

Program Goal #1:
The freshman retention rate will decrease by 2% by the end of the school year.

Local School Objective:

One of the goals on Centennial's strategic plan was to decrease the freshman retention rate.

Rationale for Objective:

- 20% of students in the Class of 2011 retained in ninth grade in the 2007-2008 school year.
- 18% of students in the Class of 2012 retained in ninth grade in the 2008-2009 school year.
- 18% of students in the Class of 2013 retained in ninth grade in the 2009-2010 school year.
- 13% of students in the Class of 2014 retained in ninth grade in the 2010-2011 school year.

Indicators for Success:

There are three indicators of success we will be reviewing:

- Percentage of ninth graders who pursue credit recovery prior to their 2nd year of high school
- Freshmen Failure Rate
- The percentage of students who have earned enough credits (5.0) to be promoted to the tenth grade on time.

Measurement Methods:

We will determine the percentage of Class of 2015 students who are not promoted to the tenth grade at the start of their second year of high school. Students who have earned less than 5.0 credits will be retained. We will determine this percentage by dividing the number of Class of 2015 students who are coded as 9th graders in the 2012-2013 school year by the total number of students in the Class of 2015.

Implementation Plan:

Rising Freshmen

- Collaborated with Student Council to implement two-day "Freshman Survivor Camp" for rising freshmen
- Designed and implemented a "Freshman Student Transition Survey" and a "Freshman Parent Transition Survey;" used data from these surveys to evaluate effectiveness of program and modify as needed
- Worked with assistant principal to coordinate "Eighth Grade Visitation Days"
- Provided parents with strategies for success at "Rising 9th Grade Parent Night"
- Collaborated with middle school counselors and graduation coaches to identify at-risk students
- Collaborated with middle school counselors, graduation coaches, and administrators to appropriately place students in courses
- Collaborated with math department to ensure correct placement in Math Support courses
- Reviewed standardized test scores to schedule students appropriately for courses
- Collaborated with counselors from private schools to appropriately place freshmen in courses
- Collaborated with Instructional Support Teacher to appropriately place students with disabilities
- Collaboration with counselor and graduation coach at feeder MS to provide Lunch & Learn for parents of rising ninth graders

