CCC Night 1 for Junior Families
Interactive Worksheet

Expectations/Questions you have for tonight:

_____
_____
_____

Students: List 2-3 Career Clusters that interest you:

_____
_____

Family: What are 2-3 career resources you would like to explore deeper:

_____
_____
_____

Career resources:
Career Pathways book: https://bit.ly/3EjDFqg

Students: What are your important factors when choosing a college?

_____
_____
_____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): How do you hope to support your child in this process? What is your student's unique strengths?

_____
_____
_____

Three Actions Steps we will take between now and Spring Break (over the next 5 months):

_____
_____
_____

Prestige/Rankings - Book Summaries:

The Truth about College Admission/Workbook: A Family Guide to Getting In and Staying Together by Brennan Barnard and Rick Clark explains how college admissions work and helps students and families navigate the application process, including selecting colleges, writing essays, and understanding financial aid. The workbook provides practical strategies and reflective activities to help students identify their priorities, make informed decisions, and approach the college admissions process with greater confidence and less stress.

Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions by Jeffrey Selingo explores how colleges evaluate applicants, revealing the institutional priorities, enrollment strategies, and decision-making processes that influence admissions outcomes. The book helps students and families understand how colleges assess applicants beyond grades and test scores, emphasizing the importance of institutional fit, demonstrated interest, and the varying factors that shape admissions decisions.

The Black Family's Guide to College Admissions by Timothy L. Fields and Shereem Herndon-Brown, offers practical guidance for Black students and their families navigating the college search and application process, including choosing colleges, preparing applications, and understanding financial aid. It also addresses challenges and inequities Black students may encounter in higher education admissions, helping families make informed decisions and advocate for students' academic and financial success.

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania by Frank Bruni challenges the belief that attending a highly selective college is essential for future success, happiness, or professional achievement. Drawing on research and personal stories, Bruni encourages students and families to prioritize personal growth, meaningful experiences, and individual goals over institutional prestige when choosing a college.

Never Enough: When Achievement Culture Becomes Toxic—and What We Can Do About It by Jennifer Breheny Wallace examines how achievement pressure, competition, and the pursuit of success affect students' mental health, identity, and sense of self-worth. Drawing on research and interviews with students, parents, and educators, Wallace offers strategies for creating environments that prioritize belonging, well-being, and personal growth over grades, accomplishments, and external validation.

Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You by Jeffrey Selingo explores how students can identify colleges that align with their academic interests, personal values, financial circumstances, and long-term goals rather than focusing solely on prestige or selectivity. The book encourages students and families to approach the college search strategically, evaluate campus culture and available opportunities, and define college success based on individual needs and aspirations.

Family Discussion Questions After Tonight:

Students

- What strengths, talents, and gifts do you have that you want to share with others/the world?
    - How can you explore those now?
- If you want to attend college, what motivates you to go to college?
- What are your personal goals for life after SHS?
- What do I like most about high school?
- Who do I hope to meet, connect with, and learn from during my college years?
- What opportunities do I want this experience to provide in the future?
- What types of people and learning environments bring out the best in me?
- What do I want the time and space to do, discuss, and explore?
- What benefits could a smaller school (less than 5,000 students) provide me?
- What do I expect from college?
- What are tangible opportunities that I want in college?
- What questions are important for me to ask colleges?

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

- What do you hope for your child?
- What would you love to see them share with the world?
- What opportunities do you want them to have?
- How much can you - and should you - pay for this opportunity?
- What are the potential wedges or challenges (ie, finding time, communication, money, and preconceived notions) for future family discussions?

