



Student Support Team Night & Specialty Sessions

INNOVATION ACADEMY COUNSELING



MS. JACKSON
LAST NAMES **A-E**



MS. HARRISON
LAST NAMES **F-La**



MS. BUTLER
LAST NAMES **Le-Re**



MS. CHILSON
LAST NAMES **Rh-Z**



MS. MORAN
**DEPT. CHAIR &
COUNSELING
PROGRAMMING**

Innovation Academy Counseling Team Introductions

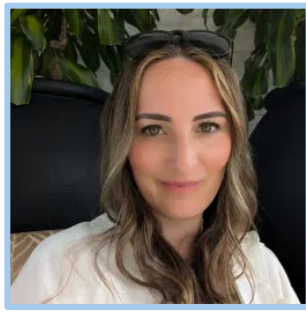
Student Support Team



Niki McKenzie
(College &
Career Advisor)



Melissa Balser
(MTSS/Grad Coach)



Brady Varga
(Social
Worker)



Beth Hudec (IST)



Robert
Shultz (School
Psychologist)



Allison Herndon
(504/RTI)



Samantha
Feldschneider
(Registrar)



Gina Danner &
Bev Shiotelis
(Virtual Support)



Core Responsibilities

Academic Support

- Assisting with course selection
- Developing study skills and time management
- Monitoring academic progress

Social and Emotional Development

- Providing individual counseling for personal issues
- Conducting group counseling sessions
- Implementing anti-bullying programs

Career Planning and College Readiness

- Helping students explore career options
- Organizing college fairs and visits
- Assisting with college applications and scholarships

Crisis Intervention

- Role in crisis situations (e.g., grief counseling, conflict resolution)
- Collaborating with external mental health resources
- Creating a safe school environment



Core Responsibilities

Collaboration with Stakeholders

- Working with teachers, administrators, and parents
- Involvement in IEPs and 504 plans
- Community outreach and partnerships

Ethical and Legal Responsibilities

- Maintaining student confidentiality
- Adhering to ethical guidelines (e.g., ASCA standards)
- Understanding legal obligations

Data-Driven Practices

- Using data to identify student needs
- Evaluating the effectiveness of counseling programs
- Adjusting strategies based on outcomes



School Counselors

School Counselors
work to create a
future world where
all students **thrive!**



Some Programming Offered

Junior/Senior
Meetings

Scheduling
Education

Parent Nights

College Tours

Dual Enrollment

College
Recommendations

College Admission
Workshops

4 Year Plan

College Fairs

Signs of Suicide

Career Explorations



When Should you Reach Out to the School Counselor?

- Academic Concerns
- Behavioral Issues
- Emotional and Mental Health
- Social Issues
- Personal Issues Affecting School Life
- Career and College Guidance
- Crisis Situations



MTSS Specialist – Melissa Balser

MTSS Support Specialists work to identify and support students through a multi-tiered approach. We work closely with school counselors, teachers, administrators, and student support staff to create a comprehensive support network for students. I also serve as a graduation coach, a crucial role in ensuring that all students, especially those at risk of dropping out, have the support they need to succeed and graduate on time.

Data Collection and
Analysis

Intervention Management
& Support

Identify At-Risk Students

Monitoring and Reporting

Academic Support

Mentoring

Phoenix Academic Center (PAC)



Academic Tutoring

Executive Function
Support

Expanding subject
support throughout the
year

Flex Friday Tutoring

Academic Tutoring

Testing Center

Tutoring A	8:55 – 9:25
Tutoring B	9:30 – 10:00
Workshop #1	10:05 – 12:05
Lunch	12:10 – 1:10
House	1:15 – 2:00
Workshop #2	2:05 – 4:05

504 Specialist – Allison Herndon

The 504 Specialist in a high school is responsible for coordinating and overseeing the implementation of Section 504 plans. Their primary goal is to ensure that students with disabilities receive the appropriate support and accommodations to succeed in school.

