

SENIOR BRIEFING

CLASS OF 2026

DREHER COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

SENIOR YEAR

- THIS PRESENTATION WILL COVER:
 - BASICS OF PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – COLLEGE, MILITARY, OR CAREER
 - LOGISTICAL PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING ACADEMIC DOCUMENTS
- The presentation is designed to provide important background information for your senior IGP (Individual Graduation Plan) conference. Each senior will have a meeting with his or her counselor early this fall. Reviewing this presentation carefully will allow us to spend more time in your senior conference discussing information specific to you.
- Check the Dreher website and social media regularly for updates.

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT STAFF

- Who is my counselor?
 - Mrs. LaToya Reese – grades 10-12, last names A-G
 - Ms. Kimberly Brantley – grades 10-12, last names H-O
 - Ms. April Finley – grades 10-12, last names P-Z
 - Mr. Kevin Kirkley – grades 11-12, AP Capstone students
 - Mrs. Nicole Hill – grade 9
- Other Important Staff:
 - Ms. Quenna Smith - Registrar
 - Ms. Hannah Milton-Hall - Records Clerk

BEFORE WE START

- Be sure to check the Dreher website and social media regularly!
- Updates about scholarships, upcoming testing, college opportunities, and more will be posted throughout the year!
- Don't miss out!



LET'S TALK TRANSCRIPTS

- Before we talk about where you'd like to go after high school, we need to talk about where you've been.
 - Your transcript is your permanent record for high school; it is an official listing of all the classes taken and your FINAL grades for the classes.
 - Colleges will use your transcript to make a decision about whether to admit you.
 - Many colleges also require us to send them an update with your mid-year senior grades, and the college you ultimately choose to attend will need a copy of your final transcript to verify your graduation and finalize your admission.
- Senior year grades are important! Don't lose focus on your schoolwork just because you're a senior!

IMPORTANT TRANSCRIPT FEATURES

- Left Column – Chronological (by year) listing of courses taken and final grades earned
- Lower Right Corner – Summary Information:
 - GPA:
 - Weighted GPA (listed on transcript as “SC UGP GPA”)
 - Gives extra weighting for Honors, AP, and Dual-Enrollment courses
 - Unweighted GPA (listed on transcript as “4.0 GPA”)
 - No weighting for different-level classes. On this scale, each grade of A = 4.0; B = 3.0; C = 2.0; D = 1.0; and F = 0.
 - Class Rank – determined by weighted GPA
 - Total credits attempted and earned

Student Name <small>Supervisor: [Name]</small>		
Student ID <small>XXXXXXXXXX</small>	Grade 12	Gender M
State ID <small>SC</small>	Date of Birth 10/28/1997	Ethnic Code W
Parent or Guardian <small>Supervisor: [Name]</small>		

**State of South Carolina
Standard High School Transcript - Final**

Graduation Date: 01/16/2003
Class Of: 2016
Diploma Type: State of SC Diploma

School Name/Address Test High School 3214 Johnson Lane TestTown, SC 29460 Tel: 803-775-2511 Fax: 803-775-2511
District Name/Address <small>XXXXXXXXXX</small>

Crs ID	Course Title	Term	Grd	Mark	Credit	Crs ID	Course Title	Term	Grd	Mark	Credit
12-13 Swansea High Freshman Academy											
3011FACW	English 1	YR	9	76	1.00						
3141FACW	Algebra 1A	YR	9	72	1.00						
3211FACW	Physical Science	YR	9	71	1.00						
339961CW	Domestic, Foreign, & Student Affairs	YR	9	79	1.00						
344100CW	Health/PE-I	YR	9	77	1.00						
375100CW	Junior ROTC 1	YR	9	72	1.00						
500800CH	Computer Applications	S2	9	75	0.50						
510000CH	Keyboarding	S1	9	68	0.00						
13-14 Swansea High School											
301202CW	English 2	YR	10	71	1.00						
309904CW	Mythology	YR	10	74	1.00						
314201CW	Algebra 1B	YR	10	71	1.00						
322102CW	Biology 1	YR	10	75	1.00						
336002CW	World History (GS)	YR	10	91	1.00						
503102CW	Webpage Design and Development 1	YR	10	71	1.00						
606000CW	Building Const 1	YR	10	77	1.00						
14-15 Swansea High School											
301302CW	English 3	YR	11	79	1.00						
323102CW	Chemistry 1	YR	11	72	1.00						
332002CW	US Hist and Const	YR	11	83	1.00						
379971CW	Car Exp 1 JAG	YR	11	77	1.00						
412102CW	Geometry	YR	11	70	1.00						
452102CW	Drama 1	YR	11	81	1.00						
555000CW	Health Sc Tech 1	YR	11	81	1.00						
15-16 Swansea High School											
333002CH	U.S. Government	S1	12	82	0.50						
										SC UGP GPA 4.0 GPA	
										GPA Summary 1.889 1.500	
										Class Rank 130 out of 136	
										Date Calculated August 23, 2016	
										Credit Summary	
										Total Credit Attempted: 21.50	
										Total Credits Earned: 21.00	

To determine the course academic level refer to the seventh character in each course ID.

