

# Why 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Matters

Often, students struggle with increased freedom and responsibility in high school. There are also issues with peers, safety, and family responsibilities.

"We found if we can get a student to have a successful 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition, it sticks,"

The researchers found being on track in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade was a better predictor of high school graduation than race, income, neighborhood where the student lives, and prior test scores combined.

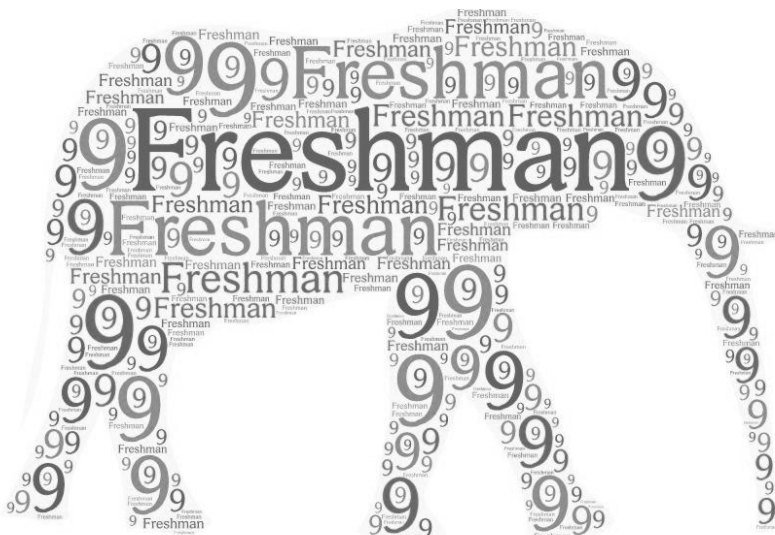
Students who end their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year on track are four times more likely to earn a diploma than those who fall off-track.

**“It’s a time of great upheaval and great opportunity.”**

“In eighth grade, I really didn’t study at all,” he said. “As soon as ninth grade came around, I kind of had to in order to start passing quizzes and tests more. It’s a lot more work to get a grade.”

Freshman year is essential in deciding whether a student drops out or stays in school.

More students fail ninth grade than any other grade in high school, and a disproportionate number of students who are held back in ninth grade subsequently drop out.”



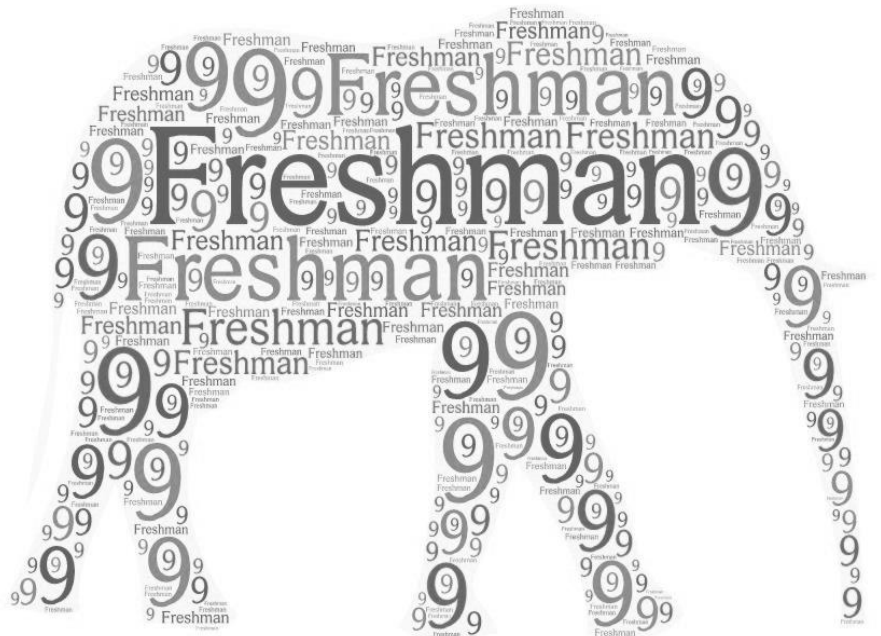
# Cohort 2022 Communication

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<sup>th</sup>  
**9 Grade Website:**

<http://www2.gcssk12.net/schoolsites/GHSweb/ninth-grade-center.html>

- Quarterly Newsletters
- Informational PowerPoints
- Parenting Articles specific to high school age
- Upcoming Parent Events