Development of 504
Plans

Implementation and
Monitoring

Compliance

Intervention Management
& Support

Data Collection and
Analysis

Teacher Support and
Collaboration

Instructional Support Teacher – Beth Hudec

Direct Support for Students

Collaboration with
Classroom Teachers

Assessment and
Monitoring

Professional Development

Family and Community
Engagement

The role of an Instructional Support Teacher (IST) reviews progress of all students with the MTSS team. The IST coordinates Special Education services in the school, provides direct support to students receiving Special Education services and supports the staff who provide Special Education services. They act as a bridge between students' needs and effective instructional practices, ensuring a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

School Psychologist – Robert Shultz

Consultation

Advocacy

Intervention and Support

Assessment, Evaluation
and Observations

Crisis Intervention

Training and Education

Program Development

A school psychologist is a specialized professional who works within educational settings to support the mental health, learning, and behavior of students. They play a crucial role in promoting students' overall well-being and helping them thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

School Social Work - Brady Varga, LCSW

A school social worker is a professional who supports the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students, helping to create a positive and safe learning environment. They play a crucial role in bridging the gap between home, school, and the community, ensuring that students have the resources and support they need to succeed academically and personally.

Provides support to students and families to overcome the social, behavioral, emotional or economic problems that prevent learning

Makes appropriate referrals for professional and community services

Follows up to assure that services are provided and conditions improve

Works closely with teachers and school administrators





Summit Counselors

Hanna Rasco, MA, APC
h.rasco@summitcounseling.org



Visit Our Website To:
Learn More
Schedule an Appointment
View Group Schedules

SUMMIT
ON^{ON}SITE
SCHOOL-BASED THERAPY

The
SUMMIT
COUNSELING CENTER

FULTON COUNTY
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
NETWORK**



College & Career – Niki McKenzie

Coordinates College and
Career Events @IA

Provide FAFSA and
Scholarship Information

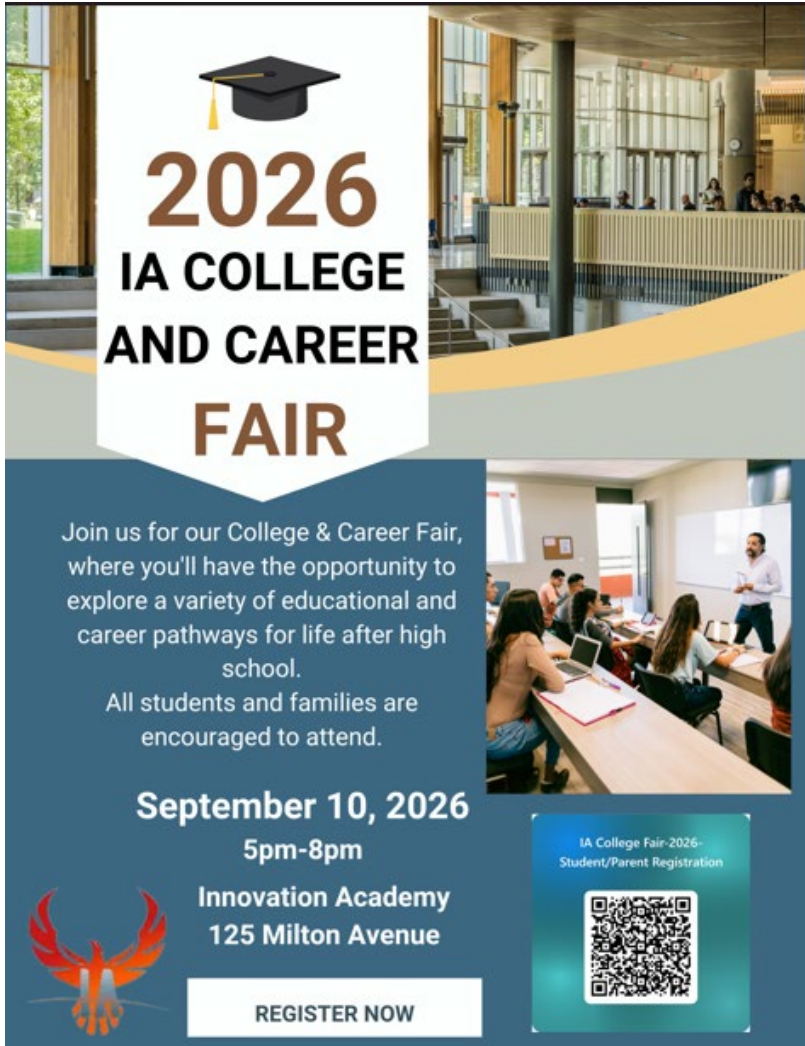
Provide Support to IA
Counselors

Coordinate Career
Readiness Opportunities

Support Career Exploration

A College and Career Advisor supports school counselors by helping students explore post-secondary options, prepare for college or careers, access financial resources and develop a clear plan for success after high school. In this role, the advisor develops and facilitates valuable programming, including workshops, college visits, guest speakers and family engagement events that promote post-secondary success.

College and Career Updates




2026
