

Senior Seminars

November 8 and 9, 2010



WELCOME

**Introduction of Counseling Department
Campus Visits
Applying for College**

How do I apply?

- If you are applying to a Texas school –
- www.applytexas.org - if a school is not on this site, go to the school's website and use their application process.
- Many private and out of state universities use the National common application.
- www.commonapp.org
- Be sure to check deadlines and requirements.

College Entrance Exams

- SAT
- Fee waiver (counselor)
- \$47.00
- www.sat.collegeboard.com
 - Critical Reading
 - Math
 - Writing
 - Experimental – one verbal or one math

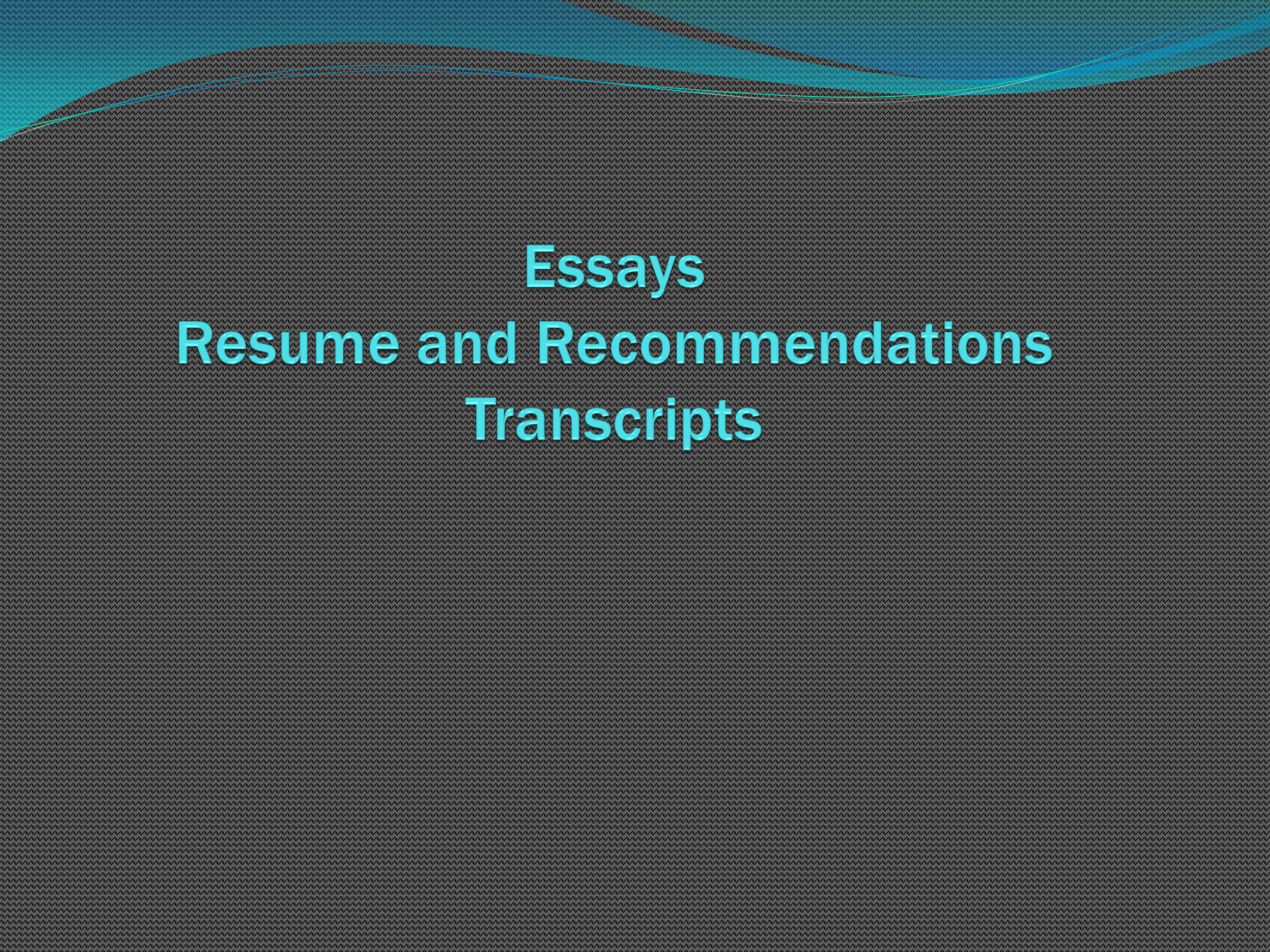
- ACT
- Fee waiver (counselor)
- ACT \$33.00 or \$48.00
- www.act.org
 - English
 - Math
 - Reading
 - Science
 - Writing
 - Experimental – Added to test on certain dates