To connect and learn more:

CCC landing page: https://www.d125.org/academics/college-career-center
CCC Facebook page: Stevenson High School College Career Center
CCC Instagram: *@SHSCollegeCareerCenter*
CCC YouTube Channel: SHS College Career Center

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Timeline for Juniors: 2026-27

We look forward to navigating the post-secondary process with you and your family over the next two years! Below is a list of college and career websites that students and parents might find beneficial:

www.d125.org/college	- Stevenson's College/Career Center website
www.collegeboard.org	- College Board related testing information, plus college search resources
www.act.org	- ACT registration, practice tests, etc.
https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/	- Search and compare colleges: their fields of study, costs, and admission
nces.ed.gov/ipeds/	- Information on U.S. college, universities, technical and vocational institutions
www.isac.org	- IL Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) financial planning website
www.finaid.org	- Comprehensive and objective resource for financial aid information
www.fastweb.com	- A free national scholarship database search site
https://studentaid.gov/	- U.S. Department of Education financial aid website
https://collegecost.ed.gov/	- College Affordability Transparency Center
stats.bls.gov/ooh/	- U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook website

College Representative Visits at Stevenson:

Dates, times, and locations are posted in Naviance and at https://bit.ly/4mDlGQo. Below are several of our most popular visits. Students must sign up in Naviance in advance. Please arrange missed work with your teacher two school days prior.

Aug. 31	2nd period	Case Western Reserve University
Sept. 8	3rd period	Indiana University
Sept. 11	7th period	Northwestern University
Sept. 16	2nd period	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Students and families should also consider virtual information visits and/or visiting college campuses during junior year. Students should refer to the Office of Admission website to schedule a visit.

Standardized Testing:

The class of 2028 will receive a free ACT with Science and Writing on April 7th through Stevenson High School (IL graduation requirement).

Students can register online for additional ACT and/or SAT (College Board) tests using the links above. Both websites offer free practice tests.

Career Resources:

Visit our Career Exploration Web Page: https://www.d125.org/academics/career-exploration

Virtual National College Fairs:

There are several virtual fairs offered in the fall from Sept-Nov. For dates view https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

September

12 SAT @ SHS

17 North Suburban NCAA Evening (College Athletes), Vernon Hills High School, 7 pm

19 ACT @ SHS

26 National Assoc. for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) National College Fair**, Navy Pier, 11 am - 3 pm

27 NACAC National College Fair, Wisconsin State Fair Park (Milwaukee/West Allis),** 11 am - 2 pm

**For details on both National College Fairs, visit: https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs

28 SHS Financial Aid Night, Little Theatre and live-streamed via Zoom, 7 pm

30 First Generation to United States Undergraduate Admission Series 1 of 3, PWC & Virtual, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

October

3 SAT (off campus)

3 National Portfolio Day, @Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD), Milwaukee, WI, 10 am, register at: https://nationalportfolioday.org/schedule

4 National Portfolio Day, @School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), Chicago, IL, 12 pm - 4 pm, register at: https://nationalportfolioday.org/schedule
6 ***Choices College Fair*** for students with an IEP or 504 Plan, Glenbrook South High School, 6 pm - 8:30 pm
15 ***Illinois Regional College Fair*****,** 6 pm - 8 pm, College of Lake County (advanced registration recommended)
17 ACT @ SHS
"Post Secondary SCoPE Meetings" information mailed to junior families. Junior P-SCoPEs are forty-five-minute college counseling appointments with a Stevenson post secondary counselor offered mid-November through June

November
7 SAT (off campus)
9 College Night # 1 of 2 for Junior Families, West Auditorium and live-streamed via Zoom, 7 pm - 8 pm
Meet with counselors throughout the month in English classes to review course selections for the 2027-28 school year

December
5 SAT @ SHS
12 ACT @ SHS

January
23 Gap Year Fair, New Trier High School, 12 pm - 3 pm, Visit: https://usagapyearfairs.org/fairs/ for more information

February
8 - 12 Community College Week in the CCC
9 First Generation to United States Undergraduate Admission Series 2 of 3, Zoom, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
12 Summer Job Fair, PWC, during students' lunch periods
27 ACT @ SHS

March
3 Career-Ready, Military, & Trades Expo, PWC, 8th period - 6 pm
6 SAT (off campus)
16 College Night # 2 of 2 for Junior Families, West Auditorium and live-streamed via Zoom, 7 pm
20 10th Annual Chicago Black College Expo, Columbia College Chicago, 10:00am-2:00pm
30 Lake County College Fair at Lake County Fairgrounds, 6:00-8:00pm