IA COLLEGE
AND CAREER
FAIR

Join us for our College & Career Fair, where you'll have the opportunity to explore a variety of educational and career pathways for life after high school.

All students and families are encouraged to attend.

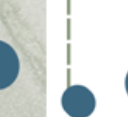
September 10, 2026
5pm-8pm
Innovation Academy
125 Milton Avenue


IA College Fair-2026-
Student/Parent Registration

REGISTER NOW



College Visits @IA

 **Johns Hopkins University -8/26- 4th period**
 **Cornell University -9/1- 4th period**
 **University of Georgia-9/3- 5th period**
 **Kennesaw State University-9/8 1st period**
 **Ga Tech-9/9- 1st period**
 **University of Florida- 9/9-4th period**
 **South Florida University-9/15-1st period**
 **Stony Brook University-9/15-4th period**
 **NYU Shanghai- 9/16- 1st period**
 **Auburn University-4th period**
 **Agnes Scott University-6th period**
 **Mercer University- 9/29- 4th period**

Sign up in Schoolinks-EVENTS
Teacher permission is required to attend
Open to sophomores,juniors and seniors
Reach out to Ms.McKenzie
if you have questions.


KENNESAW STATE
UNIVERSITY

Virtual Lab Support

Gina Danner and Bev Shiotelis

Offers tips for navigating FV and GAVS

Helps students communicate with their virtual course teachers

Provides a supportive space to complete virtual coursework

Serves as a central resource for questions about Innovation Academy

Collaborates with the Student Support Team as needed

At Innovation Academy, every student completes at least two graduation requirements online through Fulton Virtual or Georgia Virtual School because these courses are not offered in person at IA. Virtual Lab Facilitators help students navigate the platforms, stay on track, and succeed in the online learning environment.

Upcoming Grade Checks

SEPT 4	SEPT 18	OCT 2
OCT 16	OCT 30	NOV 13
DEC 4	FINAL DAY FVS Dec. 17th	FINAL DAY GAVS Dec. 3rd

*Dates are subject to change due to unforeseen technology issues.

Virtual Lab Support Gina Danner and Bev Shiotelis

- Virtual Lab standing emails will be emailed on the dates listed on the left.
- Students must maintain a minimum grade of 70% to keep their Open-Campus or Off-Campus privileges.
- Parents can use their Canvas Parent Observer Account to view their student's progress and grades at any time.

Will This Be Shared?

YES!

The screenshot displays the FCS Innovation Academy website. The header includes the school's logo, name, and tagline, along with links for safety concerns, password resets, and tech support. A navigation bar lists various school sections. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail leading to 'Grade Level Resources'. A sidebar menu on the left lists various resources, with 'Grade Level Resources' currently selected. The main content area features four tiles for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade resources, each with a lightbulb and magnifying glass icon. The 9th and 10th grade tiles are highlighted with orange and black borders, respectively, while the 11th and 12th grade tiles have blue and grey borders.