Difference between SAT and ACT

	SAT	ACT
How Questions Appear	Order of Difficulty	No Order of Difficulty
Highest Math Level	Algebra II Basic Geometry Test booklet supplies all formulas	Trigonometry (only 4 questions) Test booklet rarely supplies formulas
Calculators Allowed	Most four-function, scientific or graphing calculators	Most four-function, scientific or graphing calculators
Skills Heavily Tested	Vocabulary and Reading; Math	Grammar and Reading; Math
Penalty for Wrong Answers	Yes – Guess wisely	No – Safer to guess than skip
Style of Test	Tricky, with many distracters (trick answers)	More straightforward, with fewer distracters (trick answers)
How Long Is It	3 Hours 45 Minutes	3 Hours 30 Minutes
When is it offered?	7 Times Per Year – January, March or April, May, June October, November, December	6 Times Per Year – February, April, June, September, October, December
Registration Deadline	At least 6 weeks before the test date	At least 4 weeks before the test date

Other tests...

- THEA—Required by Texas public colleges unless exempt.
- THEA: <http://www.thea.nesinc.com/>
- Accuplacer—Required by some community and other two year colleges.
- ACCUPLACER:
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/accuplacer/>



Essays
Resume and Recommendations
Transcripts

Essays

- Some colleges do not require essays for admission but will use them for scholarships
- Make sure your essays are well written and grammatically correct
- Ask one or two teacher or other adults to critique your essays

Resume and Recommendations

- Recommendations
- Give the recommender at least two weeks advance notice
- Include a copy of your resume and a stamped addressed envelope with your request
- Resume
- You may send a college your resume if it covers information not cover by the application

Transcripts

- Transcript request forms are available in the counseling office. See Mrs. Heady.
- Students receive 5 free transcripts, additional transcripts are \$1
- Most colleges require transcripts sent directly from the high school
- You will need to request a final transcript in May to the college you choose to attend. These will be mailed in mid June.



Financial Aid: The Basics

How much does college cost?

- + Tuition (cost of classes)
- + Student Activity Fee
- + Room and Board
- + Books and Supplies
- + Miscellaneous living expenses
- = Cost of Attendance (per year)

<http://calculators.collegetoolkit.com/college-calculators/rescalccost.aspx>

What is FAFSA?

- The key element for receiving most federal and state financial aid.
- The US Department of Education determines the estimated family contribution (EFC) based on:
 - Parent and student income
 - Number of household members
 - Number in college

How to Apply for Financial Aid

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year! (January)
- FAFSA is NOT a scholarship application.
 - Apply for a student and parent PIN (personal identification number) at www.pin.ed.gov
 - Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov starting January 1. You will use the previous years tax return to complete.

How does the Financial Aid get to my school of choice?

- On the FAFSA, you can list schools that you want to receive the Student Aid Report (SAR).
 - You can list up to ten schools.
- Schools use the information to prepare a financial aid package to help meet your financial need.

