THE JUNIOR'S GUIDE TO PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

FOR STUDENTS

At School

- **Take challenging courses.** Talk to your teachers and counselor about taking advantage of AP or upper-level courses available at your school. While colleges are definitely concerned with good grades, they also want to see that you challenged yourself!
- **Continue your foreign language study.** Colleges like to see commitment to a foreign language throughout your high school career.
- **Focus on grades,** especially this year. These are the most recent grades colleges will see on your transcript, so make a good impression!

After School

- **Take leadership roles in extracurricular activities** like clubs, sports, arts, and volunteer work.
- **Make the summer count towards your college application.** Consider getting a summer job, volunteering, or attending an academic camp. Begin compiling the materials you'll need for your applications, and brainstorm some essay ideas.

College Prep

- **Begin drafting your College List** with your guidance counselor in the fall, and finalize the list by spring. Consider safety, match, and reach schools.
- **Take the PSAT in October** to qualify for a National Merit Scholarship.
- **Take the ACT and the SAT in the fall** and compare your scores and your experience. Decide which test to pursue and register for another sitting in the spring. If your scores aren't in your target range, take a class or hire a private tutor.
- **Get serious about your scholarship search.** Talk to your counselor, search the web, and attend scholarship info sessions to get as much information as possible on potential scholarships.
- **Go on college visits** during the spring semester to help narrow down your application list.
- **Attend college and career fairs** at your school or in your area to help narrow down your application list.
- **Use your summer** to write application essays, take standardized tests, and gather all the materials you'll need to apply in the fall.
- **Update your "Best Of" list** of awards, activities, honors, and work (both paid and volunteer) so you'll be prepared for college applications.

FOR PARENTS

- **Meet with your student and his guidance counselor at the beginning of junior year** to ensure you are on track with college preparation.
- **Talk with your student about the different colleges** she's considering. Help her clarify her desires for college, her main priorities, and the pros and cons of each school.
- **Use FAFSA4caster to determine how much federal aid** you can expect in paying for college. Continue adding to your student's college savings account and attend any financial aid info sessions at your student's school or in your area.
- **Visit colleges with your student.** Two heads are better than one when it comes to making big decisions!
Wednesday, March 20, 6 pm-7 pm, Wilson auditorium On the agenda: PARCC testing; scheduling for next year; and additional information. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Pineda (elkin.pineda@dc.gov) for the Class of 2021, or Ms. Mercer (tiffany.mercer@dc.gov) or Mr. Anthony (ronald.anthony@dc.gov) for the Class of 2022.

Course Scheduling for 9th, 10th, and 11th Graders Over the next few weeks, counselors will be visiting 9th, 10th, and 11th graders in their social studies classes to choose their courses for next school year. Be on the alert for news about this from your student. You may want to take this opportunity to discuss your student’s course selections with them.

DCPS Dual Enrollment Application Open The DCPS Dual Enrollment application for private universities is open. Participating universities include American University: School of Education; Catholic University; George Washington University; Georgetown University; and Howard University. This application is for school year 2019-20. For more information and to view eligibility details, visit this link: https://dcps.dc.gov/page/apply-dual-enrollment

Tenacity Career Readiness Workshop for MBSYEP Ms. Ward and Ms. Bonds will be running a Tenacity Career Readiness Workshop for students registered with the MBSYEP summer program. Students ages 16 and above who complete this training will be eligible to make an additional $2 per hour. We are looking for students who want to be placed in the following areas: finance, mass media, digital media, engineering, or any other CTE-related field. The first meetings will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in C214A, Ms. Ward’s room, starting at 3:30 pm. See Ms. Ward or Ms. Bonds if you have questions.

Application Period for National Honor Society is Open Students in the classes of 2020 and 2021 are invited to apply for membership to the Wilson chapter of the National Honor Society. Applications may be downloaded from the Wilson website here. Printed applications may be submitted to Mr. Shea in Room 330, or to his mailbox in the main office. Deadline: Friday, March 22 at 4:00 pm.

To be eligible academically, a sophomore or junior must have:
- A minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.0 (grades 9 -11)
- No more than one ‘D’ grade on the transcript (grades 9 -11)
- No ‘F’ grade on the transcript, except one ‘F’ in grade 9 (grades 9 -11)
- A minimum of one semester of attendance (or 3.5 credits) at Wilson

If you have any questions, please see Mr. Shea in Room 330 or email him at jonathan.shea@dc.gov.

Application for UDC-CC CARE Program--Summer Session Opens Friday, March 15
The application for the UDC-CC CARE Program--Summer Session will open on Friday, March 15, 2019. For more information about UDC’s CARE (“College Access and Readiness for Everyone”) Program, which is offered summer, fall, and spring, visit this link: https://www.udc.edu/cc/cc/care/

Summer Opportunity for DCPS 10th and 11th Graders The James & Alice B. Clark Foundation is sponsoring 20 DCPS students to attend the Stevens Institute of Technology Pre-College Summer program in Hoboken, NJ, “Exploring Career Options in Science and Engineering.” There is no cost to students for this program.
- Program dates: July 19-August 2, 2019
- Includes full tuition, full room and board, and roundtrip transportation from DC to NJ
- Teacher recommendations are not required for DCPS students
- Application deadline: Monday, March 25, 2019 (deadline has been extended for DCPS)

Spots are still available so apply now! Students must apply through the Stevens website, https://www.stevens.edu/admissions/pre-college-programs/how-apply

Only the specific program “Exploring Careers in Science and Engineering” is free for DCPS students. Please contact Mr. Hawkins (kendric.hawkins@dc.gov) or Mr. Pineda (elkin.pineda@dc.gov) for more information.

“Navigating College Admissions” Info Meeting Wednesday, April 3, 7 pm-9 pm Patrice Arrington, Wilson’s College and Career Center coordinator, invites you to this public event led by Dr. Jed Appleworth, founder of AppleRouth Tutoring Services. For more information and to register, go to appleworth.com/signup and enter the event code M333183.