

DC College Access Program



Promoting Educational Attainment

Parent Workshop #3





Overview

- Your son's transition into high school
- How to identify how your son learns best
- What can you do to help his transition to high school
- Eliminating Excuses
- Resources for more information





It's All So New!!!!

- High School is major transition from middle school. Always keep this in mind when talking with your son about his academic performance
 - Trying to find their group of friends
 - Adjustment to workload
 - Heightened expectations
 - Pressure to begin planning for future
 - Harder to stand out as the best student





School Daze

- The newness of school may cause distracting thoughts while he is in class.
 - Girls in the class (school)
 - Sports/extracurricular activity he may be a part of
 - Food
 - Social Media
 - Something that happened earlier (at home or in school)





Freshman Year Adjustment

- Healthy adjustment this year is critical.
 - GPA is important
 - Manage your expectations
 - Know what motivates your son, and use it!
 - Seek help early





Identify Your Son's Learning Style

- 3 learning styles
 - Tactile (Doing)
 - Auditory (Listening)
 - Visual (Seeing)
- At parent teacher meetings ask the teacher how he/she differentiates instruction for the various learning styles.





You Are the Best Teacher

- Teach your son how to study and take notes
- Stay Involved
- Provide Structure – help him manage time for school, friends, activities, and family.





Reading, Writing, & Arithmetic

- Make sure your son reads.
 - The more he reads the better his writing and comprehension will become.
- Read his writing assignments.
 - Proofread his essays and other written work.
- Math is taught through practice and repetition
 - To study for math, he needs to continuously practice examples from his text and class.





Challenge Him

- Challenge your son to take the most rigorous course load he can handle.
- If appropriate sign up for honors or advanced level classes.
- Prepare him to take 4 years of math and science.





Don't Allow Excuses

- Poor grades and disruptive behavior are sometimes explained with simple excuses
 - He's lazy
 - Unmotivated
 - Distracted
- Have him tested for a learning disability
- An “unmotivated” or “lazy” child may not be challenged in class, or maybe “Talented and Gifted”





Invest in Your Son

- Don't just rely on the school to teach your son
- Many college groups have programs to tutor high school students
- Enroll him in academic groups during the summer (Engineering camps, etc.)
- Some resources may cost money.
- The investment now will pay off when applying for scholarships





Allow Him to Have Fun

- The most successful students are engaged academically and socially in their school.
- Keep him involved in an extracurricular activity
 - Sports or non sports related.
 - Involvement can aid self-esteem development and self confidence
 - 4 years of continuous involvement looks good to colleges.





Monitor Employment

- Many students work in to help supplement the family income.
- Monitor his work hours.
 - Working late or an excessive amount of hours limits time for sleep, studying, and homework which can impact academic achievement.
- High School can be hard as your son's sole focus.
 - As much as possible minimize the pressure of a maintaining a job for your son.
 - Many times work will become the priority for him and academic performance may suffer.





Resources

The following resources for parents are available from the U.S. government and other organizations.

General Education Information

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov
1-800-USA-LEARN (toll free)

Resources for Parents

Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs)
<http://www.taalliance.org>

Parental Information and Resource Centers (PIRC)

<http://www.nationalpirc.org>

Help With Homework or School Projects

Free Resources for Educational Excellence
<http://www.free.ed.gov>

Schools

Public and private schools, colleges and libraries
<http://www.nces.ed.gov/globallocator>

Reading

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL)
<http://www.nifl.gov/>

Preschool

Ready to Learn TV
www.pbs.org/readytolearn





We are here to help

- Seneca Scarborough, Capital City Advisor
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Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us:

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