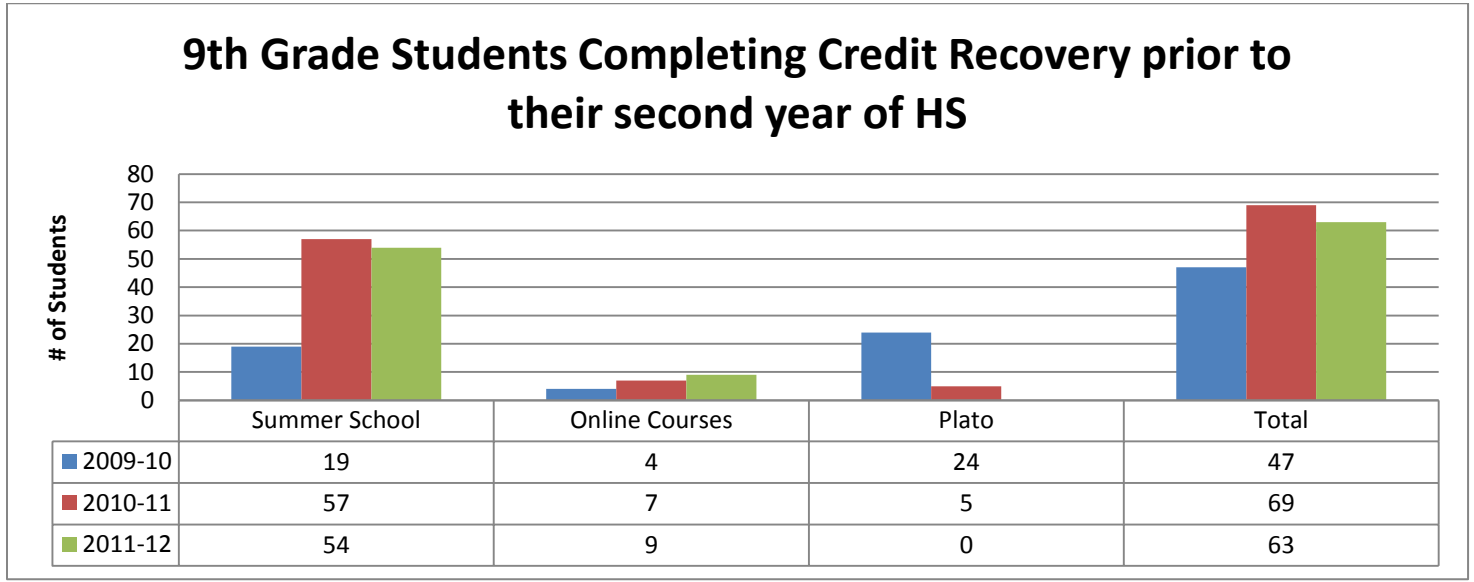
Freshmen

- Implemented “Achieving Academic Success” 9th grade guidance lesson, which focused on credits, graduation requirements, the impact of zeroes on grades, and time management/organization/study skills
- Implemented “Signs of Suicide” 9th grade guidance lesson, which focused on identifying the signs of suicide and signs of depression
- Implemented “Four Year Academic Plan” 9th grade guidance lesson, which reviewed graduation requirements and allowed students to map out their next three years of high school
- Implemented corresponding “Four Year Academic Plan” 9th grade parent night for parents to develop an academic plan with/for their students
- Visited “Freshman Experience” seminars; focused on accessing counseling services, self advocacy, and goal-setting
- Implemented “Academic Skills Unit” targeting at-risk 9th graders that focused on note-taking, organization, and time management
- Implemented and facilitated gender specific small groups for ninth graders credit deficient after fall semester
- Collaborated with curriculum assistant principal and teachers to identify at-risk ninth grade students and schedule them in specified Math & English classes where teachers were teamed for cross-curricular instruction and student monitoring.
- Collaborated with “Freshman Experience” teachers to design seminar lessons and classroom guidance lessons
- Worked with administrators to enroll freshmen in “Freshman Experience” seminars
- Implemented and facilitated the Girl’s incorporated program for at-risk female students
- Provided parents with strategies for success at “Freshman Parent Night”
- Sent notices to freshmen failing one or more classes as of the 12-week mark (first semester)
- Sent letters to freshmen at-risk of being retained as of 12-week mark (second semester)
- Provided credit recovery option information; facilitated approval and registration for summer school and online courses
- Provided resources for families in need of financial assistance for credit recovery
- Met with students individually to give specific strategies for academic success
- Provided students with information on tutoring options at school and in community
- Provided students with information regarding extracurricular activities
- Collaborated with assistant principals to meet with newly enrolled freshmen who had chronic absences, discipline referrals, and/or failing grades
- Collaborated with parent liaison and school social worker to decrease student absences
- Collaborated with administrators to reduce disciplinary referrals
- Collaborated with teachers and parents to solicit feedback and develop action plans for struggling students
- Attended all SST, 504, and IEP meetings
- Coordinated parent/teacher conferences for students who were struggling in their classes
- Facilitated ninth grade students’ completion of the Career Cluster Survey & Interest Inventory via the GACollege411.org website
- Provided resources and information on academic success tips and credit recovery options on the mycentennialcounseling.com website

Results:

