

TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING NIGHT

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Scholarship Fund of Alexandria

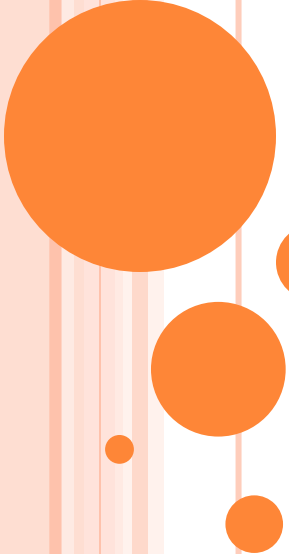


AGENDA



- Middle school vs. high school
- Higher education
 - What is it? Why is it important? Why start now?
- Becoming a strong college applicant
- Paying for college
- College planning resources at T.C.
- Questions?





MIDDLE SCHOOL vs. HIGH SCHOOL: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

SELF-ADVOCACY

- T.C. is a big school, so you need to speak up for yourself
- Having a problem? Figure out what resources you need or who can help
 - Teachers
 - Study groups
 - There is free online tutoring provided by ACPS through tutor.com via CANVAS
 - Can't figure it out where to go? Ask around!



ASK FOR HELP

- “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. Alumna and VCU student, Jaquelyn Handley
- There are many resources at TC to help you throughout your high school journey
- Take control of your high school experience



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILIES!



TC's ACADEMIC ORIENTATION & CURRICULUM NIGHT



Tuesday, February 4 from 5:30-7:30pm
at TC King St. Campus

- Learn more about
 - classes offered at TC for incoming 9th graders
 - elective classes
 - GW Health Academy, AVID, STEM Academy, and other curriculum-based programs





MINNIE HOWARD

Open House Dates - Family Fridays!

January 24

February 7

February 21

March 6

March 20

Come meet your new Minnie Howard Family and
explore available programs every other Friday
from 9-10:30 am

Students and Parents Welcome!

****Must Register to attend!****

To sign up, please call or email Ms. Rosita Galvez in the
TC Williams Minnie Howard Campus main office at

703-824-6750 or

rosita.galvez@acps.k12.va.us

Another Type of Transition

In order to understand how to get the most out of High School, it helps to consider: what you want to do after you graduate from high school?



HIGHER EDUCATION

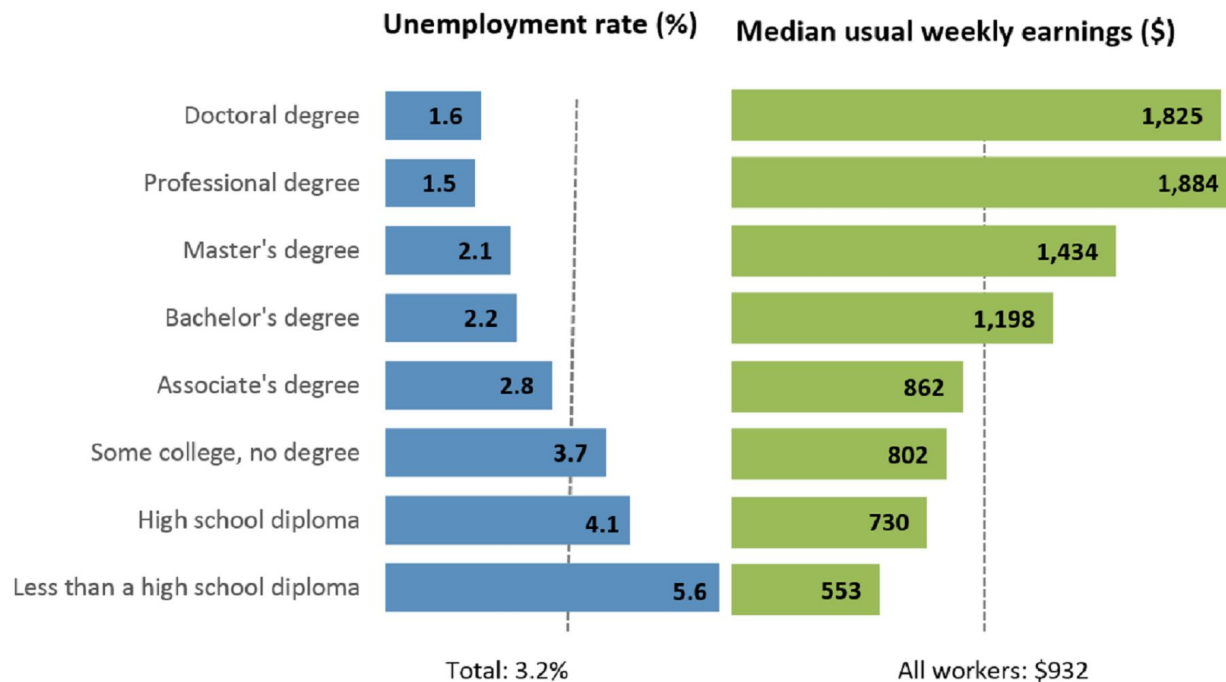
- 4-year college
- 2-year college
- Certification Program
- Apprenticeship Program



IMPORTANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Increased income!
- Increased job opportunities

Unemployment rates and earnings by educational attainment, 2018



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.



WHY SHOULD I BE THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE NOW?



1. It's never too early to start thinking about college!
2. You are probably taking classes right now that will appear on your high school transcript
 - ▣ **Algebra 1, Geometry, and World Language classes all count!**

If you know what colleges are expecting now,
you can set yourself up to be a good college
applicant from the start!



3 STEPS TO TAKE TO BE A GOOD COLLEGE APPLICANT



- Take Challenging Courses
- Work Hard to Earn Great Grades
- Get Involved Outside of the Classroom





1. COURSES

1. TAKE CHALLENGING COURSES

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



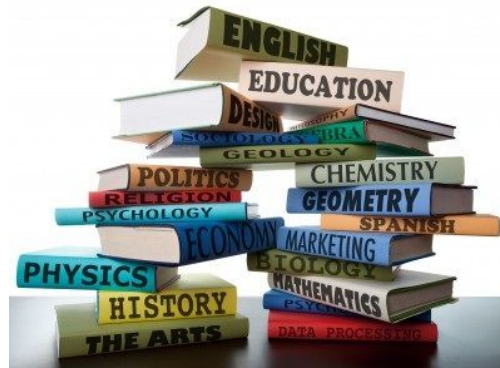
WHAT ARE AP/DE CLASSES?

- AP = Advanced Placement
- DE = Dual Enrollment
- Both are college-level courses and earn college credit
- Why are they important?
 - Taking challenging coursework in high school shows that you will be prepared when you get to college
 - Earning college credits in high school can save you money



CORE CLASSES

- What are core classes?
 - English, Math, Science, World Languages, Social Studies
- Colleges look mostly at these courses when evaluating a candidate



CHOOSE YOUR ELECTIVES WISELY!



- Out of the electives you choose each year, show a consistent interest
 - Passionate about *art or music*? Chooses an elective in 9th or 10th grade and see if it's something you'd like to stick with!
 - Interested in *engineering*? TC's engineering electives are great!
 - Save room in your schedule for challenging math and laboratory science classes like chemistry and physics
 - Considering *nursing*? Check out TC's Certified Nurse Aid course!
 - Also make sure to enroll in upper level laboratory sciences too— like AP Biology!
- Don't know what to choose? That's okay!



CURIOUS ABOUT THE CLASSES OFFERED?

