

COLLEGE COUNSELING TIMELINE FOR STUDENTS:

5TH GRADERS: In conversation, focus on:

1. Doing your best in school.
2. Reading a lot.
3. Having fun learning.

6TH GRADERS and 7TH GRADERS: In conversation, focus on:

1. Thinking about college as an important part of your future. "What do you want to be when you grow up?"
2. Taking challenging and interesting classes to prepare for high school.
3. Developing strong study habits.
4. Continuing to do your best in school.
5. Continuing to read.
6. If you are having difficulty, don't give up—get help from a teacher or tutor.
7. Becoming involved in school or community-based activities that allow you to explore your interests and learn new things.
8. Speaking to adults who you think have interesting jobs. "What do you like about your job?" "What education did you need for your job?"
9. Planning for a productive summer (MSC can help with this).

Consider: taking your mentee to an Open House at a high school campus or to a private, public, Catholic or boarding school fair; these take place in the fall, and we can get you a schedule.

8th GRADERS: In conversation, focus on:

1. Continuing to take challenging and interesting classes to prepare for high school.
2. Continuing to do your best in school.
3. Continuing to read.
4. Continuing to ask for help when necessary.
5. Continuing involvement in school or community-based activities.
6. Planning for a productive summer.
7. Asking: "What high schools are you interested in?"
8. Following through on applications to high schools. "Where did you apply?"

9. The connection between high school and college: what you do in the former will affect what you can (or can't) do in the latter, access and affordability-wise.

10. It's easier to go to college when everyone else in your school is focused on going to college, too.

I will actually meet with 8th graders in the spring to do an activity with them which will hopefully help them focus on what they need to do in high school in order to go to college.

Consider: walking around the campus of a local campus and having a picnic; if your own children are in college, encouraging them to talk to your mentee about their experiences; sharing your own college experiences.

HIGH SCHOOL:

From 8th grade on, I will be conducting workshops, planning college campus visits, meeting with school officials, and providing various types of support for our students.

I will include you in all emails and mailings to the high school students so you are aware of everything I am doing with them.

Ways you can help:

1. Provide transportation to workshops.
2. Continuing the dialogue about college with your mentee.
3. Making me aware of any concerns or stumbling blocks your mentee may not be sharing with me.
4. Encouraging your mentee to attend MSC college-related events, workshops, and campus visits.

Our goal is to prepare MSC students for the college application process (including that for community and 2 year colleges). Some may ultimately choose to attend a trade school or other option, but we want them to be aware of the options available to them and then support them in making the best choices for them as individuals.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Blair G. White, Director of College Counseling:

blairgwhite@aol.com/443.742.3704