Questions and Answers from Coffee with the Counselors 10-27-15

1. When is next year’s course guide available?

Typically we get the new course guides in late January (most up to date version is always online).

1. Will the new GPA system (explained on the Counselors Corner of our FSMS Weebly Website:

(<http://fsmscounselorscorner.weebly.com/>) effect applying for college?

Yes, any high school credit course taken at FSMS (Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish I or Production and Information Technology) will be reflected on the high school transcript and will count toward Class Rank and GPA (Grade Point Average).

1. Why did the GPA system change?

 To be more fair and equitable in giving a true representation of the grade points earned.

1. Will the PSAT or SAT scores connect to Khan Academy?

Checking on that answer

1. Is the PSAT the same PSAT taken in 11th grade for National Merit Scholars?

 No, the PSAT for 8th and 9th graders is not the same test

1. Why participate in the Duke TIP program?

This gives students an opportunity to take practice taking the actual SAT test in a typical testing setting. Duke follows up with educational opportunities (at parent/guardian expense).

1. What high school credit courses will be offered in summer school for outgoing 8th graders?

 To be determined – typically PE/Health/Art/Communications Applications. In the past, Geometry and Biology – these may/may not be offered next summer.

1. When is CBE (without prior instruction) offered?

 4 times a year – we recommend testing late spring/late summer sessions. Counselors meet with parents/students prior to signing the forms to explain all of the ramifications of testing.

1. What is the best way for a parent to reach out to a teacher for suggestions/setting up conference?

Email is the best way

1. Teachers have many different venues for sharing information….this can be confusing?

The FBISD is phasing in a new website format in December so there should be more uniform communication as every teacher will be required to have an account.

1. What about sending home tests/quizzes for review?

Mr. Hejducek took this under advisement and will be addressing with teachers as to how to better handle this.