



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Crystal Lake South students are encouraged to create a four-year plan early in their high school career and modify the plan as their post-secondary goals develop and change throughout high school. Our goal is to empower the pursuit of personal aspirations, whether those aspirations include a particular career, a trade, or a college degree.

The following documents are two sample four year plans: one for an open enrollment college and one for a selective college. We also have sample four year plans for trade schools, very selective colleges, and the most selective colleges, all available at <http://bit.ly/CLSFourYearPlans>. These documents were developed to help your student understand the academic path that previous Crystal Lake South students took to reach their post-secondary goals. The information and data points presented in these documents have been tracked by our Student Services team to provide the most accurate course selections, SAT and ACT scores, and grade point averages of students who have been **ADMITTED** to five different types of post-secondary institutions. As college admissions regularly change, please be aware that the examples provided are guidelines to use as a planning tool. **Following these plans does not guarantee that your student will be accepted into a certain college.** At Curriculum Night, you will learn more about all of the options available to students to empower the pursuit of their personal aspirations.

### Why should my student map out his/her high school courses?

A four year course map can help your student plan which courses they need to take to meet his / her college and career goals. For career preparation, students can map out how to fit in electives that will provide them valuable certifications to give them a competitive edge. For college admissions, students can plan out an appropriate yet challenging course load that will prepare them for college applications and college admission testing. Starting with the end in sight ensures that students will fit in the courses that matter the most to them.

### What questions should I ask my student to help him or her think about the four-year planning process?

- Is your course selection reflective of future goals or career interests?
- Are you choosing courses that will give you valuable career exploration opportunities and certifications for the workplace?
- Are you signing up for appropriately challenging classes (courses that will stretch you as a student) or mapping out a path to get to these courses?
- Are you choosing rigorous and relevant **electives** (courses students may select to meet total graduation requirements) that stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities?

### How can you help your student prepare for Curriculum Night and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night?

- Prior to 8th Grade Night, discuss your student's career and post-secondary goals.
- Encourage your student to sign up for classes that match his or her post-secondary plans.
- If your student is unsure of post-secondary plans, discuss exploratory options with them. Map out a plan to take classes that may open up ideas.
- Use your student's current grades, test scores, and course recommendations to help guide the discussion.

**Please bring this packet with you to Curriculum Night. Our school counselors will explain the four-year plan in more depth at that time. We look forward to seeing you there!**

Thank you.

Crystal Lake South Student Services