Types of Aid

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Work Study

Need based programs

- Grant Programs
 - Federal Pell Grant (5500)
 - TEXAS Grant
 - Texas Equalization Grant for private universities
 - Supplemental Opportunity Grant
 - Texas Public Education Grant
- Loans and Employment programs
 - Perkins Loan
 - Stafford Loan
 - B on time loan
 - College work study

The FAFSA is FREE!

- Beware of Financial Aid Scams
- Avoid offers from non-college groups that say “guaranteed scholarships”
- For “\$XX.XX we can help you find grants”
- www.fafsa.com – “.com” is a scholarship scam web site; you should be using “.gov”
- This is a FREE PROCESS – DO NOT PAY ANYONE TO HELP!



TAFSA

What if I don't have a Social Security number?

- In the State of Texas, according to Senate Bill 1528, non-residents may attend college.
- **ELIGIBILITY**
- Senate Bill 1528 is a repeal of the previous Texas law, House Bill 1403. This new version of the law will be effective from September 1, 2006. Eligibility for admission under this law will begin with students applying for the Fall 2006 semester.
- **QUALIFICATIONS**
 - Must have graduated from a Texas high school or received the equivalent of a high school diploma (e.g. GED) in the state of Texas; and
 - Must have resided in the state of Texas for the three years immediately preceding graduation from high school or the receipt of the GED certificate; and
 - Must not have established a residence outside the state of Texas during the 12 months prior to enrollment at Austin Community College; and
 - Must provide a notarized letter stating that:
 - they will file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S. at the earliest opportunity they will be eligible to do so.

- As a non-resident it is crucial that you understand your rights.
- You will not be eligible for federal financial aid but can receive state funding and many scholarships.
- Instead of filing the FAFSA you will file the TAFSA. You can go to www.collegefortexans.com to find our more information.
- Be in contact with the university of your choice to make sure you qualify for admission.

Scholarships

Scholarships from a University

- Scholarships may be awarded on the basis of:
 - Academic Merit
 - Financial Need
 - Talent – athletics/voice/theater
 - Member of a particular group or organization
 - Leadership and participation
 - All or any combination of the above

Outside Scholarships

- Use the internet as your main resource...
- Work one/two hour(s) a week during high school to find and complete scholarships.
- Write one good essay and tweak it each time you need it.
- Start looking today...IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO START LOOKING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!

Just a few places to start...