FCS Innovation Academy
Dedicated To Excellence In Education

SAFETY CONCERNS RESET PASSWORD TECH SUPPORT

Our School IA Community Prospective Families Counseling & Academics Staff Calendar

HOME > COUNSELING & ACADEMICS > COUNSELING > GRADE LEVEL RESOURCES

Academics +
Counseling -
2026-27 School Year Scheduling Process +
College & Career Center +
Grade Level Resources -
9th Grade Resources
10th Grade Resources
11th Grade Resources
12th Grade Resources
Mental Health & Wellness
Parent Resources
Counseling Announcements
Withdrawing from IA

Grade Level Resources

9th Grade Resources

10th Grade Resources

11th Grade Resources

12th Grade Resources

STOP HERE

END OF MAIN ROOM PRESENTATION

Let families know the grade level rooms will open 5 minutes after we finish

NEXT SLIDE STARTS 9TH GRADE ACADEMIC INFORMATION



9th Grade Academic Roadmap

INNOVATION ACADEMY COUNSELING

High School Starting Line – 9th Grade

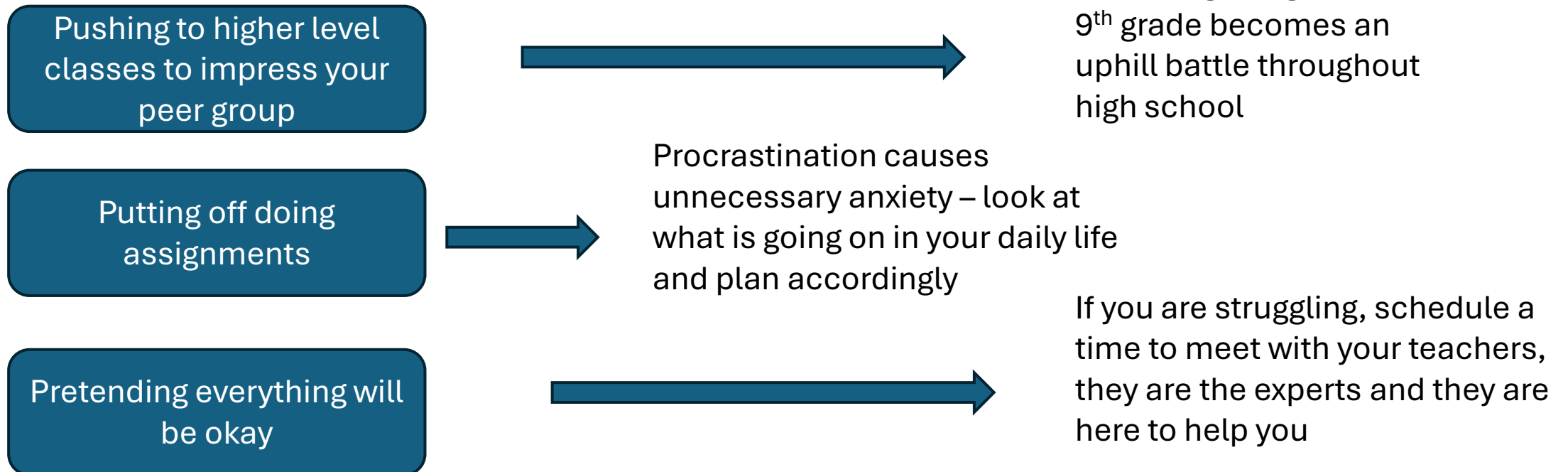
Challenge yourself
and maintain good
grades



Course Selection

Challenging yourself is very important but also maintaining good grades.

Common pitfalls to avoid in 9th grade:



High School Starting Line – 9th Grade

Develop good study
habits



Study Habits

High school is a marathon, not a sprint
Learn to study smarter not harder

Setup a distraction free
study space

Take breaks every 25-20
minutes to recharge

Study a bit each night and
don't cram

Remove distractions
such as cell phones

Establish good sleep
habits

High School Resources

Utilize the
resources that
are available to
you

Ask your
teachers for help
when you need it



Phoenix Academic Center (PAC)



