

**WELCOME  
7TH + 8TH GRADE  
DURKIN PARK SCHOLARS +  
FAMILIES!**



# 7th Grade Teachers



**Ms. Mary Sauerwein**  
Math  
Homeroom 115  
[mcsauerwein@cps.edu](mailto:mcsauerwein@cps.edu)



**Ms. Sam Mougette**  
7th/8th Grade  
Social Studies  
Homeroom 113  
[samougette@cps.edu](mailto:samougette@cps.edu)



**Mrs. Jill Ryan**  
Reading & Writing  
Homeroom 110  
[jlwirtz@cps.edu](mailto:jlwirtz@cps.edu)



**Mrs. Alyssa  
Zdano-Smith**  
LBS1 Specialist  
7th/8th Grade  
Room: 105  
[azdano@cps.edu](mailto:azdano@cps.edu)

# 8th Grade Teachers

GREETINGS



**Mrs. Helena Branch**  
Math/Algebra 1  
Homeroom 117  
[hfbranch@cps.edu](mailto:hfbranch@cps.edu)



**Mrs. Diane Esquibel-Sansone**  
7th/8th Grade  
Science  
Homeroom 114  
[dcesquibel@cps.edu](mailto:dcesquibel@cps.edu)



**Mrs. Katherine Dugger**  
Reading & Writing  
Homeroom 112  
[kadugger@cps.edu](mailto:kadugger@cps.edu)



**Mrs. Kathryn Clam**  
LBS1 Specialist  
Room: 105  
[kclam@cps.edu](mailto:kclam@cps.edu)

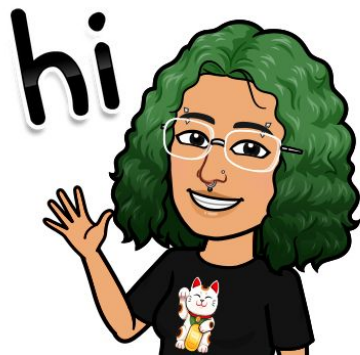
# Durkin Park Counselor & ESPs



**Mrs. Colleen Reynolds**  
Counselor

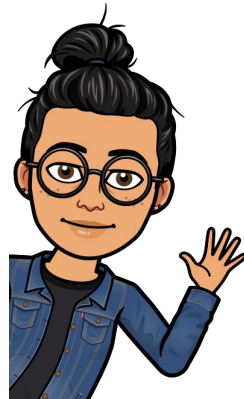
[CMReynolds@cps.edu](mailto:CMReynolds@cps.edu)

773-535-2322 or  
773-535-2311



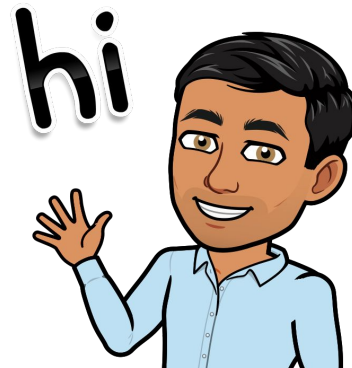
**Ms. Denise Escobar**  
SECA

[descobar15@cps.edu](mailto:descobar15@cps.edu)



**Ms. Ana Escobar**  
SECA

[aescobar18@cps.edu](mailto:aescobar18@cps.edu)



**Mr. Emmanuel Ruvalcaba**  
BIL Sp. Ed Classroom  
Assistant

[edruvalcaba@cps.edu](mailto:edruvalcaba@cps.edu)

## Attendance

According to CPS policy, scholars are required to be present **EVERYDAY!!!** Attendance and punctuality are very important to the learning process. A scholar's attendance could impact their high school application process.

## Grading

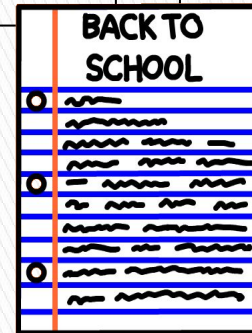
### Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and Below	F

### Categories

50% - Class Assignments

50% - Assessments



# What is Bulldog C.A.R.E?

- ▶ Bulldogs CARE is a set of school wide expectations created by Mr. Beavers and a team of teachers with the goal of creating a safer more efficient student environment.

