

9th & 10th Grade Planning Night

Overview of tonight's topics:

- The HS Counseling program
- Year by year transition planning
- Graduation requirements
- Course selection
- Looking down the line to college admissions
- Questions (not student-specific)

Before we begin, keep in mind:

- * School and learning is not a race or a competition. Every student progresses at a different pace and is ready for transitional conversations at different times.
- * The best lessons we can teach our students is to learn to do for themselves and to learn to manage the inevitable obstacles they will face.
- * Having academic and personal goals is good, but if they are not the student's goals, we have to consider the expense at which they're achieved (or not).

How counselors work with and for students

- * Individual personal and academic counseling
- * Collaborating with teachers and administrators on student issues
- * Communicating with parents
- * Student/ parent college conferences
- * Student and/or parent crisis interventions
- * Planning/ adjusting student academic programs
- * Small or large group student programs
- * RTI student support team meetings
- * Mediations between students
- * Parent/ teacher conferences
- * Departmental planning meetings
- * 504 meetings and pre-planning
- * CSE initial meetings and reviews
- * IEP transition planning
- * Student classroom observations for CSE meetings
- * Communicating with college representatives and outside mental health providers and county services
- * Confidential student support meetings
- * Scholarship committee meetings
- * Reviewing student academic progress and ensuring graduation requirements are being met

Broad year by year goals for transition planning

Grade 9: Focus on a strong academic start while becoming a whole student (joining activities, clubs, sports, etc.) Students begin to recognize their strengths and weaknesses, seeing where they need to push academically and where to pull back.

Grade 10: Students are invited to take the PSAT. Towards the end of 10th grade, students formally explore career interests (not focusing on specific jobs, but work values and needs). Some students may take their first Subject Test(s) after completing honors or AP courses. Ideally, 10th grade reflects improved academic achievement.

Grade 11: Formal college conversations begin with PSAT registration and junior testing calendar, followed by junior meetings with counselors, Fall Junior College Night, Junior Parent Conferences, Financial Aid Night and Pre-Summer Junior College Planning Night. It is recommended that students complete admissions-related testing in the spring of 11th grade.

Grade 12: Formal in-school meetings are held with students and counselors, followed by Senior College Night and application follow-up and submission. A majority of students will have submitted applications by mid-November.

Graduation requirements

- * Review with students begins in 8th grade
- * Continues every year at scheduling time (Feb.)
- * Monitored by counselors

Basic overview:

- * 22 Credits Required
- * 4 English, 4 social studies, 3 math, 3 science, 1 FL, 1 art or music, 2 PE (enrolled each semester) .5 health and 3.5 electives
- * Plus 5 Regents Exams (English, social studies, math, science and one additional in either social studies, math or science)
- * RE passing requirements can vary, and alternatives exist to the one additional RE

Course selection

Open (educated) enrollment:

- * Teachers make course recommendations in early February for the following year.
- * Counselors meet with all students individually to review recs, ensure graduation requirements are met and begin the advising process for course level challenges.
- * Course verifications are made available through HAC in March.

What levels are available?

Different levels of academic rigor exist within each discipline:

- * English = Regents, Honors (9&10), college credited or AP
- * Social studies = Regents, Honors (pre-AP), college credited or AP
- * Math, Science and Foreign Language = foundation level, Regents, Honors, college credited or AP
- * Art, Music and CTE = Intro courses up to college credited and AP curriculum

What is most important to college admissions counselors?

- GPA / curriculum
- Standardized testing (SAT/ACT/Subject)
- Extra-curricular involvement (consistent)
- Student essay
- Letters of recommendation
- Interview?

Standardized Testing

PSAT: This is typically the first standardized test students take in preparation for college admissions testing. It is designed as practice for the SAT.

Subject Tests: These are one hour, subject specific exams that students can take at the conclusion of higher level courses (honors or AP).

SAT: (Revised in 2016) This is typically taken in the spring of junior year. The test assesses math and English skills, with an optional essay component. Most students take this test twice.

ACT: This test is very similar to the SAT. The revised SAT is now more in line with the traditional ACT. Colleges will accept scores from either test.

Activities

- * Central piece of students' high school experience
- * Important to social development
- * Important to connections to students with similar interests
- * Communicates to a college a little more about who you are and what you would bring to a campus

Questions?