Looking Ahead to High School and College

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When should we begin thinking about college or careers?



Talent Development Trajectory

Every year of schooling is part of your child's path toward the future.

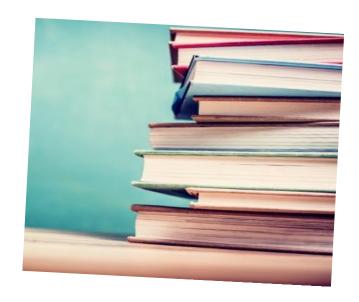
Getting Started (Early Talent Development)

- Exploration of interests, discovery of strengths
- Excitement about learning
- Positive risk taking, critical and creative problem-solving
- Foundational skill building



Being Prepared and Aware

- Understanding/Recognizing goals
- Being proactive and intentional
- Opportunities present in various ways, a deep dive into everyday experiences or events can engage and teach
- No one way to support your students
- Use your resources to acquire knowledge
- Start collecting evidence/portfolio



Talent Development Trajectory

Planning in the Middle Grades: Bringing Interests into Focus

- Begin higher ed and career exploration
 - Interests, strengths: related career options
 - Pathways to careers of interest
 - Honing necessary skills
 - Study habits and focus
 - Communication, critical/creative thinking
 - Relationship building
 - Independence and self-advocacy



Grades 6-8

Course Planning and Academic Enrichment

- Learn more about your strengths
 - Above-grade-level assessment (SAT, ACT)
 - Talk with adults about strengths and courses that are a match
- Take advanced courses—ones that are challenging but not overwhelming
 - Explore your high school's course offerings and start sketching out possible middle and high school course schedules (in school and outside-of-school courses)
 - Use your thoughts about college and career and as a guide for course choices (electives, math sequences, sciences, etc.)
- Take enrichment courses that introduce you to new subject areas or help you accelerate your learning.
 - If possible, attend programs that are held on college campuses

Grades 6-8

College and Career Exploration

- Speak with adults who have jobs you find interesting
 - What do they like about their job?
 - What was their pathway to their job?
 - What education and training is required?
 - What are related jobs or areas for continued growth/career development?
- Engage in an extra-curricular activity or two that match your interests and skills
- Start exploring different types of colleges
- Start looking for scholarships
- Start saving money for college, if you haven't begun

Grades 9-12

Course Planning and Academic Enrichment

- Take a practice SAT through Khan Academy or the PSAT/NMSQT at your school
- Talk to your school counselor about your college and career ideas and paths to achieve your goals
- Set up a course plan for grades 9-12
- Continue to take challenging core courses (ask about AP, honors, dual enrollment options)
- In the summers, take a course at a college or university and/or work/volunteer

Grades 9-12

College and Career Exploration

- Research majors that might fit well with interests and goals
- Identify schools of interest and their admission requirements; engage in virtual and on-site visits
- Continue to save for college
- Explore scholarship and financial aid options, begin applications; Find out about government financial aid eligibility
- Go to career information events (at school or in the community)
- Continue to engage in extra-curricular activities or find mentorships that match your interests and skills. Pursue leadership roles, if possible
- Explore opportunities to volunteer through leadership and service-learning programs and in your community.
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Grades 9-12

- College Exploration Resources (free and paid):
 - Niche.com
 - Unigo
 - College Board
- Career Exploration (free and paid):
 - Career Liftoff
 - College Board

Grade 12

- Continue with advanced courses, including college-level courses through dual enrollment, AP, or college extension offerings
- Maintain your performance in your courses
- Stay involved in extra-curricular activities and/or in internship or mentorship programs
- Submit your FAFSA form
- Apply to colleges and pay attention to deadlines; continue visits
- Submit scholarship applications

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A Few More Resources

- <u>Federal Student Aid Checklists</u> Steps to Take in Preparation for High School and College
- <u>Federal Student Aid Career Search</u> Explore possible careers/industries
- <u>Davidson Institute Blog</u> Preparing for High School or College
- CTD Talent Newsletter Summer 2021
- College Essay Guy free and paid service for college applications, scholarship applications, etc.

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Scholarships



"a grant-in-aid to a student (as by a college or foundation)." (Mirriam Webster)

Merit Scholarships – Awarded based on criteria such as academic excellence, athletic prowess, or artistic achievement.

Need-based Scholarships – Awarded based on financial or income-based criteria, such as family income.

Federal Student Aid Website

A good place to start for college scholarship planning.

Today.

Paying for Higher Education

Explore how financial aid determinations are made. General information at Big Future from College Board.



How do I find scholarships?

Pre-College College

Finding Pre-College Scholarships

- Fewer national opportunities, but check out sites like
 - https://finaid.org/scholarships/age13/
 - https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/scholarships-formiddle-school-students/
 - https://www.edvisors.com/scholarships/win-scholarships/fr
 ee-scholarships/students-under-age-13-scholarships/
- Check out pre-college programs at area colleges, universities, museums.
- Explore programs of interest for financial aid and scholarships (Teen Life, NAGC Resource Guide).

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Federal Student Aid Website

"...contacting the financial aid office at the school you plan to attend and checking information in a public library or online. But be careful. Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are legitimate; and remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships or other financial aid. Check out our information on how to avoid scams."

Finding College Scholarships

- Start local
 - Talk to your guidance counselor about local scholarships.
 - Ask for a list of scholarships students from your school have won in the past.
 - Use existing community connections: service clubs (e.g., Rotary), houses of worship, local companies, hospitals.
- Explore National Sites
 - Scholarship databases (but check sources!)
 - College Board
 - Fastweb.com
 - Scholarships.com
 - College Essay Guy
- College and universities of interest

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