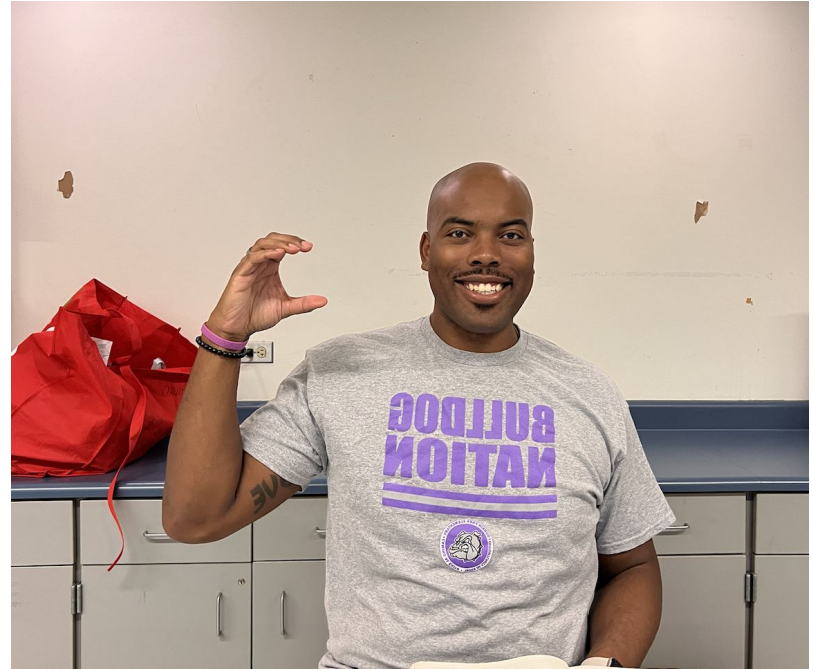
# What does C.A.R.E mean?

- ▶ Commitment
  - Commit to a clean and orderly environment
- ▶ Accountability
  - Account for yourself and your school
- ▶ Respect
  - Respect others and the school
- ▶ Empathy
  - Empathize always, imagine if the shoe was on the other foot before you act



# C.A.R.E. in Action

- ▶ Scholars will recognize the universal signal
  - A raised hand forming the letter C
- ▶ They will listen for the CARE call
  - “Bulldogs, show me that you care!”
- ▶ When they see the symbol and hear the call:
  - All voices will drop to zero
  - All eyes will go onto the speaker
  - Students will listen quietly for directions





# Upper Cluster Positive Behavior Plan

The Positive Behavior Plan is designed to allow students to reflect and change behaviors that earn them infractions. As a team, all of the students and teachers have reviewed the plan to set the expectations for the school year. If your child meets the requirements of the plan, they will be have earned the various trips throughout the school year.

[Positive Behavior Plan SY23-24](#)

**Use this link!**



# The High School Application Process

2024-25 Application Cycle Timeline	
GoCPS Application Opens	Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 10 am
GoCPS Application Closes	Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5 pm
Re-Rank Deadline	Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 5 pm

- **Families can submit an application from Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 10 am, through Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5 pm. From the November 9 application deadline through Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 5 pm, families who applied will be able to login again and re-rank programs if they wish.** However, no new school choices can be added or removed from an existing application during the re-rank period, and no new GoCPS applications will be accepted after the deadline of November 9, 2023 at 5 pm. **\*THIS IS A NEW UPDATE THIS YEAR! PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE ALSO IS EARLIER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS!\***
- All students will need to take the High School Admissions Test. The High School Admissions Test will take place during the school day on **Wednesday, October 11, 2023.**

# High School Application (cont'd.)

- **All students will take the High School Admission Test during school on October 11, 2023.**
- For students applying to 9th grade this application cycle, there are a few changes being made to the CPS High School Admissions Test (HSAT):
  - The HSAT will include only 2 sections: Reading and Math.
  - The length of the exam will be shortened to approx. 1 hour.
  - The HSAT will be available in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Mandarin, Polish, and Urdu.
- Due to these changes, the Office of Access and Enrollment will be creating new scoring rubrics, tiebreaker processes, and new guides. Cut score documents have also been taken down as these will no longer provide an accurate guide for the upcoming selections cycle. All these materials will be shared with admin and staff prior to the opening of the application. Those updates will be shared as soon as they are released.