Academic Tutoring

Executive Function
Support

Expanding subject
support throughout the
year

Flex Friday Tutoring

Academic Tutoring

Testing Center

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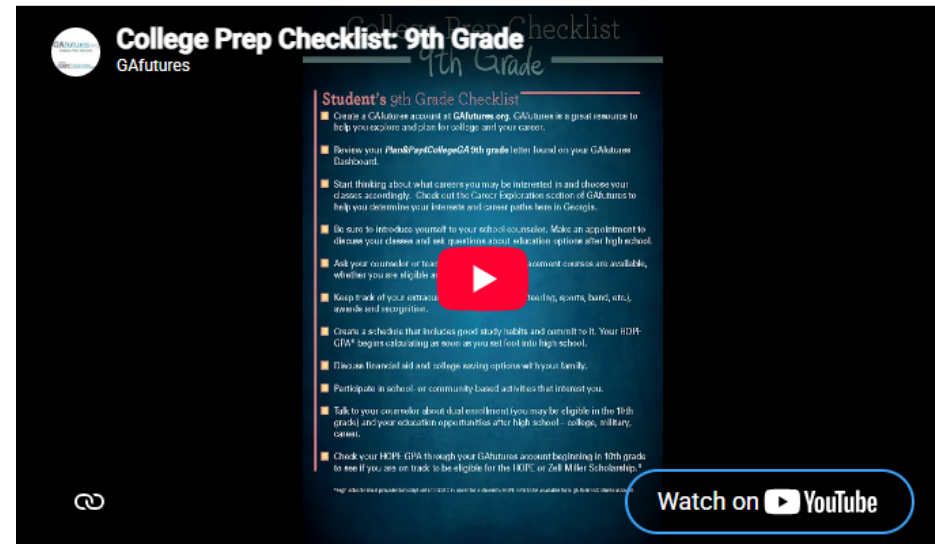


GA Futures College Planning Timeline

GA Futures College rep Checklist: 9th Grade

71% of our 9th graders setup their GaFutures account with the counseling team last week

Students will need to log back into their accounts to add their social security numbers





SCHOOLINKS

All students have access to Schoollinks
through Classlinks

STUDENT Home

Exit Student Demo X PJ Patrick Jones

Here's what's happening

What does your work schedule look like?
How many hours? Does it ever vary?

Information Security Analyst
Flavio Domingos 52

How do you balance work and personal life?

To Do List Events 2 Reminders My Team Survey/Forms Shared Notes

Overdue 0 Incomplete 4 Complete 0 On Track

Search by name Expand All

- > Set/Update Post-Secondary Goal 11/30/26
- > Create GA Futures Account (Information Only) 11/30/26
- > Favorite Careers 12/31/26
- > Learn About Dual Enrollment 2/1/27



SCHOOLINKS

Assessments

Explore

Learning Hub

Game of Life

Assessments

Exit Student Demo

Patrick Jones

Home

Student

Explore

Plan

Engage

Career

College

Learning

Explore different chapters to learn everything it takes to be career and college ready!

How to Explore Careers

Career Cluster Overview Part 1

Career Cluster Overview Part 2

Employability Skills

Financial Aid

Jobs and Internships

Making the Most out of High School

Planning for 2-Year Schools

Planning for 4-Year Schools

Planning for the Military

Post Secondary Planning and College Search

Self Discovery

The College Application Process

The International Job Market

Self-Awareness

Self-Management

Social Awareness

Relationship Skills

EXPLORE

Assessments

Exit Student Demo

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Take these assessments to get help navigating the college and career planning process.

Find your path

Get suggested career clusters based on your personality.
This assessment is based on the responses to the questions in your profile.

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Would you rather

Choose your favorite activities to get career suggestions.
Use this info to see which of your favorite careers match your hobbies!

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Brain Flex

Beta

Learn what careers could come naturally to you.
Complete timed brain teasers to find your strongest cognitive skills.

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Top skills

Discover your top skills and areas for improvement.
Use this info to see which careers match your skill set!

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Social-Emotional

Discover your strengths and areas for improvement.
Use this info to see which careers match your skill set!

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Learning style

Discover your learning style.
Use this info to see which careers match your skill set!

