

# 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE COLLEGE AND CAREER NIGHT

January 20, 2011



# Reason for the Informational Evening

- ▶ Financial Crisis and Cost of College Attendance make focused choices important
- ▶ Students will need to have a viable career after college graduation
- ▶ In order to choose wisely planning ahead is imperative
  - Learning Plan
  - Summer jobs
  - Internships
  - Part time work
  - Volunteer experiences

# Increasing Competitiveness of Affordable State Universities

- ▶ State Universities and City Universities are being 'flooded' with applications causing their entrance requirements to increase
- ▶ Need for our students to make themselves more competitive
- ▶ Importance to understand the following information and use it to gain a competitive edge

# WHAT COUNTS MOST

## Secondary School Record

The courses and grades your child earns in high school courses in grades 9 – 12 (some 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses are high school credit bearing courses), are the most important factor in the college admissions process. Colleges look for a strong academic record including four years of all major subject areas – English, Social Studies, Math, Science and LOTE. They also look for good grades throughout every year and will be more forgiving if your son/daughter did less well academically in ninth grade but improved in tenth, eleventh and stayed on track in twelfth. Colleges also like to see a rigorous schedule that includes AP courses and interesting electives. The student's final GPA and rank are factors included in this category. This information is contained on the transcript your high school sends to the colleges your child applies to.

# WHAT COUNTS MOST

## SATs or ACTs:

The SATs or ACTs are cited by the colleges as being the next most important factor in college admissions. These 'high stakes' tests are so important that there are entire industries devoted to preparing for them. Students should utilize whatever resources are available to help them prepare – Princeton Review/VSCHSD partnership, on-line prep websites, books. Students generally take the SATs/ACTs twice – once in their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year.

# WHAT COUNTS MOST

## SAT Subject Tests:

SAT Subject Tests are one hour, subject specific tests. *Only* the most selective colleges, such as the Ivy League schools, require SAT Subject Tests. SUNY schools do not require these exams. Generally two subject tests are required but each college may have its own requirements. Our best advice is to either ask your child's counselor or look up the admission requirements on the Guidance Direct program we will be demonstrating later in the presentation.

# WHAT COUNTS MOST

## Essays

The college essay is an important component of the application. Colleges stress that this is the one area where the student can ‘*come to life.*’ We advise students to think about their essay topics over the summer between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Senior English teachers utilize time in the fall to help students write and edit their essays.

### Common Application Essays:

- ▶ Evaluate a significant experience, achievement, risk you have taken, or ethical dilemma you have faced and its impact on you.
- ▶ Discuss some issue of personal, local, national, or international concern and its importance to you.
- ▶ Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- ▶ Describe a character in fiction, historical figure, or a creative work that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- ▶ A range of academic interests, personal perspectives, and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you bring to the diversity of the college community or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- ▶ Topic of your choice.

# WHAT COUNTS MOST

## Recommendations

Recommendations from your teachers, counselor, coach or others are an important source of information for the admissions process. The colleges use these as evidence of your character, potential and classroom effort. Key people, such as those mentioned above, are best able to give the college a fair and valuable assessment of you and your work.

## Extra-curricular Activities

College seek well rounded students who have a wide variety of interests and experiences. Students who participate in clubs, sports or voluntary activities demonstrate many good qualities: caring about others, ability to manage their time, and independence. College campuses are communities and it is important to select students who will continue to enjoy and support the college's varied programs. A side note - happy students are successful students.

*Patricia Antonelli*

# COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

## **SOPHOMORE YEAR**

- ❑ Build a strong academic record. Speak with your teachers and counselor about challenging yourself with AP course(s).
- ❑ Participate in activities and community service
- ❑ Consult with your guidance counselor about taking the PSAT as a sophomore
- ❑ Check out the computer software and resources about colleges, careers, and scholarships available in your guidance office.
- ❑ Register for SAT subject tests, if appropriate
- ❑ Update your Student Resume
- ❑ Take your AP test(s)
- ❑ Explore summer enrichment programs offered at universities
- ❑ Complete a career search
- ❑ Use your summer to start exploring careers – work, volunteer, internship

# COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

## JUNIOR YEAR

### ***September/October***

- Get off to a strong start in school
- Register for and take the PSAT. Prep classes are available through the Princeton Review/Valley Stream Partnership over the summer

### ***November/December***

- Attend the District College Fair at Central High School*
- Take the PSAT results available in December mailed home
- Begin to research a preliminary college list
- Attend District Financial Aid Night at Central High School*