# High School Updates

- Programs can be researched and explored on the GoCPS website.

## Program Types

- Programs include: Career and Technical Education (CTE), Charter, Citywide, Contract, International Baccalaureate (IB), Neighborhood, Selective Enrollment High Schools, and Service Leadership Academies.
- Activation codes are no longer required to create a GoCPS account.
- Every student has an “Attendance Area/ Neighborhood” school based on their address.
- In most cases, students can attend their designated neighborhood school without having to submit an application.
- For all other schools, students will have to submit an application if they want to be considered for acceptance.
- You can apply for up to 20 Choice Programs and 6 Selective Enrollment Programs.
- Open House dates are shared on the GoCPS website/ Calendar of Events.
- Calendar of Events
- Programs can be researched and explored - please start checking the high school programs out to research where students may want to apply.
- HS Explore

# Selective Enrollment Programs

Academic program options at the 11 selective enrollment schools:

- ▶ Brooks
- ▶ Hancock
- ▶ Jones
- ▶ Lane
- ▶ Lindblom
- ▶ King
- ▶ Northside
- ▶ Payton
- ▶ South Shore
- ▶ Westinghouse
- ▶ Whitney Young

# Choice Programs

All other programs are in the Choice Programs category:

- ▶ Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- ▶ Charter
- ▶ City Wide
- ▶ Contract
- ▶ International Baccalaureate (IB)
- ▶ Neighborhood
- ▶ Selective Enrollment High Schools
- ▶ Service Leadership Academies

# High School Application Updates

- ▶ Students can select up to 20 Choice Programs and up to 6 Selective Enrollment Programs when they complete their applications.
- ▶ Students will have to rank their choices in order of preference.
- ▶ Students will receive a single best offer if qualified for Choice programs with available seats.
- ▶ Students will receive a single best offer if qualified and seats are available for Selective Enrollment.
- ▶ Students can receive offers at: 1. Their Neighborhood School, 2. Choice Program and 3. Selective Enrollment --therefore, some students may receive up to 3 offers.
- ▶ Round one offers are usually released in the spring.
- ▶ The waitlist process will begin after the Accept/ Decline deadline.



# Daniel Murphy Scholarship

Today, DMSF is able to offer 150 new scholarships to 8th grade students each year. Those students are attending roughly 40 different parochial and independent day schools in the Chicago area, as well as 40 boarding schools from coast to coast. A list of all partner schools can be found at: <https://www.dmsf.org/partner-schools.html>

Applications for the new cohort of Murphy Scholars, the Class of 2028, opened on **May 22, 2023**. **The application deadline is October 1, 2023.**

This is an extensive application - please start working on this now if you are interested in applying for this opportunity/ scholarship!

**More information can be found at:**

<https://www.dmsf.org/aspiring-scholars.html>

<https://www.dmsf.org/the-need.html>

## Application Process

There are three distinct portions of the application to be filled out: **Student component:** Several short questions and two essay questions. **Parent/Guardian component:** Several short questions, financial information for all parents/guardians (including non-custodial parents and/or step-parents). **Educator component:** Teachers and Principals/Counselors must fill out recommendation forms and submit report cards and standardized test results. Recommendations, report cards and test scores will be submitted electronically. Once your application has been submitted, DMSF will contact your teachers and principals/counselors to obtain recommendations on your behalf. **Reminder: Deadline is October 1, 2023!**

*Students interested in attending Private schools must take the Entrance Exam in December of 2023.*

Durkin Park  
Elementary School

# High School Resources

Important information can be found at:

[HS Selection](#)

[HS Resources](#)

[High School FAQ](#)

Questions? Please contact: Mrs. Reynolds,  
School Counselor

**[CMReynolds@cps.edu](mailto:CMReynolds@cps.edu)**

**OR**

**773-535-2311**

We are looking forward to a great school year!  
**GO BULLDOGS!!**



Durkin Park  
Elementary School