

# Hunterdon Central Regional High School

Early College & Career Planning Night  
9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Classes of 2029 & 2028*

December 3, 2025

# Welcome & Introductions

- Class of 2029 Counselors (9th grade)
  - Kaitlin Homberg, Kimberlee Sweet, Annmarie Taylor
- Class of 2028 Counselors (10th grade)
  - Kevin Cubberly, Olivia Lombardi, Adrian Williams
- Multi Language Learner Counselor
  - Marianna Cordova
- College & Career Counselor
  - Jennifer Nuechterlein

# Tonight's Topics

- Why plan early?
- Timeline for Freshmen & Sophomores
- 4-Year Planning & Choosing Classes
- Extracurricular Activities
- Exploring Majors & Careers
- Searching & Visiting
- Building a College List
- Standardized Testing
- Paying for College
- HCRHS Programs & Services

# Why plan early?

- Gain an earlier understanding of the the admission and application processes.
- More time to research and visit.
- Less stress during senior year.

# Most Common Question

How do we start planning for college?

*We will answer this and more!*

Have a question? Ask here - <https://bit.ly/ECPquestion>

# How to Get Started

- Organization & Timeline
- Build Good Habits
- Using SCOIR
- Exploring Majors and Careers
- Four-Year Academic Plan
- An open dialogue between the student, parent, and counselor.

# 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Timeline

- Meet with your counselor.
- Create a four-year plan.
- Get involved.
- Brainstorm post-high school ideas.
- Take the PSAT.
- Explore careers and majors.
- Discuss college finances.
- Utilize SCOIR and our early college planning resources.

# 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Timeline

- Meet with your counselor.
- Update your 4-year plan.
- Evaluate your activities.
- Take the PSAT.
- Continue researching post-high school plans.
- If you're ready, start visiting colleges.
- Consider virtual college programs & college fairs.
- Take advantage of SCOIR, career development lessons, and early college planning resources.

# Four-Year Course Planning

**Grades in academic courses, followed by strength of curriculum** are the most important factors in college admission.

# Four-Year Course Planning (cont'd)

- Rigor is different for each student.
- Aim to take four years of all academic subjects.
- Your transcript should support your college major, if you know it.
- There can be academic level movement throughout high school; your teachers and counselor will help determine this.
- It is a working plan - it can change!

# Four-Year Planning (cont'd)

- Scheduling will occur in early 2026.
- Take time to get familiar with course offerings in the [Program of Studies](#).
- Check prerequisite courses and plan accordingly.
- Consult with teachers and counselor before requesting a level change.

# Exploring Majors & Careers

- SCOIR (*freshmen groups this month*)
- Career Exploration for Sophomores (*groups this month*)
- College Board – [Majors](#) & [Careers](#)
- Shadow, volunteer, ask questions.
- Popular majors = Computer Science, Engineering, Business, Allied Health, Psychology, Biology, Nursing

# Extracurricular Activities

- Quality over quantity.
- Choose activities that are important to you, not everyone else.
- Everything counts! Activities in and out of school.
- Consider summer experiences and employment.
  - Summer program invitations - are they worth it?
- Log your activities.

# Searching & Visiting

- [SCOIR](#)
- College Board & Princeton Review are great resources; books by Fiske.
- Official college websites.
- College Rankings & Searching
- Start visiting when the student is ready; NJ is a great place to begin.
- Record experiences with photos and notes.

# Building a College List

When you are ready...

- A healthy college list has three categories: *probable, target, and reach schools*
- Average list at HCRHS: 8-10 schools
- Utilize SCOIR and counselors to build this list.
- *Where do we start with thousands of options?!*

# Standardized Testing

- PSAT
- SAT
- ACT
- Test Preparation
- What does test-optional mean?

# Paying for College

- Start by getting early estimates; use [Net Price Calculator](#).
- Become familiar with the FAFSA website.
- Financial Aid Night, 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Loans, grants, and scholarships.
- Consider the 'probable' colleges for merit aid.
- Evaluate each college's return on investment and graduate outcomes.

# HCRHS College & Career Programs

- Meetings with counselors throughout school year
- Admissions Panel - February 19, 2026
- Hunterdon County College Fair - March 17, 2026
- 3-part evening series:
  - Early College Planning Night (December)
  - 11th Grade College Planning Night (January)
  - 12th Grade College Planning Night (September)
- 9th and 10th Grade Exploratory Groups
- 11th and 12th Grade College Planning Groups
- College Visits
- Financial Aid Night

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# Post-Secondary Pathways Programs

- Community College
- Trade & Technical Programs
- Employment
- Military
- Gap Year
- Adult Polytech

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# Keep In Touch

- Students, check your email.
- Parents, check listserv email.
- Check school [website](#).

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# Q & A

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