

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING NIGHT

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AGENDA

- Classes to take to be college-ready
- Why should I be thinking about college now?
- Steps to take to be a good college applicant
- College planning resources at T.C.
- Navigating the differences between middle school and high school
- Questions?



WHAT CLASSES SHOULD I BE TAKING?

- The requirements to graduate from high school do NOT necessarily align with what 4 year colleges want to see
- Let's compare the requirements for a Standard Diploma vs. an Advanced Studies Diploma

Sources:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/standard.shtml>

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/advanced_studies.shtml



VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS



Standard Diploma

- English: 4 credits
- Math: 3 credits
- Laboratory Science: 3 credits
- History & Social Sciences: 3 credits
- Health & Physical Education: 2 credits
- Foreign Language, Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education: 2 credits
- Economics and Personal Finance: 1 credit
- Electives: 4 credits
- Total: 22 credits

Advanced Studies Diploma

- English: 4 credits
- Math: 4 credits
- Laboratory Science: 4 credits
- History & Social Sciences: 4 credits
- Foreign Languages: 3 credits
- Health & Physical Education: 2 credits
- Fine Arts or Career & Technical Education: 1 credit
- Economics and Personal Finance: 1 credit
- Electives: 3 credits
- Total: 26 credits



WHAT DO 4-YEAR COLLEGES WANT TO SEE?



- Old Dominion University (ODU)
 - English: 4 units
 - Social Sciences: 3 units (World History, US History, and US government)
 - Math: 3 units (Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II)*
 - Sciences: 3 units of laboratory sciences
 - Foreign Language: 3 years of one foreign language or 2 years of two foreign languages
- *Students are encouraged to complete 4 units of math that include one unit of higher-level math courses (Trigonometry, Analysis, or Calculus)



WHAT DO 4-YEAR COLLEGES WANT TO SEE?



- James Madison University (JMU)
 - English: 4 years
 - Social Sciences: 4 years
 - Math: 4 years (one full year beyond Algebra II)
 - Courses recommended beyond Algebra II: Pre-Calculus, Probability/Statistics, Calculus
 - Sciences: 3 years of laboratory science
 - Preferably include Biology, Chemistry, and Physics or an AP/DE science; general science/earth science usually does not count
 - Foreign Language: 3 to 4 years of the same foreign language or 2 years of two different foreign languages
 - 4 or 5 years of one language or 2 years of two different languages would be viewed as stronger than just 3 years of one language



WHAT DO 4-YEAR COLLEGES WANT TO SEE?



- University of Richmond
 - English: 4 units
 - Social Sciences: At least 2 units
 - Math: 3 units in college preparatory mathematics (including Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry)
 - Sciences: At least 2 laboratory sciences
 - Foreign Language: At least 2 units of the same language
- Note: Competitive candidates for admission typically exceed the minimum requirements and have taken 4 units in all 5 core areas at the highest levels available in their school setting



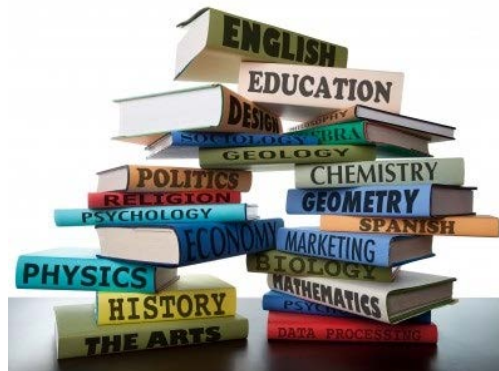
SAMPLE 9TH GRADE SCHEDULE

- Honors English 9
- Algebra 1 (or higher)
- Honors World History & Geography: Part 1
- Foreign Language 1 (or higher)
- Honors Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.)
- Honors Science OR Elective that you plan to stick with throughout high school (ex: Photography)
- Health/PE 9



CORE CLASSES

- What are core classes?
 - English, Math, Science, Foreign Language, Social Studies
- Core classes are VERY important
- Colleges look mostly at these courses when evaluating a candidate
- If you choose to take an elective each year, show a consistent interest



WHY SHOULD I BE THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE NOW?

1. It's never too early to start thinking about college!
2. You could be taking classes that appear on your high school transcript
 - **Algebra 1, Geometry, and Foreign Languages classes all count!**
3. If you know what colleges are expecting now, you can set yourself up to be a good college applicant from the start!



WHY IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGf-xFs54ao>

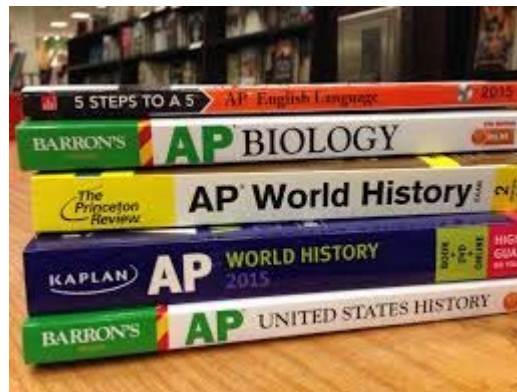


4 STEPS TO BECOMING A GOOD COLLEGE APPLICANT



1. TAKE CHALLENGING COURSES

- The #1 thing colleges want to see is that you are pushing yourself to take the most challenging courses available to you!
- Take as many Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment (DE) classes as you can
- Did you know? Colleges would rather see a B in an AP/DE class, than an A in a standard class!



