updates and messaging features.
- **Academic Monitoring:** Enables parents and students to track assignments, grades, and graduation requirements.
- **Empowerment:** Encourages students to take accountability and actively participate in their academic journey.

Accessing the Portal:

- Accessible through the district website under the "Parents" section.
- Register for an account by clicking "Parent Portal Registration" on the sign-in page.

Questions and Answers





Thank You