

# Beyond 12 Newsletter Project

CENTER FOR ACCESS AND SUCCESS

February 2025

## Fall Speaker Series

## Empowering Dreams A Day of Inspiration and Education

The Fall Speaker Series took place in both middle schools, featuring speakers who shared their experiences from middle school to college. All the speakers had ties to the Alamance Burlington School System. Ray Giffis and Brandon Williamson were once students at Broadview and Cummings High School. Tyronna Hooker, a former North Carolina Teacher of the Year, taught at Graham Middle School. The students had prepared questions to ask the speakers. The students dined with the speakers, giving them a chance to refine their dining manners.



**Ray Giffis, Jr.** (left) family lawyer in Chapel Hill,  
**Brandon Williamson** (top right) Alamance  
Community College - Youth Programs,  
**Tyronna Hooker** (bottom right) Impact Alamance  
-Vice President of Education Programs





# Program Highlights - Basic Dining Etiquette

Middle school students need basic table manners etiquette to respect others, build social skills, navigate social situations confidently, prepare for future interactions, and foster a positive self-image. Beyond 12 students participated in a practical session to arrange a basic table setting. Initially, they arranged the materials based on their own understanding. Later, they received the correct table setting guide and adjusted their arrangements accordingly.

Key points about why table manners matter for middle schoolers:

- **Social Development:** Good table manners show respect for others at the table and contribute to a pleasant dining experience, which is crucial for building positive social relationships.
- **Building Confidence:** Knowing how to behave appropriately at a table can boost a student's self-esteem and confidence in social situations.
- **Life Skills:** Table manners are a practical life skill that can be applied in various social settings, including family dinners, school events, and future professional gatherings.
- **First Impressions:** Positive table manners can create a good first impression on others.
- **Positive Role Model:** Students can set a positive example for their peers by practicing good table manners.



*Students are practicing place setting for dining event.*

## Beyond 12 Calendar Highlights

2025

March 17- 21 College Week Activities

March 19-20 Parent Nights

April 7-8 Spring Speaker Series

June 9-10 Elon University Days

For more information scan the QR code  
to visit our webpage.



# TEACHER TALK

## School Counselors

School counselors are certified/licensed educators who implement a comprehensive school counseling program to improve the success of ALL students. School counselors work to maximize student success, promoting access and equity for all students. As vital members of the school leadership team, school counselors create a school culture of success for all.

### School counselors help all students:

- apply academic achievement strategies
- manage emotions and apply interpersonal skills
- plan for postsecondary options (higher education, military, work force)

### Appropriate duties include providing:

- individual student academic planning and goal setting
- school counseling classroom lessons based on student success standards
- short-term counseling to students
- referrals for long-term support
- collaboration with families/teachers/ administrators/ community for student success
- advocacy for students at individual education plan meetings and other student-focused meetings
- data analysis to identify student issues, needs and challenges acting as a systems change agent to improve equity and access, achievement and opportunities for all students

Annie Goldberg works as a counselor at Broadview Middle School. Following the completion of her Master of Education at the UNC School of Education in 2017, Goldberg brought the knowledge and experiences acquired from the School Counseling program to Broadview Middle, a Title 1 school in Burlington, N.C.

"The UNC School Counseling program really focused on being strength-based when working with students and families," she said. "That really shaped how I view my work here and how I work with students and families."

Goldberg said that oftentimes "it's easy to identify the problem" a student has. Taking a strengths-based approach – drawing upon a student's strengths – is the very first step in creating a solution to a student's challenge and is foundational to a school counselor's success.



Annie Goldberg is the school counselor at Broadview Middle School in Burlington, North Carolina. In 2024, she was named the North Carolina School Counselor of the Year.

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Information retrieved from:

<https://ed.unc.edu/2025/01/07/building-connection-advocating-for-community>

<https://www.abss.k12.nc.us/o/abss/page/school-counselors>



# Parents Corner

## *Bits & Beyond*

### What do 8th grade parents need to know about choosing high school classes in ABSS?



When choosing high school classes for their 8th-grade student in the Alamance-Burlington School System (ABSS), parents should prioritize understanding core subject requirements, considering their child's strengths and interests, exploring advanced placement options, and consulting with their school counselor to create a personalized plan that aligns with their future goals, whether it be college or career pathways.

#### Key points for ABSS 8th-grade parents to know about high school class selection:

- **Core Subjects:** Ensure your child is enrolled in a full course load of English, math, science, social studies, and a foreign language, as these are foundational for graduation.
- **Placement Testing:** ABSS may use placement tests to determine the appropriate level of math and English classes for your child based on their 8th-grade performance.
- **Honors/AP Courses:** If your child excels in a particular subject, consider enrolling them in honors or Advanced Placement (AP) classes to challenge themselves and potentially earn college credit.
- **Electives:** Utilize elective courses to explore interests outside core subjects, such as arts, technology, career-related fields, or specific language programs.
- **Guidance Counselor Consultation:** Schedule a meeting with your child's school counselor to discuss their academic profile, career aspirations, and create a personalized class schedule that aligns with their goals.
- **Consider Future Plans:** Consider what college or career path your child is interested in and choose classes supporting their desired trajectory.

#### Specific considerations for ABSS high school classes

- **Pathway Programs:** Explore ABSS's pathway programs, which may include specialized tracks in areas like STEM, healthcare, or the arts, offering focused curriculum and career exploration opportunities.
- **Dual Enrollment:** If applicable, inquire about dual enrollment options where students can earn high school and college credit simultaneously.
- **Early College High School:** Consider the possibility of enrolling in an Early College High School if your child wants to accelerate their college education.

#### Important questions to ask your child's counselor:

What are the graduation requirements for ABSS? What are the recommended course sequences for my child's desired college or career path? How can I best prepare my child for standardized tests like the ACT or SAT? What support services are available to help my child succeed in challenging classes? By actively engaging with your child and their school counselor, you can ensure they choose a high school class schedule that supports their academic strengths, interests, and future goals within the ABSS system.