WHAT ARE AP/DE CLASSES?

- AP = Advanced Placement
- DE = Dual Enrollment
- Both are college-level courses
- Why are they important?
 - Taking college-level coursework will demonstrate that you are academically prepared for college
 - It shows that you have challenged yourself as a student



2. GET GOOD GRADES

- The #2 thing colleges look at is the grades you receive in your courses
- 4 year colleges want to see all As and Bs on your transcript
- Colleges are looking for a strong effort and an upward trend
- Good grades = money!



WHY GOOD GRADES=MONEY

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qvOyfVf7GSY>



CALCULATING GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

- Your GPA starts in 9th grade and every course you take counts
- Each course gets a certain number of points—then the points you have in all your courses 9th-11th grade are averaged
- Colleges will see the letter grades you're receiving in your senior year courses, but the GPA they will judge you by will only include 9th, 10th, and 11th grade courses

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Standard Classes	Honors Classes	AP or DE Classes
93-100	A	4	4.5	5
90-92	A-	3.7	4.2	4.7
87-89	B+	3.3	3.8	4.3
83-86	B	3	3.5	4
80-82	B-	2.7	3.2	3.7
77-79	C+	2.3	2.8	3.3
73-76	C	2	2.5	3.0
70-72	C-	1.7	1.7	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3	1.3	1.3
60-66	D	1	1	1
40-59	F	0	0	0



3. SAT/ACT SCORES

- The #3 thing colleges look at is your SAT or ACT scores
- The SAT and ACT are both college-entrance exams
- Both tests require strong reading, writing, and math skills—be sure to practice!
- You can take either test, or both!
 - Most 4 year schools require an SAT or ACT score





4. GET INVOLVED!

- Colleges like to see well-rounded and involved students— join clubs, volunteer, play sports, work, etc.
- It is best to commit to **one or two** activities and stick with them all four years of high school if you can
 - That way, you can take a leadership position (like Vice President, Team Captain, etc.)
- Helping at home counts—watching younger siblings, working, and making money for the family



COLLEGE PLANNING RESOURCES AT T.C.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA

- The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria is a nonprofit organization housed in Room A-121 of T.C. Williams
 - Raises money and gives need-based scholarships just to T.C. graduates
 - Last year, the average award was \$2,700 – renewable for all four years of college!
 - Gave over \$940,000 to T.C. graduates in 2015
- Visit alexscholarshipfund.org to learn more!



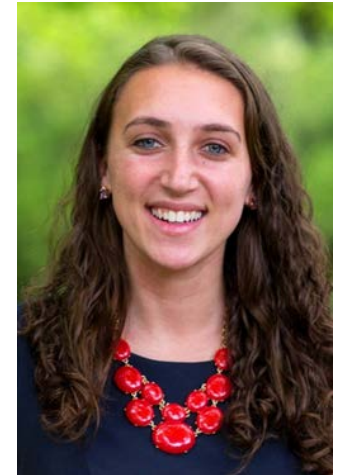
SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA

- Helps students to find free money for college through many other local and national scholarships
- Offers college and financial aid advising to all ACPS students and families
 - Classroom presentations
 - Individual meetings with students and families
 - Large group events
 - Aspire Higher at George Washington



COLLEGE ADVISING TEAM: SAMANTHA KARP AND MARGARET FELDMAN

- Available from 8:00am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday to meet with students and families
- We would be happy to help you with:
 - Taking the right steps in middle school to be college-ready
 - Finding a college or career that fits you
 - Brainstorming and editing college essays
 - Developing a résumé
 - Filling out financial aid applications
 - Preparing for the SAT/ACT



STAY IN TOUCH!



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@TC2College



TC2College



COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

- Located at T.C. Williams in Room A-114
- Provides information about:
 - College representative visits
 - SAT/ACT prep classes
 - Colleges and universities
 - Career information
 - Summer opportunities
- Led by Patricia Braun, College and Career Specialist



COUNSELORS

- You will be with the same counselor for all four years of high school
- Talk to him/her about:
 - Scheduling classes
 - Graduation requirements
 - Plans for after high school
 - Choosing the right college or career



USING THE COLLEGE-PLANNING RESOURCES AT T.C

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o8u3lDIXak



NAVIGATING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL



ASK FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT!

- See teachers after school
- Create study groups
- Use tutor.com
 - Free, online tutoring provided by ACPS



GET INVOLVED EARLY!

- Go to the T.C. club fair in the Fall
 - There are over 60 student organizations
 - Find out what clubs interest you
- Tryout for a sport
- Volunteer in the community
- Find something YOU enjoy!



ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF!

- T.C. is a big school, so you need to advocate for yourself
- Having a problem? Figure out what resources you need or who can help
- Take control of your high school experience



ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF

- “Part of becoming an adult is recognizing when you can’t do something on your own, letting go of the wall, and putting your trust into the person supporting you.”—Excerpt from college essay from T.C. Senior, Jaquelyn Handley



CONSISTENCY IS KEY

- Whether it is the classes you take or the activities you are involved in, demonstrate consistency
- Colleges are looking for determined, motivated, and mature students
- Find what you like and stick with it!

CONSISTENCY
IS THE KEY!



PLEASE FILL OUT THE EXIT SURVEYS!

- This will help us improve future presentations
- Drop them in the rainbow box by the exit of the auditorium



QUESTIONS?

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