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Student focus

Discover your motivations for life after high school.
Use this info to analyze the colleges and programs you're interested in!

Never Taken

Start assessment →

Lifestyle

Discover your campus lifestyle.
Use this info to see which colleges match your lifestyle!

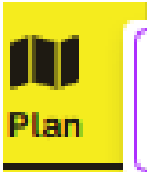
Never Taken

Start assessment →



SCHOOLINKS

Plan



Goals



PLAN
My Goals



Home



Student



Explore



Plan



Engage



Career



College

Exit Student Demo



Patrick Jones



Reach your goals!

Setting goals helps you think ahead so that you're ready to take on life's challenges both in and out of school, and prepare for success after graduation.

Post-Secondary Goal



Choose goal

Career Goal



Choose goal

College Goal



Choose goal

Major/Training Goal



Choose goal

S.M.A.R.T. goals

In progress goals 0

Completed goals 0

+ Add a new SMART goal



You don't have any SMART goals in progress.

Create a new SMART goal to see it here!

+ Add a new SMART goal



SCHOOLINKS

Engage

**Engage**

**Opportunity Board**

**Programs**

**ENGAGE**

Opportunity Board

135 Opportunities Found

Add filters to narrow down your results.

☐ Opportunities near me

☐ Favorited opportunities

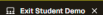
Opportunity Type 

Compensation 

In-Person or Remote 

Source 

Career Cluster 

Sort By: Distance from me 

**Alpharetta Garden Club** 

Volunteer at City of Alpharetta (Johns Creek, GA | 10-25 mi)

The Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of September-May, at 9:30 am at the Mansell House, 1835 Old Milton Parkway. For more information, contact Joy Ross at 770-442-9960.

**Alpharetta Community Agriculture Program** 

Volunteer at City Of Alpharetta (Johns Creek, GA | 10-25 mi)

The City of Alpharetta's Community Agriculture Program has volunteer opportunities for families, individuals, and groups at the city's one-acre Old Rucker Farm. Volunteers are a vital piece of the farm's operations, and tasks range from spreading mulch, weeding, pruning, planting, and harvesting fruits, vegetables, flowers, and herbs. Interested families, individuals, and groups are invited to sign up for a time slot that works best for them at the [engage link](#). Learn more about the [City's Community Agriculture Program](#). All questions can be emailed directly to the [program](#).

**Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society** 

Volunteer at City of Alpharetta (Johns Creek, GA | 10-25 mi)

Become a member of the historical society, assist with research in the Alpharetta Archives, or volunteer for an event at the FFA Log Cabin or the Mansell House and Gardens, or help with a local preservation project or history docent tours. [Email us](#) or [more information](#).

**Alpharetta Cultural Arts Programs** 

Volunteer at City of Alpharetta (Johns Creek, GA | 10-25 mi)

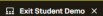
For art, music, and history lovers or anyone who just wants to help with cultural happenings around town! We have a large range of volunteer options available from the Arts Center Gallery art installations and receptions to history museum tours and log cabin history archives, to public art murals and tours. For specific cultural program volunteer needs and questions, [email the Cultural Arts Programs](#), or [click this link to view the available volunteer opportunities](#).

**Chick-fil-A Team Member (Cashier, Drive Thru, etc.) - Alcoa/Maryville, TN** 

Rows per page: 10  1-10 of 135  

**STUDENT**

Home

To Do List

Events 

Reminders

My Team

Survey/Forms

Shared Notes

2 Unregistered events 

September, 2026

Tue Sep 1, 9:00 am-9:35 am EDT

College rep visit: Northeastern University 

Thu Sep 3, 12:37 pm-1:33 pm EDT

College rep visit: University of Georgia -College Visit- 5th period 

 New event

 New event

Here's what's happening 



What are the top 3 reasons to study at Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati?

 Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati
Jessica Rempel

24 



What are some of the unique aspects of campus life at Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati?

 Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati
Jessica Rempel

37 



What qualities does Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati typically look for in its applicants?

