Preparing for Your NEXT STEPS: Junior Class Meeting

September 4, 2012
Community School of Davidson
Stay focused on the goal – Your best match!

As the College Counseling Team (CCT), our mission is to
- meet all kids where they are,
- help them blaze a path that explores possibilities and their potential, and
- leads them without judgment to the next productive and happy place in their lives.

(from the CCT Mission Statement)
Introduction of the College/Career Counseling Team

Tour of the College/Career Live Binder
Junior Year Timeline
Seminar Overview
Goal #1: Define Your Criteria

- This is a highly individualized process. Everyone’s path is different!

- Students will explore what they want and need in their NEXT STEPS after high school.

- The Counseling Team will use this information to generate an initial list of recommended post-secondary options.
Individual Process
(beginning in October)

- **First session**: Counselor and student. Review Student history (grades, scores, activities, career goals, etc.) and talk about possibilities and goals. (30 minutes)

- **Second session**: Counselor, parent(s) and student. Review recommendation list and make a plan for the rest of high school. (30 minutes)

(Goal to finish by early February)

“In guiding students toward the next chapter of their lives, we honor each student's individuality and potential by sharing their hopefulness, celebrating their aspirations, identifying possibilities, and opening doors.” (from the CCT Mission Statement)
Goal #2: Decide Where to Apply

- Research recommended options.
- Visit campuses and attend college fairs. Explore careers and other options.
- Narrow down list of options.
Goal #3: Take SAT/ACT Tests (if needed)

- Take the PSAT on October 17th at school.

- Take the SAT and/or ACT at least once (possibly twice) between December and June. Work with your counselor to determine your best test(s) and schedule.

- Take 2-3 SAT Subject Tests (only if your colleges require or recommend them)

See the Live Binder for links to all test dates and deadlines.
Test Preparation

- If you need accommodations, please be in contact with your counselor to start that process.
- Fee Waivers
- Registering for the test
- Reporting scores to colleges

OVERVIEW OF TEST PREP COURSE
Making Your Testing Plan

1. Will you take SAT, ACT, or both?  
   (remember, most juniors will take ACT in March)

2. When will you take these tests?  
   Think about your sports schedules and other personal commitments, as well as your math level. Be aware of deadlines!

3. How many times should you take them?  
   Normal to see improvement on second time. Most colleges do not want you to take each test more than three times.

4. Will you take Subject Tests?  
   Check on requirements for your colleges. You can choose the subjects you wish to take.
Student Responsibilities

- Take the lead. This is your life!
- Keep up with all college planning materials and events. *(Remember to use your school email!)*
- Schedule tours and/or interviews with colleges.
- Listen to recommendations from others.
- Take your college research seriously.
- Start your essays and activities list in Seminar. *(Use your Seminar time wisely!)*
- Be the strongest student you can be.
Parent Responsibilities

- Attend college planning events and individual sessions at school (*and read your emails!*).
- Help student plan campus visits, and attend them with your student.
- Inform student of any limits on cost and location.
- If needed, begin researching financial aid process.
- Encourage and support your student.

- Read *Letting Go: A Parent’s Guide to Understanding the College Years*, by Coburn and Treeger (*watch for Parent Book Read dates in the Spring*).
Counselor Responsibilities

- Provide information and resources to facilitate the college planning process.
- Get to know each student and his or her individual interests and goals.
- Make individual, research-based recommendations for each student.
- Be available to families for questions around the college application process.
Don’t forget to enjoy this process...
It will be over before you know it!

“We believe that college admissions should be a process that feels hopeful, magical, exciting, non-threatening, and self-reflective.”
(from the CCT Mission Statement)
Parent Q&A with The Counseling Team

Tuesday, October 23    7:00-8:00 pm
OR
Wednesday, October 24   8:30-9:30 am
Questions?