

WHY COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Why CCRC in Middle School?

Our research shows that, under current conditions, **the level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.**

This report also reveals that students' academic readiness for college and career can be improved when students develop behaviors in the upper elementary grades and in middle school that are known to contribute to successful academic performance.

The Forgotten Middle, ACT 2008

According to Harvard University, Center for Education Policy Research:

- ▣ 9th grade on-track status is highly predictive of future graduation and college enrollment outcomes.
- ▣ Those who fall off track in their freshman year of High School tend to remain off-track in their 2nd year of high school.

Latest news: Research reveals importance of soft skills

Young job seekers should give applications a personality boost to increase their chances of success according to recent research.

Conducted by ICM Research the study interviewed over 4,000 adults, including 908 line managers.

- ▣ The results reveal that 38% of employers would like young people to give greater prominence to personal achievements and life experience in job applications.
- ▣ Managers feel that: young people are not aware of the importance placed on soft skills (37%)
- ▣ Soft skills should be listed ahead of qualifications (26%);
- ▣ Findings show that a strong work ethic, commitment, communication and team working ability are the personal qualities managers value the most in young applicants.

Soft Skills

- ▣ Incorporation of learning Soft – Skills
 - Communication
 - Enthusiasm and Attitude
 - Teamwork
 - Networking
 - Problem solving and critical thinking
 - Professionalism



Seven Steps Talk about College

- ▣ Your Expectations have an influence on your Child's expectations.
- ▣ Talk about their interests and how that might become a college major or career.
- ▣ Explore Careers with your child, following their lead.
- ▣ Visit College campuses

<http://www.greatschools.org/>

A Middle School Parent's College Prep Guide – Planning for College



Seven Steps Make The School Your Partner

- ❑ Encourage and guide your child
- ❑ Meet your children's teachers and school counselors
- ❑ Review test scores with school personnel to identify strengths and weaknesses
- ❑ Verbalize your concerns and work collaboratively to create a plan with teachers/counselors/administration/your child



Seven Steps Choosing Classes

- ▣ Kids who take Algebra by 8th grade and geometry by 9th are more likely to go to college.
- ▣ Taking Math every year in middle school and high school helps prepare for high level math in college.
- ▣ Take English every year.
- ▣ Take as many History and Science classes as possible.
- ▣ Foreign language: colleges require 2 years (of the same language).
- ▣ Computer Skills classes



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Seven Steps Be College Cost Savvy

- ▣ Research Options
- ▣ Be Creative
- ▣ Start Early, the \$\$ is there.
- ▣ Consider Dual Enrollment classes in high school.
- ▣ Advance Placement classes in high school.
- ▣ Summer Classes.

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Seven Steps

READ, READ, READ

- ▣ Reading is preparation for College and College Entrance exams (ACT, SAT, AP testing, etc.)
- ▣ Build vocabulary – Word of the Day!
 - Dictionary.com
- ▣ Any type of reading is better than none.
 - Magazines
 - Minecraft books
 - Movie Critic Articles on Mocking Jay

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Seven Steps Look Ahead at High School

- ▣ High School is the Launch Pad to college.
- ▣ AP Course, Honors Courses, Strategies Classes
- ▣ GPA
- ▣ Credits
- ▣ Electives and Extracurricular activities
- ▣ Get to know the high school and ask the questions



Seven Steps Don't Wait to Get Help

- ▣ Middle School is practice for high school, habits start now.
- ▣ Study Skills, Time-management & Organization

- ▣ Tutoring, School Counselor, Teachers

<http://www.greatschools.org/college-prep>

<http://www.parenttoolkit.com/>



College Planning

College Searches

Success Planning

Student planner and
Personalized Goal setting

<http://connection.naviance.com/lbjms>

Career Planning

8th Grade

Career Cluster Finder
Inventory

7th Grade

Strengths Explorer

6th Grade

Career Cluster
Exploration

Classroom guidance
lessons regarding
careers

Setting a Career Goal

Thank You

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