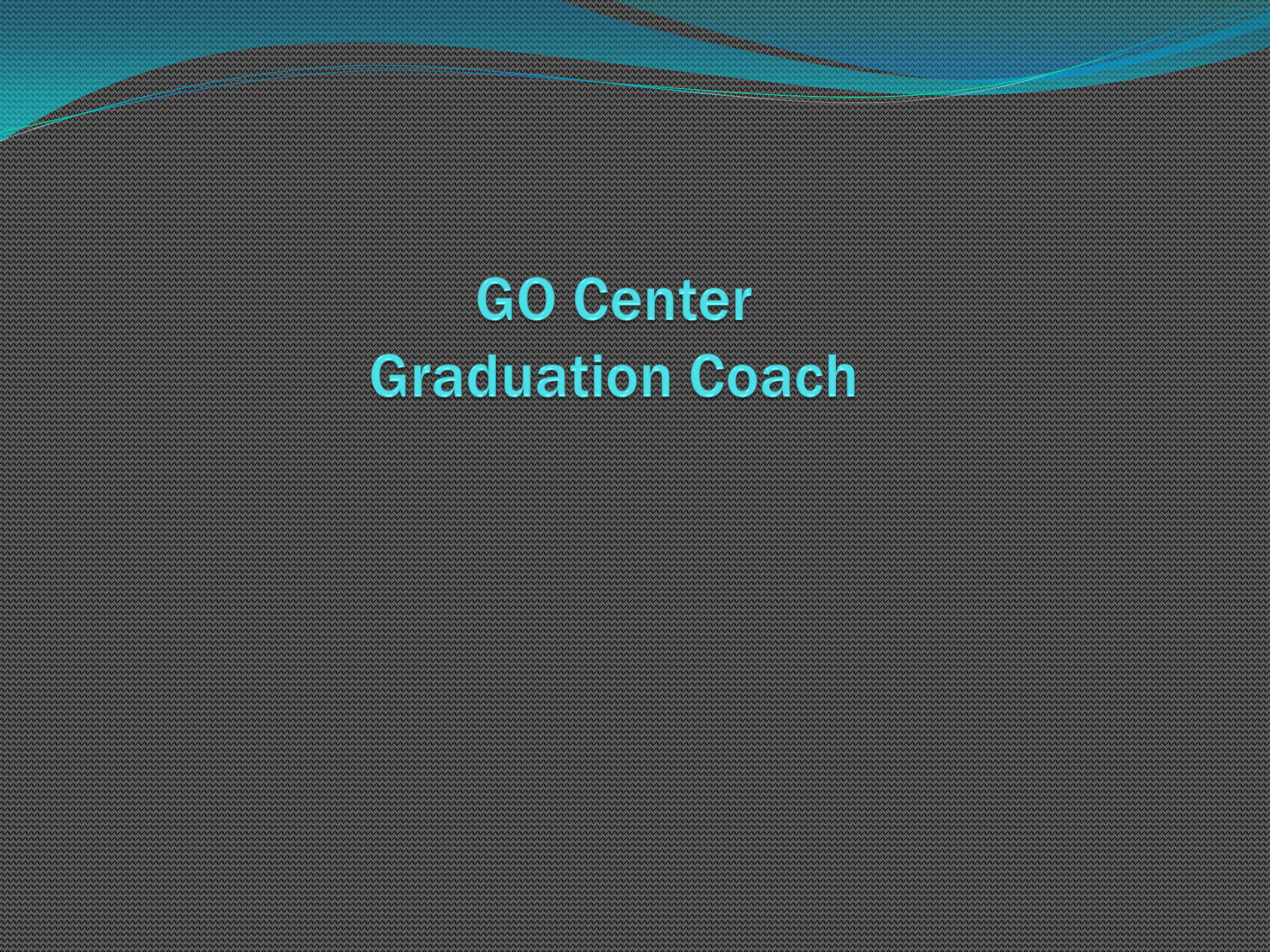
- www.needcollegemoney.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeispossible.com
- www.college-scholarships.com
- www.hsf.net
- <http://www.cappex.com/>
- Counselor Corner – Jack E. Singley Academy Web Site
Thousands more!!! Based on leadership, community service, race, right handed, left handed, brown eyed, duct tape, etc...

Specific Scholarships

- Lions Club – Deadline Dec. 1 – See Mrs. Kibodeaux for more information
- Rising Star
- MTV and CollegeBoard

- Stop by counselor's office to look at 2011 College Handbooks:
 - 2011 Book of Majors – Describes majors and lists the colleges that offer that major
 - 2011 College Handbook – information about every accredited college in the US
 - 2011 Getting Financial Aid – Scholarships, Grants, Loans & Jobs
 - 2011 Scholarship Handbook – 2,100 Programs offering Private, Federal and State money

- Take control of this process TODAY!
- It is your life – make of it what you will!
- Pay attention to details and deadlines!
 - Be an advocate for yourself!



GO Center Graduation Coach

Go Center

- Provide mentoring to high school students
- Provides an overview and general information on the application process, admission, financial aid and scholarships to aid high school students in obtaining a higher education

Location:
Community Center

North Lake student:
Stephanie

Available:
Tuesday and Thursday
7:30 – 2:30

Graduation Coach

Melanie Kibodeaux

- Tutoring in any class
- Tutoring for TAKS
- Assist with college applications
- Assist with ACT and SAT registration
- Help preparing a resume and cover letter
- Help preparing essays for scholarship applications
- Letting you know about different college options
- Helping you get information about scholarships
- Location:
Counseling Offices
- E-mail
mkibodeaux@irvingisd.net