If graduation date is a future date, current year reflects Work In Progress.

Information about the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy can be found by searching for "Uniform Grading Policy" at <https://ed.sc.gov/>

Signature Here

Official Signature _____
Dr. Susan Bell, Principal
Date: August 23, 2016

An official signature and/or seal is required for manually printed transcripts (PDF format).
An official signature (.JPEG format) is required for electronic transcripts sent via secure transmission.

SC transitioned to a 10-point Grade Scale in 2016-17. Prior year courses were evaluated on a 7-point Grade Scale (see below).

2015-16	2016-17
A 93-100	A 90-100
B 85-92	B 80-89
C 77-84	C 70-79
D 70-76	D 60-69
F 0-69	F 0-59

GRADE LISTING



SAMPLE TRANSCRIPT



SUMMARY INFORMATION BLOCK

**SOUTH CAROLINA UNIFORM
GRADING SCALE –
DETERMINES HOW GPA'S ARE
CALCULATED FOR ALL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN SC**

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100

KNOW WHICH CREDITS YOU STILL NEED FOR GRADUATION

- State diploma requirements:
 - English – 4 units
 - Mathematics - 4 units
 - Science – 3 units (must include Biology I)
 - US History – 1 unit
 - US Government - 0.5 unit
 - Economics – 0.5 unit
 - Other Social Studies – 1 unit
 - PE or JROTC – 1 unit
- Computer Science – 1 unit
- World Language or Career/Tech - 1 unit
- Electives – 7 units (must include 0.5 unit Personal Health)
- **TOTAL – 24 UNITS**

FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS (PER THE SC COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION)

- Four units of English
- Four units of math (must include Algebra I; Geometry; Algebra 2; and a fourth, higher-level math)
- Three units of lab science (chosen from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Earth Science – must include at least two fields)
- Three units of social studies (must include US History, Government, & Economics)
- Two units of the same world language (some colleges require three units)
- One unit of fine arts
- One unit of PE or JROTC
- At least two additional electives (computer science recommended for one of these)

RICHLAND ONE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS REQUIREMENTS

- 4 credits Hon/AP English
- 4 credits Hon/AP Math
- 4 credits Hon/AP Social Studies
- 4 credits Hon/AP Science
- 3 credits World Language
- 1 PE/ROTC
- 10 electives
- 30 TOTAL CREDITS
- No grade lower than a “C”
- 4.0 or higher weighted GPA in the student’s Honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment classes
- 8 points for extracurricular involvement (one point per activity)
- Calculated at the end of first semester senior year

FIRST POSSIBLE PATHWAY

COLLEGE – TWO-YEAR OR FOUR-YEAR

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

- SAT
- Composite Score ranging from 400-1600
 - Two Subtests (range 200-800):
 - Evidence-Based Reading and Writing
 - Math
 - Composite is total of the subtest scores
 - The SAT is a digital test administered online.
- ACT
- Composite Score ranging from 1-36
 - Three Subtests (range 1-36):
 - English
 - Math
 - Reading
 - Composite is average of subtest scores
 - Optional Science Section and Essay – check to see if required by your college choices
 - The ACT is administered online and via paper-and-pencil.

TESTING CALENDAR – CHECK WITH YOUR COLLEGE TO SEE THEIR DEADLINES FOR TESTING

- SAT Test Dates - register at www.sat.org
 - August 23 (deadline August 8)
 - September 13 (deadline August 29)
 - October 4 (deadline September 19)
 - November 8 (deadline October 24)
 - December 6 (deadline November 21)
 - March 14 (deadline February 27)
 - May 2 (deadline April 17)
 - June 6 (deadline May 22)
- ACT Test Dates – register at www.actstudent.org
 - September 6 (deadline August 1)
 - October 18 (deadline September 12)
 - December 13 (deadline November 7)
 - February 14 (deadline January 9)
 - April 11 (deadline March 6)
 - June 13 (deadline May 8)
 - July 11 (deadline June 5)

STANDARDIZED TESTING UPDATES

- Testing policies for college admissions continue to evolve each year.
- Many colleges have altered their SAT and ACT testing policies or have made SAT and ACT testing optional for this year's admissions cycle.
- The following website has a comprehensive listing of colleges with test-optional policies for this year: <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>.
- I encourage you to check your college's website for specific, official testing details.
- Remember that your grades, college essays, and letters of recommendation all need to be strong, particularly if you are not planning to submit test scores.

