Preparing for the Next Step

Class of 2017

Sophomore Parent Night
Agenda

• Post-secondary options
• Preparing for the college admissions process
• Student Resources
• Course Selection for the 2015-16 school year
Post-Secondary Options

- Military
- Gap Year Programs
- Career Institutes
- Community College
- Junior College
- Four Year College or University
Military

- Enlisted
- ROTC programs and scholarships
- Military Academies
- Recruiters visit the career center
- Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)
Gap Year Programs

- Delayed entry into college/career after HS graduation
- Vary in length – not always a full year
- Opportunity for volunteer service
- International travel, study, or work programs
Specialized Institutions

• Intensive instruction/training in particular discipline
• Often privately-funded, not state-supported
• Ensure that the institution is officially recognized or accredited
Monroe Technology Center

• Over 25 programs
• Receive class credit in a particular discipline
• Some programs offer Dual Enrollment credit
• Application due to your School Counselor by March 20th
• Shadow Day in November
Community Colleges

- Over 23 Community Colleges in Virginia
- Less expensive than four-year colleges
- Open admission with HS diploma/GED
- Associate Degrees and Career Certificates
- Provide job skill training and opportunities to transfer to four-year colleges
- Guaranteed Admission Agreements
  - NOVA Pathway To Baccalaureate
Junior College

• Focus on students who intend to transfer to a four-year college
• Associate’s degree
• Offer residence halls and organizations that inspire active campus life
• Usually not open admission, but may not be as competitive as four-year colleges
Four-Year Colleges and Universities

- Earn a bachelor’s degree
- Complete credits within 4 years
- Live on campus
- Study a variety of majors/minors
Preparing For College Admissions
## What are Colleges Looking For?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Considerable importance</th>
<th>Moderate Importance</th>
<th>Limited Importance</th>
<th>No importance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades in college prep courses</td>
<td>84.3%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
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<td>Strength of curriculum</td>
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<td>20.4%</td>
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<td>Admission test scores (SAT, ACT)</td>
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<td>29.6%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
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<td>Essay or writing sample</td>
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<td>37.5%</td>
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<td>Student's demonstrated interest</td>
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<td>29.7%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
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<td>Counselor recommendation</td>
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<td>39.8%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
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<td>Class Rank</td>
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<td>31.0%</td>
<td>31.4%</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
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<td>Teacher recommendation</td>
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<td>Subject test scores (AP, IB)</td>
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<td>30.4%</td>
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<td>Portfolio</td>
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<td>50.4%</td>
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<td>Interview</td>
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<td>SAT II scores</td>
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<td>Extracurricular activities</td>
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<td>State graduation exam</td>
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<td>57.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
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National Association for College Admission Counseling, 2014
Academic Rigor and Balance

- Select an appropriately challenging schedule - that your student can reasonably handle
- Consider AP and Honors courses
- 3-4+ years of foreign language are highly recommended
Academic Performance

• Work hard
  • Final grades in every course throughout high school will appear on your transcript; as well as GPA and class rank
  • Colleges notice changes and trends in academic performance

• Strive for the best in all courses, especially academic courses:
  • English, Science, Math, History, Foreign language

• Be Assertive
  • Students can seek help in Titan Time, and before or after school
What do Admissions Reps Say?

• “Student are always advised to take the strongest curriculum that they can reasonably handle while pursuing opportunities for academic and extracurricular opportunities for which they have a passion.”

