



Sophomore Timeline

SOPHOMORE YEAR: EXPLORE YOUR PATH

Sophomore year is about exploration and planning!

This year, students will:

- **Explore careers and interests**
- **Compare postsecondary options**
- **Plan courses for junior year**
- **Discover opportunities available at Naperville North & Central**
- **Begin connecting today's choices to future possibilities**

The Goal
Know Yourself



Explore Possibilities



Gather Information



Make Informed Choices

Sophomore Timeline



OUR SOPHOMORE COUNSELING CURRICULUM

**Exploration +
Goal Setting**

**Comparing
Postsecondary
Options**

**Career+ Career
Pathways
Research**

**Course
Planning**

**Postsecondary
Planning**

**Social/
Emotional**

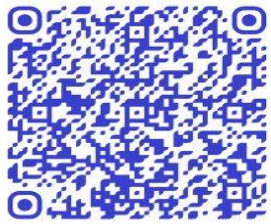
Sophomore Timeline



CAREER PATHWAYS: EXPLORE WHAT'S OUT THERE

Career Pathways

Career Pathways Website



Career Pathways Booklet



Career Internship Program

Gain hands-on experiences in your field of interest through our structured Business Career Internship.

NNHS Peter Howstrouser
Career Internship Supervisor
phowstrawser@naperville203.org

NCHS Brett Thompson
Career Internship Supervisor
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Why it matters NOW

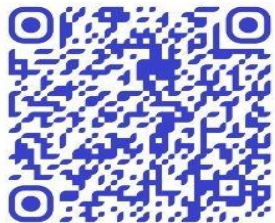
Planning Ahead is Key

Some Dual Credit opportunities require students to plan ahead when selecting junior and senior year courses.

What is Dual Credit?

Allows high school students to take college-level courses and earn both high school and college credit simultaneously

Scan to Explore
Dual Credit
Handout



DUAL CREDIT: COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL

Questions to Ask

- What are the requirements?
- Which courses fit my interests?
- How might the credits transfer?
- Is Dual Credit the right fit for me?]

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JUNIOR YEAR PLANNING STARTS NOW

*Understand the
timeline and prepare
for Course Selection*

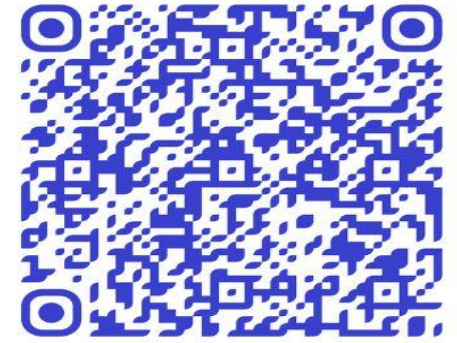
October
Sophomore Classroom Lessons.

December
Individual Course Selection
Meetings.

Official course selections
happen during this time.

- Prerequisites
- Recommended course sequences
- TCD Option
- College Requiements (1.0 for Fine Arts?)
- Limited seating/availability
- Career Pathways
- Dual Credit opportunities

Course Planning
Guide on Schoolinkss



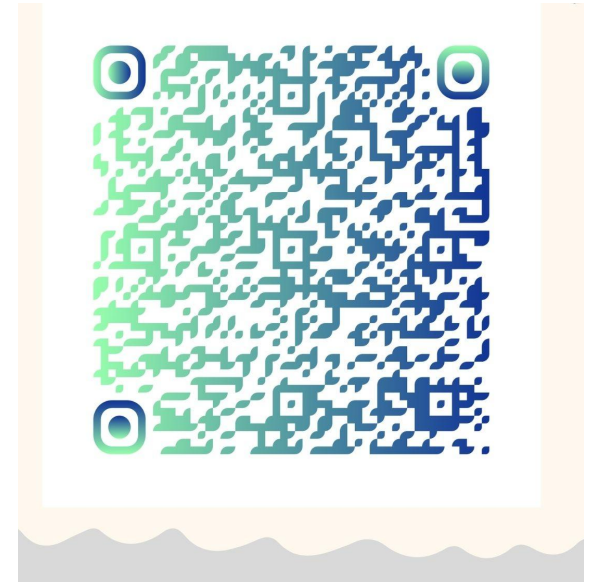
For Parents
Start having active
conversations with your
student before course
selection begins in
December.

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SCAN FOR TCD
OFFERINGS



Field Trips Available! See Your Counselor!

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STUDENT: SOPHOMORE TO-DO LIST

Explore now. Plan ahead. Keep your options open.

Explore + Research

- **Explore 2-3 careers**
- **Explore Career Pathways**
- **Research postsecondary options**
- **Attend career exploration opportunities**
- **Check in with your counselor at least every quarter**

Plan + Consult

- **Review your 4-year plan**
- **Learn about Dual Credit, Honors, AP Courses**
- **Talk with Teachers about Recommendations**
- **Check in with your counselor**

Sophomore Timeline



PARENT : YOU ARE A CONSULTANT

Instead of focusing on the end goal, guide your student with open-ended exploration.

Instead of asking...
"What are you going to do after high school?"

This question can feel overwhelming for sophomores who are still discovering their interests. Focus on smaller steps instead.

Try asking:

- "What are you curious about?"
- "What careers have you explored?"
- "What did you learn?"
- "What courses might you want to take next year?"
- "What opportunities do you want to learn more about?"

Sophomore Timeline



Your Sophomore Resources

Explore tools, planning guides, and counselor support to plan your path.

Essential Resources

Career Pathways Website

Career Pathways Booklet

Dual Credit Handout

Available at the Resources Table

Course Selection/Planning Guide on Schoolinks

TCD Offerings and Information

Your School Counselor

Your best starting point for questions

Career Interest Inventory
Career Fair

One Last Thought

“Sophomore year isn't about deciding your future.”

It's about gathering enough information to make good decisions about your future.

Sophomore Timeline



Tonight

Sessions 2 & 3 Tonight

A few options for families to choose from to help with postsecondary planning [cite: 10]

**Sept 1 -
Oct 30**

In-School College Visits

Connect with admissions representatives directly at your school [cite: 10].

Sept 26

NACAC National College Fair @ Navy Pier (Chicago)

A national college fair, featuring more than 200 colleges & universities from across the country [cite: 10].

Sept 29

Navigating a Shifting Testing Landscape

An evening program at Naperville Central (6:30pm in Auditorium) to discuss college admission testing [cite: 10].

Oct 13

Illinois Regional College Fair @ Benedictine Univ. (Lisle)

Another college fair opportunity, bringing in additional colleges & universities from across the country [cite: 10].

Upcoming Opportunities