APPLYING TO COLLEGE



STEP ONE – FINALIZE YOUR COLLEGE LIST

- Now is the time to make final decisions about the colleges where you plan to apply.
- Remember to make your college list balanced. Incorporate colleges from three groups:
 - Reach School – this may be your dream school, but it may be difficult to be admitted
 - Target School – this is the type of school where you fall right in line with the profile of students who are typically admitted
 - Safety or “Likely” School – this is a school where you meet or exceed the profile of students who are typically admitted
- You can utilize the College Board’s College Search at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search> to obtain statistics about colleges.

STEP TWO – MAKE A CALENDAR OF DATES AND DEADLINES

- Organize your calendar so that you are aware of all upcoming dates and deadlines. This way, you can stay on track throughout the fall. Be sure to take note of the following deadlines:
 - Admissions Application Deadline (keep in mind that there may be an earlier deadline if you're applying for scholarships or an honors college program)
 - Financial Aid Application Deadline
 - Scholarship Deadline
 - Audition or Portfolio Deadline if you are applying in a fine arts program

TAKE NOTE OF COLLEGE DECISION PLANS

- Many colleges offer different “Decision Plans” and have different deadlines depending on the plan. Some of the most common decision plans are described below, but check your specific college for their specific policies:
 - Early Decision – for students who have decided that a college is the absolute top choice; students apply early and receive an admissions decision early, but the commitment is typically binding – the student is obligated to attend the college, regardless of financial aid or scholarship packages
 - Early Action – for students who apply early and receive a decision early, but the commitment is typically not binding; some colleges require students to apply Early Action if they wish to be considered for merit scholarships
 - Regular Decision – typically a college’s final deadline; students often receive an admissions decision in the spring

STEP THREE – COMPLETE THE ADMISSIONS APPLICATION

- Components in a college application:
 - The admissions application itself
 - Official transcript sent to colleges
 - Official test scores sent to colleges
 - Counselor Report Form/Secondary School Report
 - Teacher Letters of Recommendation



ADMISSIONS APPLICATION

- Complete the admissions application online using the website of the college of your choice.
- The website will guide you through the different sections, which typically include sections for demographics, honors and awards, activities, college essays, and letters of recommendation.
- Many colleges utilize the Common Application (www.commonapp.org). The Common Application is a single application that can be used to apply to many different colleges. Not all colleges participate, so check the schools to which you are applying.

A NOTE ABOUT COLLEGE ESSAYS

- Many colleges require college essays as part of the application process.
- College essays are designed to reveal information about you that the college admissions officer might not be able to tell from other parts of your application. Here is where your personality should shine through.
- Use the essay to give the college an idea of what you will be like as a student on their campus, what your academic passions are, and any background information that would be pertinent. If you have encountered particular hardships in high school that have affected your school experience, this is the place to include them.
- Work with your English teacher and others to refine your essays.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

- Request official transcripts to be sent to the college of your choice by registering for an account at www.parchment.com. You will use this to send official copies of your transcript directly from Dreher to colleges. You can also order a copy of the transcript for yourself. You will use this for both initial transcripts and final transcripts at the end of the year.
- If you need a paper copy to be mailed somewhere, we will be glad to do so. Mailed copies carry a \$5 processing fee.



OFFICIAL TEST SCORES

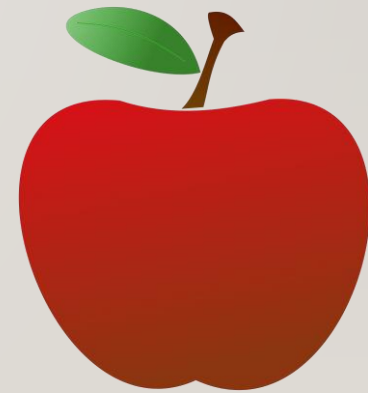
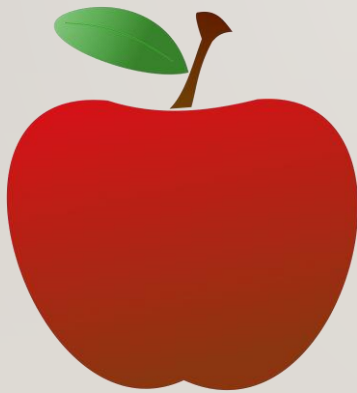
- Send official copies of your test scores by placing an order at the testing company websites:
 - SAT – www.sat.org
 - ACT – www.actstudent.org
- You can receive up to four free score sends when you register for the tests, and the testing companies will allow you to purchase reports to other colleges.
- You can check where your scores have been sent by logging into your account.
- Copies of scores from Dreher or from your student portal are not official; you must send them directly from the testing agencies. Some college may accept self-reported scores, so be sure to check each college's policy.