 Elite Welding Academy - Cincinnati
Jessica Rempel

26 



SCHOOLINKS

Career



CAREER

Employer Showcase

846 employers found

☐ Local employers

☐ Favored employers

> Sector

> Size

> Type

> Career cluster

> Geographic scope

> City

Search employers

Sort by Nearest distance

Local Employer

TurnUp

Educational Services +1

20-100 employees • Non Profit

Local Employer

Coca Cola

Manufacturing

2000+ employees • For Profit

Local Employer

Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC

Construction

2000+ employees • For Profit

Local Employer

Atlas Roofing Corp

Manufacturing

100-500 employees • For Profit

Local Employer

Touchpoint Support Services

Health Care and Social Assistance

500-2000 employees • For Profit

Local Employer

American Association of Private Lenders (AAPL)

Finance and Insurance

500-2000 employees • Career Association

Local Employer

Sierra Pacific Industries

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting

2000+ employees • For Profit

Local Employer

Yamaha Jet Boat Manufacturing

Manufacturing

500-2000 employees • For Profit

CAREER

Career Center

Regional

Clusters

Hot

Favorites

All

Search careers

Explore careers, ask questions, and discover opportunities in your area and across the nation.

Click on a state to view the career information related to that state.

Map View

Table View

Year-Over-Year Job Growth

Hover over a state

Max

Min

Most Job Openings

Most Common Careers

Rank

of jobs

1 Software Development 19,710

2 General and Operations Managers 13,590

3 Registered Nursing 12,510

4 Sustainability 8,200

5 Compliance 6,960

6 Computer Systems Analysis 6,250

7 Medical Practice and Surgery 6,150

8 Accounting and Auditing 5,740

9 Enterprise Sales 5,670

Leaflet

Data provided by CareerOneStop U.S. Department of Labor

 Career

Career Center

 College

Employer Showcase

VR Workplace Tours

CAREER

VR Workplace Tours

Click on a workplace to see what it's like to work there!

Photography Studio

Take a look

Control Room

Take a look

Research Lab

Take a look

Airplane Cockpit

Take a look

Co-working Office

Take a look

Fire Department

Take a look

Warehouse Facility

Take a look

Server Room

Take a look

Semiconductor Cleanroom

Take a look



SCHOOLINKS

College



School Search

Favorites and Lists

Admission Stats

Final List

College Financing

Scholarship Matching



Home

Student

Explore

Plan

Engage

Career

College

COLLEGE School Search

Search schools
Q Search for a location, school, or program...

College Suggestions Agent

Filter by
School Type Campus Admissions Acceptance Sports Degree Type Other
Georgia X Public X Private X