- Check out the Program of Studies
(<https://www.acps.k12.va.us/programofstudies>)
 - Goes through all of the courses offered and what classes have prerequisites
- *See the second page in tonight's handout!*
 - *Sample course sequences in math and science*
 - *Highlighted paths signal highest level of college-preparatory classes*



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
- 4 year colleges often recommend even more than the minimum requirements for a diploma



SAMPLE 9TH GRADE SCHEDULE



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



WHAT DO 4-YEAR COLLEGES WANT TO SEE?



- Example: 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



ACPS/GW PARTNERSHIP: ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM



- A collaboration that will help TC students learn more about health sciences career opportunities
- Students can choose a pathway to follow
 - Surgical, Nursing, Biomedical Informatics, Sports Medicine, Emergency Medical Services, Pharmacy and Medical Laboratory Science
- Students can receive college credits from George Washington University or can transfer credits to several other colleges
- Application will open on February 4 and is due March 27
- More questions? Stop by and see Micki Coffman in room 209 or email michele.coffman@acps.k12.va.us



STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS) ACADEMY



- Participate in STEM Explorations course to investigate real-world STEM problems
- Students can choose a pathway to follow
 - Engineering & Technology, Electronic Systems, Computer Systems & Networking, Architectural/Engineering and Sustainability/Biotechnology/Forensics
- Senior STEM Research class
 - Includes apprenticeships, mentorships, and internships
 - Project-based learning
 - Culminating research project
- Application open on February 8 and is due March 31
- More questions? Stop by and see STEM representation in the Room 210



2. GRADES ARE IMPORTANT

2. GET GREAT GRADES



- The #2 thing colleges look at is the grades you receive in challenging courses
- Colleges are looking for a strong effort and an upward trend



GREAT GRADES = MONEY



- The colleges that give away the most money to students are the ones that require the best grades
- With great grades you can also potentially receive some private scholarships (free money) such as the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's scholarship



CALCULATING GPA



- GPA = Grade Point Average
- Your GPA begins as soon as you begin taking high-school level courses
 - For some of you, this could be as early as middle school
 - For others, this will begin in ninth grade with World Languages, Mathematics, Lab Sciences and History



CALCULATING (GPA)

- 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-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. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GET INVOLVED EARLY!

- Colleges like to see involved students— join clubs, volunteer, play sports, work, etc.
- It is best to commit to **a few** 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



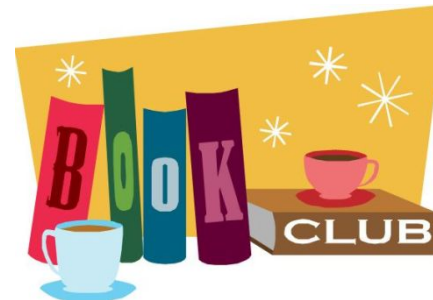
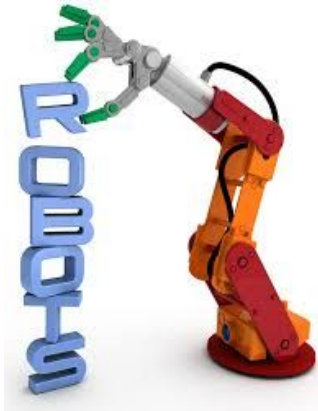
GET INVOLVED EARLY!

- Go to the T.C. club fair in the Fall
 - You can still participate in clubs at the King Street campus while you're at Minnie Howard
 - There are over 70 student organizations
- Try out for a sport
 - Sports at TC: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, crew, cross country, field hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, softball, swim & dive, tennis, track and field, volleyball and wrestling
 - For more info visit <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/domain/868>
- Volunteer in the community
- Find something YOU enjoy!



CLUBS AT T.C.

▣ *See full list in handout*



IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED!



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!