### ***December/January***

- Register for SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests and/or ACT tests
- Are you on track to meet your graduation requirements?
  - Retake Regents exams if necessary - See your guidance counselor

***Phil Corsentino***

# COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

## JUNIOR YEAR (cont'd)

### ***February/March***

- Individual parent/student counselor conferences begin
- Attend District Junior College Night*
- Surf the Web for college, career, and scholarship information
- Begin visiting colleges you have interest in. Spring break is an excellent time to see colleges
- Begin researching summer opportunities
- Continue to participate in school and community activities
- Attend NCAA Night at Central High School to better understand the process as well as find out about scholarships*

### ***April/May***

- Take appropriate SAT/ACT test
- Begin a filing system for college material – stuff will be pouring in!!!
- Send for college information
- Make appointments for tours and/or interviews and visit colleges
- Take your AP tests

# COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

## **JUNIOR YEAR (cont'd)**

### ***June***

- Take SAT/ACT
- Request teacher recommendation letters
- Take final exams and Regents exams in school
- Finalize your Student Resume

### ***July/August***

- Do something meaningful during the summer that you can talk about in essays and interviews – Important to develop lists of possible career choices leading to what you want to major in – Again – work, intern, volunteer to develop career ideas
- VISIT COLLEGES
- Begin organizing possible essays for colleges

# College Search Resource – Naviance

- ▶ Introducing our new College tool: Naviance
- ▶ Initial Registration:
  - <https://www.connection.naviance.com/vsshs>
  - <https://www.connection.naviance.com/vsnhs>
  - <https://www.connection.naviance.com/vschs>

# Naviance

- ▶ Welcome – Home page
- ▶ Initial Log-in/registration. Students and parents must provide email addresses
- ▶ Review all information in “About Me” section.
- ▶ College searches, career searches and scholarships
- ▶ Email notifications/blasts

# Career Key Inventory

- ▶ After registering in Naviance described above, click the *Career Tab*.
- ▶ Under *What are my Interest* click on *Career Key*
- ▶ By taking the *Career Key Inventory* – you will get to know your strengths, values, personality, and skills. Results will provide a numeric value within the six personality types.
- ▶ For careers information that match your personality type click on the *View Careers* button.
- ▶ Review the list of careers and check on all careers that interest you and then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Save to My List.

***Jennifer Gaeta***

# Career Key Continued

- ▶ Repeat for your second strongest personality type
- ▶ To review the careers you have chosen, go to the left side of the page and under Explore Careers, click on Favorite Careers and Clusters
- ▶ The list of careers that you saved earlier will appear and click on any career to get a detailed description of that job. You will find:
- ▶ Related occupations, related college majors, video descriptions of the career, knowledge and skills, tasks and activities, wages – broken down by state
- ▶ It is then important to relate this to a possible college major.

# College Majors

- ▶ After taking a career key inventory, related jobs should be identified.
- ▶ The information that is provided should be explored through:
  - Research
  - Electives
  - Extra-curricular activities
  - Internships
  - Summer Work
  - Volunteer Work

# College Majors (continued)

- ▶ Career ideas relate to college majors. Of importance please note– some areas need specific licensure which is not available at all colleges/universities. These include teaching licenses, certain medical fields to name a couple.
- ▶ Not all colleges offer every major, so students should develop these ideas prior to final college choices. If you are not yet sure, all good colleges/universities have a vast array of majors that a student has two years to choose. Colleges also have career centers designed to help students with career selection.
- ▶ Focused college planning leads to more successful college completion, possible internships and job acquisition. Your child needs this edge
- ▶ Remember you are planning for a lifetime of productive and rewarding work not just a job!!!

# College Search on Naviance

- ▶ Go to <http://connection.naviance.com/vsshs>
- ▶ Sign into your account with username and password.
- ▶ Click on College tab
- ▶ Scroll down left tool bar to college search
- ▶ Click on college search and begin to answer questions
  1. Type
  2. Location
  3. Students
  4. Admission
  5. Athletics
  6. Majors
  7. Costs
  8. Special Programs
  9. Get Results

***Patricia Antonelli***

# Conclusion

- ▶ By the end of tonight you should be able to:
  - Log into both Naviance
  - Conduct a a Career Key Inventory on Naviance
  - Conduct a College Search
  - Access a saved Career Search that your child will conduct in class
  - Research Colleges and Majors
  - Research Careers and Education necessary for that career
  - Have a clear understanding of the sophomore timeline and have access to the junior timeline
  - Know ‘What Counts Most’ in the College Application Process.