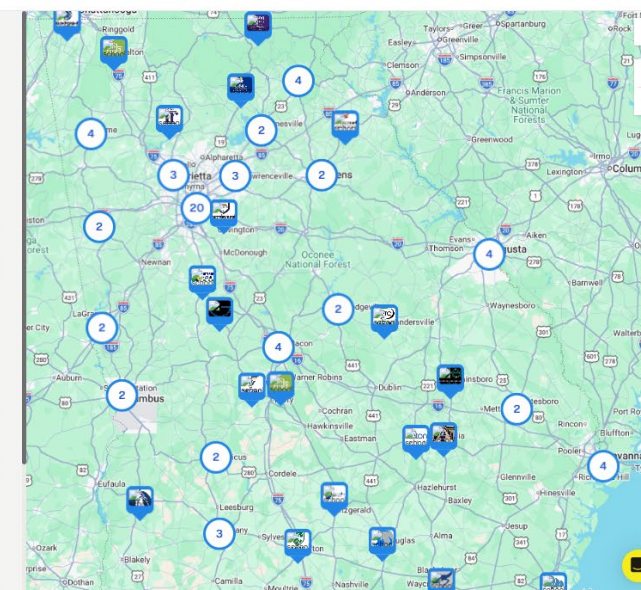
91 Schools

 54.9% Grad Rate Georgia State University Atlanta, GA Public	 58.1% Grad Rate University of Georgia Athens, GA Public	 46.4% Grad Rate Kennesaw State University Kennesaw, GA Public	 52.8% Grad Rate Georgia Institute of Technology - Main Campus Atlanta, GA Public
 52.7% Grad Rate Georgia Southern University Statesboro, GA Public	 58.6% Grad Rate University of North Georgia Dahlonega, GA Public	 90.0% Grad Rate Emory University Atlanta, GA Private	 Georgia College and State University Milledgeville, GA Public
 73.5% Grad Rate Mercer University Macon, GA Private	 46.2% Grad Rate Clark Atlanta University Atlanta, GA Private	 50.1% Grad Rate Augusta University Augusta, GA Public	 72.5% Grad Rate Savannah College of Art and Design - Savannah Savannah, GA Private

Exit Student Demo Patrick Jones

List Split Map

Sort by
Applications from District





SCHOOLINKS

College



College

School Search

Favorites and Lists

Admission Stats

Final List

College Financing

Scholarship Matching



COLLEGE

College Financing



Home



Student



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College

Exit Student Demo



Patrick Jones



Use the College Financing tool to estimate the cost of colleges you are interested in and calculate the actual net cost of colleges you have been accepted to.

Make sure to finish the [Financial Aid Learning chapter](#) to understand what's going on!

Financial Background



Add your financial info to estimate the cost of colleges you are considering.

College Savings \$0*
In-College Earnings \$0*
Family Income Bracket Average*

*We applied default values to these items, but for more precise calculations, update them to match your financial background.

Third Party Scholarships



Add scholarships awarded to you that can be used at any college.

Estimated Costs

Actual Costs

Shows estimated net costs based on historical net costs for students in the selected family income bracket.

Third Party Scholarships Gift & Self-Help Aid Out of Pocket Borrow Amount

Showing **Favorited Colleges**

Showing **Total Cost**

Favorite Colleges in School Search so you can compare their cost here.

Go to School Search



SCHOOLINKS

College

-  College
- School Search
- Favorites and Lists
- Admission Stats
- Final List
- College Financing
- Scholarship Matching



COLLEGE

Scholarship Matching

Exit Student Demo

Patrick Jones

ELIGIBILITY

INTERESTS

COLLEGES

Answer the following questions to determine your scholarship eligibility.

What is your gender?

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Non-Binary

What is your zip code?

Zip Code

What is your race/ethnicity?

Select race/ethnicity

What are your origins/ancestry?

Select origins/ancestry

What are your current religious affiliations?

Select religion

What is your GPA?

Weighted

Unweighted

Are you interested in scholarships that require financial need?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Are you a first generation college student?

☐ No

☐ Yes

Show me scholarships that...

☐ Don't require citizenship or permanent residence

☐ Require Permanent Residency

☐ Require U.S. Citizenship

Select all that apply to you.

Academic Achievements

Next



Will This Be Shared?

YES!

The screenshot displays the FCS Innovation Academy website. The header includes the school's logo, name, and tagline, along with links for safety concerns, password resets, and tech support. A navigation bar lists various site sections. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail and a sidebar menu. The 'Grade Level Resources' section is highlighted, featuring four tiles for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade resources, each with a lightbulb and magnifying glass icon.

FCS Innovation Academy
Dedicated To Excellence In Education

SAFETY CONCERNS RESET PASSWORD TECH SUPPORT

Our School IA Community Prospective Families Counseling & Academics Staff Calendar

HOME > COUNSELING & ACADEMICS > COUNSELING > GRADE LEVEL RESOURCES

Academics +
Counseling -
2026-27 School Year Scheduling Process +
College & Career Center +
Grade Level Resources -
9th Grade Resources
10th Grade Resources
11th Grade Resources
12th Grade Resources
Mental Health & Wellness
Parent Resources
Counseling Announcements
Withdrawing from IA

Grade Level Resources

9th Grade Resources

10th Grade Resources

11th Grade Resources

12th Grade Resources

STOP HERE



END OF 9th GRADE PRESENTATION

NEXT SLIDE STARTS 10TH GRADE ACADEMIC INFORMATION