Junior Parent Night

JANUARY 12, 2017
PRESENTED BY:

Lindsay O'Donnell, Guidance Counselor
Rachael Pearson, Guidance Counselor
Sarah Schultz, College & Career Counselor

Erika Banick, Division Chair for Humanities
Michael LaMantia, Division Chair for Math & Science
Heather McCurdy, Ed.D., NBCT, Director of Curriculum

Tonight's Agenda

- College information
- Testing
- Financial aid
- Review timelines for junior and senior year
- Questions

Class of 2016 Profile

Post-Secondary Plans

- 53% to community college
  - 35% transfer program
  - 18% career program
- 28% to a 4-year university
- 4% to a tech/trade school
- 2% to the military
- 1% into the workforce
- 12% undecided

Top 5 Universities

1. St. Xavier University
2. University of Illinois at Chicago
3. Loyola University
4. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
5. Lewis University

College: Where Do I Start?

- Research colleges online
- Explore careers and interests
- Visit colleges
- Attend college fairs
- Meet with college representatives at Reavis
- Go on field trips
- Participate in extracurricular activities

College Exploration

College Fairs

- Chicago Performing and Visual Arts Fair (September 2017)
- Chicago National College Fair at Navy Pier (October 2017)
- Moraine Valley College/Career Night (October 2017)
- National Hispanic College Fair (March 2017)

College Visits

- Held in Career Center during homeroom and RAM
- Meet with college representatives and ask questions
- Demonstrates interest

Campus Visits

- Sign up on college's website
- Tour campus and meet faculty
- Attend college/university open house events
- Sign up on College & Career Center door for field trips from Reavis

Factors to Consider

School Type

- Community college, university, technical school, etc.
- Degree/certificate programs offered
- Accreditation
- Job outlook

Location

- Urban, suburban, or rural
- Total enrollment
- Student-to-faculty ratio and average class size
- Live on campus vs. commute
- Safety and security

Academics

- Popular and competitive majors
- Support services
- Study abroad
- Honors and accelerated programs

Admission

- Requirements (ACT, GPA, etc.)
- Personal statement, letters of recommendation, etc.
- Deadlines and fees

Financial Aid

- Total cost of attendance
- Average financial aid package
- Scholarships

Student Life

- Athletics
- Clubs and organizations
- Social life

Campus facilities

- Housing and dining
- Recreational facilities
- Library and computer labs

Creating a College List

- Decide what factors are the most important
  - Location
  - Cost
  - Size
  - Academics
- Identify 3-6 schools to apply to
  - Reach School
  - Target School
  - Safety School
- Create a list and stay organized
  - Application materials
  - Deadlines

Tips for Parents

- Do:
  - Take them to see colleges
  - Proofread applications and essays and provide feedback
  - Research financial aid and scholarships
  - Complete FAFSA with tax return information
- Don't:
  - Apply to schools for your student
  - Write essays for your student
  - Apply for scholarships for your student
  - Force your student to apply to a school they're not interested in

SAT & ACT Information

- SAT taken at Reavis on April 5th during school day
  - Used for college admission
  - Three sections plus essay:
    - Evidence-Based Reading (scored together w/ Writing and Language)
    - Writing and Language (scored together w/Reading)
    - Math
    - Essay
  - Total score varies from 400-1600
- How Can I Prepare?
  - SAT Prep Homerooms second semester using Khan Academy
- National ACT
  - Remaining spring dates: February 11, April 8, June 10
  - Writing section optional
  - Registration and online prep at www.actstudent.org
- Fee waiver available for students with free/reduced lunch

Financial Aid

- What is Financial Aid?
  - Financial aid refers to specific *borrowed*, *given*, or *earned* money that can be obtained from various sources to help pay for college/training.
- Sources of Financial Aid
  - Federal and State Government (FAFSA)
  - Institutional Aid (colleges)
  - Outside Private Resources (Scholarship Packet)
- Types of Financial Aid
  - Grants/Scholarships/Work Study/Loans
- How much DOES it cost?
  - Net Price Calculator

Financial Aid

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
  - October 1st – 2016 Tax Information
  - Senior Parent Night - September
  - FAFSA Completion Workshop – September

- Local and Regional Scholarship Packet
  - E-mailed and posted online
  - Scholarship due dates starting in September

Preparing for Registration

- Homeroom presentation on January 11
  - College research and application process
  - Financial aid
  - Testing
  - Planning for junior and senior year
- Individual registration appointment in January
  - Unofficial transcript
  - Credit check
  - Discuss post-secondary plan
  - College folder

Junior Year Timeline

Second Semester

- Visit colleges
- Maintain good grades
- Prepare for and take the SAT and possibly ACT
- Research colleges online
- Get a part-time job and/or volunteer
- Participate in extracurricular activities

Senior Year Timeline

Fall

- Apply to four-year colleges
- Consider taking the SAT and/or ACT again to improve your score
- Attend college visits and workshops in the Career Center
- Visit the campuses of colleges you're applying to
- Complete the FAFSA to apply for financial aid
- Apply for scholarships

Winter

- Continue applying to four-year colleges
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Submit admission form for Moraine Valley (if applicable)

Spring

- Review offers of admission and financial aid award letters
- Make final college decision by May 1st

AP and Honors Courses

Currently Enrolled?

- Be reflective on current successes
- What are you doing to plan for success during May testing?

Considering Senior AP Courses?

- Recommendation?
- Be aware of over-commitment
- Summer Camps
- Inform yourself of course content and expectations
  http://www.reavisd220.org/content/curriculum-snapshots

Stay in the Loop!

- Remind your student to check his/her Reavis email address regularly!
- Ask your student to add you to the Class of 2018 Google Classroom.
- Feel free to contact your student's guidance counselor with any questions.

Questions?

Reavis Guidance Department

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