



My name is Derek Woltjer and I am the new freshman academic counselor at Owosso High School. I'm very excited to start my career in 2019-2020 at OHS and I am ready to start working with students. I want to take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself, as well as shed some light on what motivates me as a counselor.

I come from Byron Center, which is about 15 minutes south of Grand Rapids. I attended Adrian College during my undergraduate years where I attained a degree in Psychology. In the two years since graduating from Adrian, I have been working in schools as a substitute teacher and a counseling intern. I have also been attending Grand Valley State University where I completed their Master's program of School Counseling.

On a personal note, moving to Owosso has been a big change, but I've gotten to know the area over the past few years through my fiancé, who is an Owosso native. In my free time I enjoy playing and watching soccer, fishing, visiting the beach, taking my dog on walks, and playing video games.

As a school counselor, my goal is to help students succeed in their academics, social lives, as well as prepare them to be successful in their career by the time they leave high school. I believe that my job is more than just helping students figure out what they want to do after high school, but to be an active participant in their education. I will advocate for every student and be there to support them in any way I can. High school is a challenging time for students in their academic and social lives, and my job is to give them the tools and teach them skills that are necessary to overcome those challenges. I can't do this job on my own and I look forward to working with teachers, administration, and parents to provide support and resources to students so they can be successful and ready for life after high school.

I look forward to working with the students and Owosso High School and hope everyone has a smooth start to the new school year. Go Trojans!

