

# EARLY COLLEGE PLANNING

## Student Development

### Academic Focus

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade to high school transition - consider the appropriate learning & growth environment: public, private, technical-vocational, charter, and homeschooling
- Create a balanced academic plan that progressively challenges your students' abilities and rigor.
- Spend time prepping for the PSATs, which take place in October of 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Concentrate on building and supporting academic fundamentals, time management, task initiation, follow-up, monitoring deadlines, and study skills.
- Introduce academic support & tutoring to strengthen skills.

### Explore Interests

- Investigate STEM, STEAM, Robotics, gaming, and hobbies that can turn into an academic interest
- Introduce opportunities for fun-based research, learning, problem-solving, and innovative thinking

### Personal Character

- Encourage being active in a club and organization, in and out of school
  - Ex: DECA, Chess, Student Government, Rotary Interact, Scouting, Volunteering
- Participate in performing arts, theater, band, music, dance, athletics, and e-sports
- Attend a day or overnight camp to introduce separation, independence, socialization, and enrichment; day or overnight; academic, performing arts, and athletics.

## Life After High School Exploration

- Walk or drive through local or regional colleges to help your student learn about the size, setting, locations & type of college campuses.
- Students with talent should start to understand special admission requirements: auditions, portfolio reviews, the NCAA requirements (Divisional differences), and the US Service Academy.
- Discuss goals, expectations, and planning needs at home and with the school counselor.
- Review all pathways to education & careers: traditional & community college, service, apprenticeship, a gap year, and work

## Education Funding Assessment

- Analyze purchasing capability (spending on college) and available resources, including savings, disposable monthly income, and ability to secure credit (loans).
- Learn about college financing, including the process, terminology, resources, and how tuition assistance, merit, and need-based aid can supplement financing strategies.
- Pre-determine what will be expected from your family to finance year one through the completion of an undergraduate degree or skill-based program.
- Start hunting for scholarships. Finding and compiling a list takes time. What you see now could pay off when your student is in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Time

- Remember, time can be a savior or create a scramble. Family and student lives get crowded with activities and events, plus the calendar moves quickly.