Post-Secondary Planning for 9th and 10th Grade Students

“the future depends on what you do today”
-Gandhi

Post-Secondary Education...

- Things to consider when researching schools...
  - Academic-are there GPA requirements, SAT/ACT requirements, do they offer your intended major
  - Personal-location of school, size of school, activities you want to participate in, majors offered, have you visited campus
  - Financial-tuition, room/board, scholarship and financial aid availability
- What are admission counselors looking for when they review your application?
  - high school transcript-GPA, the rigor of courses taken
  - SAT/ACT scores...test optional?
  - activities and community service-in school and outside of school
  - awards and accomplishments
  - letters of recommendation-required? if so, how many?
  - essay
- Let's check out the admissions page on a few college websites...
  - University of Pittsburgh
    - https://admissions.pitt.edu/first-year-student/high-school-requirements/
    - https://admissions.pitt.edu/first-year-student/class-profile/
  - Pennsylvania State University
    - https://www.psu.edu/resources/first-year-students/requirements

PSAT's and SAT's/ACT's...

- **PSAT's**
  - Students in grades 10 and 11 can register to take on a Saturday in October at PHS
    - Registration takes place in person at the high school starting in September
  - Considered to be a "practice" test for the SAT's however, 11th grade students can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship program based on their score
  - Since students take the test on their chromebook, they have access to the "Bluebook" app and can take a practice test beforehand
  - A student can link their results to an account with Khan Academy for personalized SAT prep

PSAT's and SAT's/ACT's...

- **SAT's**
  - There are 8 test dates offered throughout the year and it is administered at PHS in the months of November, March, May and June
  - Students sign-up for a test date on collegeboard.org/SAT
  - PHS offers an SAT prep course-information can be found on Apptegy and in the monthly parent newsletter
  - Some colleges have become test optional and scores are no longer reported on a students official transcript. For schools that do still require SAT scores, be sure to look at what their required score range is.
    - If a school requires SAT scores as part of the application process, an official score report can be requested from College Board
  - It is recommended that students take it for the first time by the spring of their junior year
  - There are two main sections of the test-Reading and Writing, Math
  - On average students take the test 2-3 times
- **ACT's**
  - Another standardized test used by colleges and universities as part of the college admissions process
  - A different scoring system than the SAT and there are 5 core sections; english, math, reading, science (optional) and writing (optional).
  - This test is not administered at PHS and should go to www.act.org for more information.

Research your options using Xello...

- Xello is an engaging college and career readiness software that prepares K-12 students for future success with an engaging program that builds self-knowledge, personalized plans, and critical life skills. With Xello, we can help every student, regardless of background, ability, or pathway, understand their future academic and career possibilities. Xello helps students discover relevant college, university, trade, and career options based on their personality, skills, and knowledge.

- Xello Assessments

- Xello Lessons

- “Explore Options”-careers, schools, majors

Xello Assessments

Matchmaker (Interests Assessment)- The first phase of Matchmaker has 39 questions. These questions have students thinking critically about their interests and ranking them on a scale of Like Very Much to Dislike Very Much. Their answers are weighed against aspects of each career to determine a strength of match: the higher they rank an interest and the more central its corresponding aspect is to a career, then the stronger the match. The first question they're asked is "What would you like to do after high school?". This question helps to filter their matches. "Not Sure Yet" is also an option for those who are still on the path of figuring out their first steps after high school.

Personality Style- Xello's Personality Style assessment is the second phase of the Matchmaker assessment. After completing an additional 28 questions about their likes and dislikes, students receive a Holland Code, which they can then use to investigate and filter careers. Their answers in the Personality Style quiz fine-tune their career matches from the first Matchmaker assessment and match them with careers that are popular for professionals with the same personality styles.

Mission Complete- These last 49 questions in the Matchmaker trio of assessments have students further narrowing their interests to give them more accurate career matches.

Learning Style- Are you an audio, visual, or tactile learner? Answer 20 questions on the Learning Style quiz to gain a better understanding of how you can maximize your learning style.

Skills Lab- Students use the Skills Lab assessment to critically evaluate how often they wish to use a set of common skills in their future career. This assessment is unique as it removes the anxiety and pressure that often comes with assessing how good they already are at a skill. Instead it has them focusing on the skills they'd most enjoy using, and which ones they value most.

Post-Secondary Education...continued

- NCAA
  - If you are an athlete looking to participate in DI or DII sports in college, you must register on https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/.
  - Will need to request transcript be sent to Eligibility Center.
  - If SAT/ACT scores are required, they will need to be sent from College Board/ACT to the Eligibility Center.

Reminders...
Q&A....