AFFORDING COLLEGE

It's Never Too Early To Start Planning!

College?

- "College" is any certification or degree-granting institution after high school.
  - 2 year or 4 year colleges/universities
  - Technical Programs i.e. culinary schools, cosmetology programs, automotive programs, etc.

How Can You Prepare Now?

- Work Hard
- Gather Support
- Explore Your Options

Work Hard

What can a *9th grader* do now?

★ SAVE for college
  ★ You and your family can open an education savings plan together
    ★ 529 Plan

  ★ When you begin to work, you can save on your own

★ Every little bit helps

Quick tip: Ask your family about saving for college.

Gather Support

Every Family is Different

★ **Anyone can get financial aid & go to college**

Certain special circumstances require additional supports:

- Citizenship status
- Legal guardianship
- Adoption or foster care
- Living independently

★ If you are not sure, or have questions – **Gather Support!**

- *Your college advisor will help you, no matter the circumstances*

Gather Support

A few ideas for over the summer!

★ **Start the conversation about college**

    ★ How can you plan to reach this goal?
    ★ What resources are available to get you there?

★ **Develop a plan of how to start saving $ for college**

    ★ Do you know how to budget your spending?

★ **Look for community organizations to get involved with**

    ★ Why is it important to get involved?

★ **Who will be on your College Support Team?**

    ★ Who can be on your team to support you over the next few years?

Work Hard

Work Hard!

- ★ Academic Performance
  - ★ GPA (Grade Point Average) & courses
- ★ Activities
  - ★ In-school and out-of-school
- ★ Recommendations
  - ★ Teachers, guidance counselors, employers

Quick Tip: WORK HARD in the 9th grade to build your college team. Teachers, guidance counselors, community organizations and college graduates can all help you get there. Reach out and GATHER SUPPORT.

Explore Your Options

Explore your options by type of college:

- ★ Job Training or Technical Certificate Program
- ★ Associate's degree-granting
- ★ Bachelor's degree-granting

These *types of schools* are different:

- ★ In **cost**
- ★ In **time** to completion
- ★ In programs of **study**
- ★ In credentials (**degree/certificate**)

Take Away

- It's never too early to start thinking about life after high school
- College isn't limited to 2 & 4 year programs
- You can help alleviate costs by planning early
- Continue to work hard as student to give yourself the most options later on!

Timeline: What's next?

Ninth Grade Timeline *(check off the items you have completed)*
__ Sign up to take the most challenging classes that you can.
__ Learn how your GPA will be computed.
__ Get to know your counselor and other college resources available in your school.
__ Register for Naviance if you have not done so.
__ Talk to adults to see what they like/dislike about their jobs and what education is needed.
__ Become involved in extracurricular activities.
__ Do your best on the PSAT and review your results using *College QuickStart*.
__ Start keeping all of your report cards, certificates, etc. in a folder or portfolio.
__ Become involved in volunteer activities and keep track of these.
__ Do your best on state testing.
__ Start thinking about your dream career and check out career web sites.
__ Collect your personal information (log of volunteer activities, awards, resume, etc.) in a file.
__ Go to career day at your school or elsewhere.
__ Check out Endorsement electives courses and how to get college credit for classes taken in high school.
__ Complete *Freshman Transition* survey in Naviance creating an academic goal, a personal/social development goal.
__ Complete the *Career Interest Profiler* in Naviance.
__ Complete *Career Cluster Finder* and add career clusters to favorite list in Naviance.
__ Update your four-year course plan in Naviance to reflect chosen Endorsement and pathway.
__ Check out and plan for courses you can receive college credit in junior year.

NAVIANCE:

MARCH	Add Pathways to Career Clusters
APRIL	Begin to revisit & edit 4 Year High School Plan
MAY	Finalize 4 Year High School Plan for the following year