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PAYING FOR COLLEGE

HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE COST



- It depends!
 - Sticker Price = What a college costs before financial aid
 - Net Price = How much college will cost for you after taking your “financial aid” into account
- Financial aid: resources that help you pay for college
- Common Types of Financial Aid
 - Scholarships
 - Grants
 - Work-Study Programs
 - Loans



“NET PRICE” VS. “STICKER PRICE”



- Don't let the sticker price scare you! If you come from a low income family, college can be much less expensive
 - With the right combination of financial aid, you can make college affordable!
- For example:

College	Average TC Students GPA	Sticker Price	Need or Merit-based Scholarship Value	Grant Money	Net Price
University of Virginia	4.14	\$32,432	\$25,000	\$3,382	\$4,050
George Mason University	3.68	\$30,488	\$10,000	\$4,941	\$15,547



ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS



- Money that is coming from donors outside of a college, such as a local organization or business
- There are a few really big scholarships but private scholarships are typically not the main source of money for college
- There are a lot of different types of scholarships and can be based on:
 - Achievements
 - Grades
 - Sports
 - Nationality
 - Academic interests
- Sign up for Ms. Feldman's monthly scholarship newsletter ow.ly/LL1yJ



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

- Check out the Net Price Calculator to find out exactly how much college will cost for YOU
 - <https://collegecost.ed.gov/netpricecenter.aspx>
- Set up a meeting with Ms. Harrington or Mr. Waters
- *For more information, see “Paying for College” section in the handout*





SAVING FOR COLLEGE

- If you think your family may not qualify for need based financial aid because of your income, check out:
 - Virginia529 College Savings Plans
 - Have questions? Contact Judie Ahn at JAhn@virginia529.com



CITIZENSHIP & AID ELIGIBILITY

- If you think your family may not qualify:
- It is the citizenship status of the student that determines eligibility, not the parent!

Qualify For Federal Aid	Do <u>NOT</u> qualify for Federal Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•U.S. Citizens•Permanent Residents (Green Card)•Refugees•Asylees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Undocumented (or Dreamer/DACA)•Student Visa•Diplomat Visa•Exchange Visitor Visa



CITIZENSHIP & AID ELIGIBILITY

- If you do not qualify for federal aid,
 - The application process is different, but it is still possible to get financial aid for college
- Please see Ms. Harrington or Mr. Waters as soon as possible for specific information. All conversations about your status will be **completely confidential**
- *More information, see “Citizenship, Financial Aid, & College Options” page in handout*



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COLLEGE PLANNING RESOURCES AT T.C.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA



- The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria is a nonprofit organization housed in rooms A-121, A-117 and A-115 of T.C. Williams
 - Raises money and gives need-based scholarships just to T.C. graduates
 - Typical scholarship amount is \$3,000
 - renewable for all four years of college!
 - Awarded **1 million dollars** to T.C. seniors and alumni in 2019
- Visit alexscholarshipfund.org to learn more!



SCHOLARSHIP FUND OF ALEXANDRIA



- Helps students to find free money for college through various local and national scholarships
- Offers college and financial aid advising to 6-12 grade ACPS students and families
 - Classroom presentations
 - Individual meetings with students and families
 - Large group events



COLLEGE ADVISING TEAM: DARIEN WATERS AND MELISSA HARRINGTON



- 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/high 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



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 Stacy Morris, College and Career Counselor



COUNSELORS



- You will have one counselor in Minnie Howard, then have a new counselor for grades 10-12 once you're on King St campus
- Talk to him/her about:
 - Graduation and SOL requirements
 - Course planning
 - Post-secondary planning
 - Choosing the right college or career
 - The social/emotional transition to high school
- Have questions about 9th grade counseling? Talk to Melissa Deak at the Counseling Center Station!



PLEASE FILL OUT THE EXIT SURVEYS!



- This will help us improve future presentations
- Pass them to the student volunteers coming up the aisles



QUESTIONS?



darien.waters@acps.k12.va.us

college@acps.k12.va.us



703-824-6730



@TC2College



TC2College



EXIT INSTRUCTIONS

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 - Exit forward to the left
- Right side of the room
 - Exit back door to the right
- Middle section
 - Exit back door to the right