COUNSELOR REPORT FORM/SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

- This form is one that your counselor will complete. It is designed to place your record of achievement into the context of our school as a whole. Not every school requires a form like this. There is also typically a place on the form for a counselor recommendation letter.
- The Counselor Report Form often asks questions about the curriculum we offer at Dreher, the difficulty of your courseload, and the GPA/class rank system that we use. Counselors often provide colleges a “School Profile,” which is a document that summarizes the offerings at Dreher.
- In order for your counselor to complete this form, you need to enter the counselor’s email address into the designated spot on the application. The college will email the form directly to the counselor.

TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Letters of recommendation from teachers are not required by every college. However, if required, colleges will ask you to enter the teacher's email address into the application so that colleges can email the teacher the form directly.
- If colleges require letters of recommendation from teachers, they often will require one or two. Be sure to follow the directions of the college to which you are applying.



TIPS FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Communicate with your teachers early! Two weeks should be the minimum, but more time that that (generally a month) is preferred.
- Ask the teacher if he or she would be willing to write a supportive letter of recommendation for you. Provide the teacher a resume or listing of your high school accomplishments/activities so that he or she can include some of that information. Be sure to let the teacher know your application deadlines.
- Choose teachers who know you well and can speak about your academic background. Junior year teachers from core subjects are often a good choice, although fine arts or other teachers can be a good fit if you are planning to major in one of those areas.
- Thank your teachers and follow up with them to let them know your college decision.

APPLICATION COMPLETE!

- When you have submitted all of these components, your application for admission is complete! You can wait to hear your college's decision.
- In the meantime, however, there is still more work to do to prepare for college, which brings us to a discussion of...



FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS



TWO TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

- Need-Based Aid

- Money to help pay for college that is based on a family's financial situation.
- May consist of:
 - Grants
 - Loans
 - Work Study

- Merit-Based Aid

- Money to help pay for college that is based on something outstanding that the student has done, typically in the areas of academics, the arts, or athletics.
- Typically thought of as scholarships

APPLYING FOR NEED-BASED AID

- Colleges use formulas to calculate the difference between the cost of attendance at that particular college and what a family is expected to pay based on the family's financial situation or need.
- To determine need, colleges require families to complete financial aid forms. The two most common forms are the FAFSA and the CSS PROFILE. Colleges could also utilize another financial aid form, so always check with your college for specific details.
- Check with your individual college to find their deadlines for submitting financial aid applications.

FAFSA

- Stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- A form developed by the federal government
- Used to qualify for federal aid, some state aid, and some institutional aid
- Required by nearly all colleges for students who seek financial aid
- Largely asks questions based on parental income tax information
- This year's FAFSA is expected to become available on October 1, 2025. Students will be able to import much of their parents' tax information from the IRS onto the FAFSA form.
- Apply online at www.fafsa.gov

CSS PROFILE

- A supplementary form required by some colleges, mostly private
- More detailed than the FAFSA
- Apply online at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>.
- Becomes available October 1

TYPES OF MERIT-BASED AID

- Scholarships offered by the state of South Carolina for in-state colleges
- Scholarships offered by colleges themselves
- Scholarships offered by external groups and charitable organizations



SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

- Three main programs:
 - HOPE Scholarship
 - LIFE Scholarship
 - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- Students must be a South Carolina resident, as well as a US citizen or permanent resident, to qualify
- These scholarships are only valid at South Carolina colleges and universities
- Students only receive funds for the largest of the scholarships for which they meet the requirements

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

- One-year scholarship
- Valid at eligible four-year institutions in South Carolina
- Worth \$2,800
- No application to complete; automatically awarded to qualifying students by the college
- Academic eligibility requirements:
 - 3.0 or higher weighted GPA (on Uniform Grading Policy) at graduation

LIFE SCHOLARSHIP

- Four-Year College LIFE Scholarship
 - Valued up to \$5,000 per year for four years of eligibility (assuming the student meets renewal requirements) at South Carolina colleges
 - No application to complete; automatically awarded to qualifying students by the college
 - Eligibility requirements at four-year colleges (students must meet two of the three for eligibility):
 - 3.0 or higher weighted GPA (on Uniform Grading Policy) at graduation
 - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class
 - Score at least 1100 (combined reading and math) on the SAT or 22 composite on the ACT by June of senior year