April
10 ACT (off campus)
20 First Generation to United States Undergraduate Admission Series 3 of 3, PWC, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
College Focus Seminars, CCC with post secondary counselors and college reps., during math classes

May
1 SAT (off campus)
3 to 14 - Advanced Placement Exams at SHS

Summer
June/July Consider taking the College Essay Workshop @ SHS
June 5 SAT @ SHS
June 12 ACT (off campus)
July 10 ACT (off campus)

College Visit Questionnaire

Questions to consider asking during an official college visit

To find out how challenging the academic programs are, ask...
How much time do students spend studying each week?
Do courses challenge students to do their best?
How much writing is expected?
How much reading is expected?
Do class discussions and assignments include the perspectives of diverse groups of people?
Are students expected to use numbers or statistics throughout their coursework?
How often do students make course presentations?

To find out how students collaborate in the learning process inside and outside of class, ask...
How often do students work together on class projects and assignments?
Do students help each other understand difficult material?
How often do students work together to prepare for exams?
How often do students interact with others who have different viewpoints or who come from different backgrounds?

To find out how well students and faculty interact, ask...
Are faculty members accessible and supportive?
Do faculty members clearly explain course goals and requirements?
Do students receive prompt and detailed feedback on tests and assignments?
How often do students talk with faculty members or advisors about their career plans?
How often do students talk with faculty members outside class about what they are learning?
How many students work on research projects with faculty?

To explore opportunities for learning, ask...
How many courses include community-based service-learning projects?
What types of honors courses, learning communities, and other distinctive programs are offered?
How many students get practical, real-world experience through internships or off-campus field experiences?
How many students study in other countries?
What extracurricular activities are most common (performing arts, athletics, fraternities and sororities, guest speakers, etc.)?

To discover how students view the campus environment, ask ...
Do students use learning support services (tutors, writing center)?
How satisfied are students with academic advising?
How well do student services staff (career planning, student activities, housing, etc.) interact with students?
What health care, counseling, and other wellness opportunities are available?
How well do students get along with each other?
Are students satisfied with their overall educational experience?

Taken From:
https://nsse.indiana.edu/support-resources/students-parents/pocket-guide/english.html

Academics

1. Which academic programs are the most popular or are they most known for?
2. Do they offer your major? How easy is it to change majors? What kind of career advisement is available?
3. What criteria do they look at for admission purposes (i.e. mid 50% ACT, GPA,)?
4. Do they accept AP college credits? If so, what scores are needed? Do they accept transfer classes from a community college or dual credit courses?
5. Who teaches the freshman-level classes (teacher assistants, professors, etc.)?
6. What is the average class size for an introductory course? For an advanced course? What would be the largest size you would take?
7. What type of internships, co-ops, and study abroad opportunities are offered? How does the school help with job placement?
8. What percent of graduates have a job within a few months after graduation? In the field they studied?
9. What is the percentage of students who graduate within 4 years? 5 years?
10. What kind of academic support is in place for a student who may need assistance?

Housing

11. Are students required to live on campus? What is the percentage of students who live on campus? Is housing guaranteed for all 4 years if needed?
12. What are the styles of residence halls (suites, doubles, coed, etc.)? How are roommates and residence halls assigned?
13. What are the meal plans like? What is the food like?
14. How does residential life help with belonging (especially with suite-style living)?

Social

15. What do most students do on the weekend? What percent stay on campus? Where is the central gathering place?
16. Are cars allowed? What is parking like? What are other transportation options?
17. How diverse is the campus? What percentages of the students are from other states? Countries?
18. 17. Are there fraternities/sororities? What percent of students belong?

Other

19. What are the school's basic costs (tuition, fees, room and board, supplies, books, transportation expenses)?
20. What activities and services are available to help students get settled academically and socially?
21. How many students return for sophomore year? What type of reasons do students give for not returning?
22. Will I feel safe walking around campus at night? What are the safety concerns of the campus? Community? *Note: Federal law requires schools to provide safety info to students.
23. Where do students go if they have a medical emergency?

****Click on this QR Code for admission requirements**

for all Illinois Public Universities (under CCC Helpful Links):