  -Jerome Lucido, Vice Provost, University of Southern California
SAT and ACT

• Students typically take the SAT and the ACT during 11th grade (consider student’s math level)
• Encouraged to take the SAT and/or ACT twice
• Register online at:
  • www.collegeboard.org
  • www.actstudent.org
• Best way to prepare is to practice
  • Students take PSAT each year in October
    • MyCollegeQuickstart
• Some students may consider test prep courses
SAT vs. ACT

- SAT
  - Components:
    - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (Reading Test and Writing and Language Test)
    - Math
  - Optional 50-minute writing section
  - Tests math up through Algebra II
  - Score out of 1600
    - Scale ranging from 200 to 800 for Evidence-Based Reading and Writing; 200 to 800 for Math
    - Essay results reported separately
    - No longer deductions for incorrect answers

- ACT
  - 4 sections: English, Math, Reading, and Science
  - 30-min writing section optional on test day
  - Tests math up through Trigonometry
  - Score given as composite – out of 36

Dominion will be holding a presentation on the redesigned SAT on March 10 at 7:30 in the auditorium
SAT Subject Tests

- Subject-specific tests that some colleges require or recommend for admission
  - Literature, Math 1 & 2, US History, World History, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Foreign Languages
- Best to take immediately after passing the associated course
  - Foreign language after at least two years of study
- Register at www.collegeboard.org
Extracurricular Involvement

• Begin involvement in a club, sport, or community organization
  • It’s okay to be “pointy”! Quality over quantity
• Volunteer work: [http://www.volunteerloudoun.com/](http://www.volunteerloudoun.com/)
  • Earn letter for 100+ hours
  • Log community service hours in student agenda (page 36)
• Allows colleges to see your passion, interests, and character
• Emphasis on leading a life of significance
Visiting Campus

• Finding the “right fit” is very important – can only do this if you’ve actually stepped onto the campus
• May require advance scheduling to make the most of each visit
• Try to visit nearby schools or develop a route that allows you to visit many colleges on one trip
• Schedule visits when college is in session
• Encouraged to start visiting colleges now
• Visiting is a way to show demonstrated interest, which can be a factor in admissions decisions
Finding “Fit” – What to Consider...

- Location
- Size
- Career goals
- Academic majors
- Financial aid
- H.S. course requirements and recommendations
- Academic profile of admitted students
- Student life

- Diversity of student body
- Athletic programs
- Extracurricular interests
- Study abroad programs
- ROTC
- Dorms/residence halls
- Available support services
- The “feel” of campus
- Cost (don’t rule out private or out-of-state colleges)
What Should Sophomores do to Prepare for the application process?

- Strive for the best grades possible
- Demonstrate strong character & work ethic
- Select an appropriate course schedule
- Get involved in school and community activities
- Research colleges and universities
- Research college majors and careers
- Schedule college campus visits
- Research & apply for summer enrichment programs
Resources

✓ Naviance
✓ Additional Resources
Naviance is a college and career readiness platform that helps connect academic achievement to post-secondary goals.

- **How do I access Naviance?**
  - [www.connection.naviance.com/dominion](http://www.connection.naviance.com/dominion)
  - Login using student ID#

- **Tasks:**
  - Take Personality Inventory – to match student with possible career/major options
  - Build Resume
  - Search for college and career options
Other College and Career Resources

• College and University websites
  • Data on admitted freshmen, admissions requirements

• Virginia Education Wizard
  • www.vawizard.org

• College Board website
  • www.collegeboard.org

• LCPS College Fair
  • September 2015
Course Selection for Junior Year
Courses for Junior Year

- **English**: English 11 Academic, English 11 Honors, or AP English Language and Composition
- **Math**: dependent upon math course this year
- **Science**: Chemistry, Environmental Science, Physics, Conceptual Physics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry
- **History**: US & VA History Academic, AP US History
- **Personal Finance and Economics**
  - Two semester courses, 0.5 credit each
  - Will be offered in zero period
  - Fulfills Virtual course requirement and CTE credential
Course Selection Timeline

• February 5th and 6th: Students attended Elective Fair during Titan Time
• February 9th and 10th: Students attended a Course Selection presentation during Titan Time
• February 25th: Students participated in Course Selection lesson during Clubhouse
• February 19th and 26th: Students selected courses in lab during Titan Time
• March – June: Individual counselor-student meetings
• March 23rd and 24th: Parent conferences for course selection during Titan Time
• June 24th: Deadline for course selection changes for 2015-16 school year
Questions?