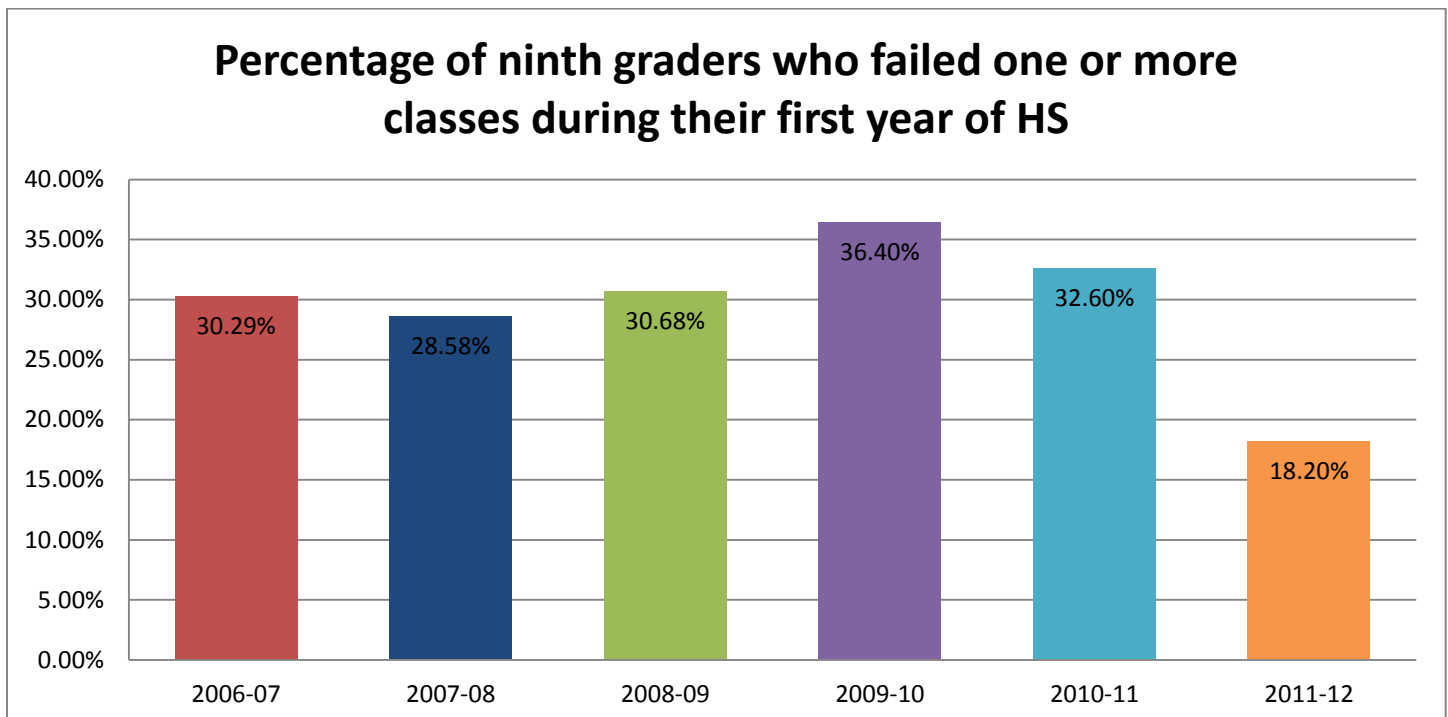
Credit Recovery

The number of ninth graders who pursue credit recovery opportunities in an effort to stay on track or get ahead prior to entering their 2nd year of high school has been on the rise. *The credit recovery participation rate for ninth graders increased 14.6% in 2010 and 13.4% in 2010 respectively.*



Freshmen Failure Rate

The freshmen failure rate peaked in 2009-2010 at 36.4%. In two years the failure rate has improved dramatically, being cut in half to 18.2%. This is a 44.1% decrease and by far the lowest failure rate Centennial has recorded in over 6 years.



Freshmen Retention Rate

The retention rate for first time freshmen has decreased gradually over time and rather significantly over the past 2 years. *This year there was a 17.6% decrease in retention rate from the previous year. From 2008 to 2012 the ninth grade retention rate has been cut nearly in half, dropping from 20% to 10.7%.*

