

November 16, 2023

To all of our parents who joined us for this program last night,
The theme throughout our discussion was GROWTH in your child. I thank
Mrs. Suzanne Miller, Assistant Director of Admissions at SUNY Geneseo,
and Mr. Steven Bloom WMS Counselor, for sharing their expertise with us.
The Counseling staff will be with you at each stage of the process as your
child transitions to High School, and then to post high school plans.
Thank you for your participation and for joining us last night.

Sincerely,

Frank Muzio

Director of Guidance

“What Every MS Parent Needs to Know About College”



Wait, my kid is only 12 years old!!

This program is not meant to “add to the problem” of anxiety in parents or students.

However, it is our belief that PREPARATION
is the greatest stress reliever!

So, how do we prepare our children for the next
steps in their lives?



Fast Facts

The percentage of college students who earn a Bachelors Degree in 4 years: **41%**

The percentage of college students who earn a Bachelors Degree in 6 years: **62%**

Average student loan debt in the USA: **\$37,388**

The Desired Result

- Our students possess the academic skills to be able to study on the college level.
- Our students exhibit the emotional and personal attributes necessary to be successful college students.
- Our students are financially able to attend college.

The Counseling Department Perspective:

To prepare students for a successful *transition* to college as well as prepare for the admission process.

Students who *transition* to college successfully possess these traits:

1. They are independent: they can work independently and manage themselves.
2. They make good decisions.
3. They manage their time well.
4. They can delay gratification.
5. They handle disappointment maturely.

6. They have a healthy sense of self worth.

7. They are realistic about their goals while reaching beyond their potential.

8. They know how to study.

9. They enjoy learning.

10. They explored colleges and majors while in middle and high school.

And finally, and perhaps most importantly.....

They made good friends who have similar traits.



Students who *earn admission* into competitive college programs have accomplished the following:

1. They have maximized their GPA through effective study methods (and hard work).
2. They have taken the most demanding courses *in which they can be successful* while in Middle and High School.
3. They have prepared for the SAT/ACT exams and have reached their potential in these measures.
4. They have pursued meaningful activities and demonstrated passion in one or more of these activities.

College Admissions Points to Ponder

1. 9th grade does count!
2. College admissions representatives will look at all four years of coursework.
3. Did a student take a challenging course where they could succeed?
4. Deadlines are important.
5. College is more than just classes! Prepare for roommate conflicts, social decisions, nutrition/sleep/exercise/stress management general self care.
6. Apply for scholarships early and often!
7. While at college, take advantage of resources: tutoring, counseling, advising, career services, etc.

Cell Phones and Social Media

- Anything posted on social media has the potential to be accessible forever!
- Be very careful what you post and re-post.
- Colleges will look at your social media, as will future employers!
- Cell phone use can be distracting and addictive. What can you do now as parents to instill positive cell phone habits in your children?



What you can do now

1. Gradually build resilience, independence and good habits in your child. Don't expect miracles by grade 9, but do have expectations!
2. Be firm but patient. Failing or missing an assignment in grade 7 or 8 is better than later on. Resist doing things for them; just lend support and structure.
3. Read what they are assigned to read. Ask them about characters and conflicts in the plot.
4. Ask what they have to study, where they are going to study, when they are going to do it and how they are going to do it.
5. Visit colleges! See a game, have lunch, browse the bookstore, or just walk around.

6. Talk about your job, college major, etc. and those of people he knows. Start the conversation. DON'T ask them what they want to be or what they want to major in.
7. Help your child make goals: academic, athletic, etc. Provide support, structure and encouragement.
8. When to start SAT/ACT prep? Practice materials are available, but is your child ready?
9. Go over activity options with your child. How will they spend their extra-curricular time?
10. Be patient, have faith and enjoy the experience!