LIFE SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED

- Two-Year College LIFE Scholarship
 - Valued up to \$5,000 per year at eligible technical colleges in SC or USC regional campuses
Can be renewed for two years of eligibility toward an associate's or bachelor's degree
 - No application to complete; automatically awarded to qualifying students by the college
 - Eligibility requirement at two-year college:
 - Graduate from high school with a minimum 3.0 weighted GPA (on SC Uniform Grading Policy)

PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

- Valid for four years in South Carolina
- Valued at \$6,700 for the first year of college and \$7,500 for the remaining three years (assuming the student meets renewal eligibility requirements)
- Two ways to qualify:
 - First method (a student must meet all requirements):
 - 1200 composite on the SAT or 25 composite on the ACT
 - 3.5 or higher weighted GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy
 - Rank in the top 6% of the class at the end of sophomore, junior, or senior year

PALMETTO FELLOWS CONTINUED

- Second method to qualify (a student must meet all requirements):
 - 1400 composite on the SAT or 31 composite on the ACT
 - 4.0 or higher weighted GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy
- The Counseling Office at Dreher will contact students and submit applications for Palmetto Fellows for students in the fall and spring; contact the counseling office if you have questions about this process.

LIFE AND PALMETTO FELLOWS ENHANCEMENTS FOR MAJORS IN SCIENCE AND MATH

- Recipients of LIFE or Palmetto Fellows who declare a major in an approved science or mathematics major may earn up to \$2,500 in additional funds beginning in the second year of college.
- To qualify, students must:
 - Be a recipient of the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
 - Earn at least 14 credit hours of instruction in approved mathematics or life and physical sciences or a combination of both by the end of the first year of college enrollment.
 - Declare an approved major in science or mathematics.

SECOND SOURCE OF SCHOLARSHIPS – FROM THE COLLEGES THEMSELVES

- Colleges have funds of their own to award to students based on merit.
- First, check the admissions page for each college that interests you to determine that college's scholarship process. Some colleges may consider you for merit scholarships based on your admissions application; other colleges may require you to complete a separate scholarship application. Deadlines may also be earlier if you wish to be considered for scholarships.
- Second, check the webpage for the department of your chosen college major. Sometimes there are scholarships specifically for students in certain majors.

THIRD SOURCE OF SCHOLARSHIPS – THOSE OFFERED BY EXTERNAL GROUPS

- Many external community groups and educational foundations offer scholarships, but these will generally require separate applications.
- Some places to check:
 - The Dreher website – all scholarships we receive are posted there; also check the Dreher social media accounts for updates
 - Scholarship search engines like fastweb.com or apply.com
 - Any community organizations with which you are involved; sometimes employers offer them to students or the children of employees; churches and other community groups also sometimes offer scholarships

CONSIDERING COLLEGE SPORTS?

- If you hope to play varsity sports at the college level, you will need to apply for eligibility with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Please note that the NCAA has specific academic requirements for students who wish to play college sports.
- Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center website to learn more or to complete your application: www.eligibilitycenter.org.

SECOND PATHWAY

MILITARY SERVICE

CONNECT WITH MILITARY RECRUITERS

- If you have decided to join the military, be sure to meet with military recruiters. Recruiters from the primary branches of the military visit Dreher on a regular basis.
- If you miss the recruiters at Dreher, connect with them through these websites:
 - US Army – www.goarmy.com
 - Navy – www.navy.com
 - Marines – www.marines.com
 - US Air Force – www.airforce.com
 - Army National Guard – www.nationalguard.com

ASVAB TESTING

- If you plan to enter the military, you will need to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This test measures your skills and preparedness for military service in a variety of areas.
- We administer the ASVAB in fall and spring at Dreher. Listen for the announcements to sign up in the counseling office.
- Learn more about the ASVAB and practice by visiting www.officialasvab.com.

THIRD PATHWAY

ENTERING THE WORKFORCE



ACCESS CAREER RESOURCES

- Consider taking courses in our CTE (Career and Technical Education) department or at Heyward Career and Technology Center.
- Research careers online using electronic databases.
- Reach out to your counselor for help with writing resumes, preparing for job interviews, or seeking career opportunities.

IN CONCLUSION



REACH OUT FOR HELP

- The senior-planning process takes place over several months and involves much work on the part of students.
- Do not hesitate to contact the counseling office or your teachers for help as appropriate.
- We want to see you succeed!