

The High School Environment

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Topics Covered

- Types of High Schools
- Courses
- The Student Athlete
- High School Timeline
- The Guidance Counselor
- Standardized Tests
- Forming your TEAM

Types of High Schools

- Public/Neighborhood
 - > Represents majority of the high schools in the state
 - > Referred to the school that is within district boundaries
- Charter
 - > Renaissance 2010 Initiative:
<http://www.ren2010.cps.k12.il.us/>
 - > Some new some reformed schools
 - > Are independently operated public schools that are not subject to the same state laws, district initiatives, and board policies as traditional public schools. Charters are operated pursuant to Illinois Charter Law. Charter school teachers are employees of the non-profit governing board or education management organization hired by the non-profit board.

Types of High Schools Con't.

- Vocational
 - > Offer students a more definitive “Educational Track”
 - Technical, Entrepreneurship, Health Sciences, etc.
- Selective Admissions
 - > Require an application process
 - > Requires a student to “Test-In”
 - > Ex. Whitney Young, Walter Payton, Lane Tech)
- Alternative
 - > Option for students that have been removed to their neighborhood school
 - Those specializing in behavior problems, teen pregnancy, and learning disabilities

Types of High Schools Con't.

- College Prep
 - > Schools that maintain a strict college preparatory curriculum.
 - > Enforces the schedule of: 4yrs English, 3yrs Math, 3yrs Science, 3yrs Social Studies, 3yrs Foreign Language (at least 2yrs being in the same language), 1 or 2 yr of Fine Arts.
 - > Prepares students for College Level courses
- Military Academies
 - > The JROTC Mission statement from Chicago Military Academy at Bronzeville “The JROTC mission is “To motivate young people to become better citizens,” which is accomplished through:
 - promoting citizenship
 - developing leadership
 - communicating effectively
 - strengthening self-esteem
 - providing the incentive to live drug free
 - improving physical fitness
 - promoting graduation from high school
 - working as team members

Courses

- Regular
- Honors
- Advance Placement (AP)
 - > allows students to participate in a college level course and possibly earn college credit while still in high school. Secondary schools and colleges cooperate in this program to give students the opportunity to show mastery in college-level courses by taking the AP exam in May of each school year.
- International Baccalaureate Program (IB) - <http://www.ibo.org/>
 - > The International Baccalaureate program is designed to meet the highest standards required of any high school in the world. This prestigious program offers a rigorous, comprehensive approach to learning in the last two years of secondary school.
 - > The IB program is composed of:
 - successful completion of six academic courses in six different subject areas,
 - completion of an external examination in at least three higher level subject areas and three standard level subject areas,
 - completion of a minimum of 150 hours in the CAS (Creativity, Action and Service) Program,

The Student Athlete

- How can high school activities help with college admissions?
 - > Exhibits leadership skills
 - > Time Management
 - > School involvement
 - > Community Service/Volunteer Work

High School Timeline

- Helping your child stay organized in high school is crucial.
- From freshman – Senior year there are specific steps that a student must follow to stay on track for graduation and college

High School Timeline Con't.

- Examples – Complete List

www.educationplanner.org

- > 9th grade

- Meet with guidance counselor to outline an educational plan
- Establish a good GPA
- Explore career interest
- Look into summer enrichment programs

- > 10th grade

- Take PSAT and discuss scores with your counselor
- Become familiar with general college admission requirements
- Participate in career development programs or activities
- Attend College Fairs

High School Timeline Con't.

- > 11th grade
 - Take ACT/SAT
 - Review prior and current hs coursework with counselor
 - Make a list of colleges that fit your criteria (location, size, cost, programs)
 - Communicate with college admissions offices, go on college visits)
 - Draft a college essay
- > 12th grade
 - Continue to take a full course load of college prep courses
 - Apply to colleges and universities
 - Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Meet with Counselor for graduation verification

The Guidance Counselor

- The role of the high school guidance counselor is an important one for your child
- Effective and efficient guidance counselors should do the following:
 - > Serve as the initial point of contact for information for students.
 - > Consults and collaborates with teachers, parents, and staff to enhance effectiveness in helping students.
 - > Guides and counsels students through the development of educational and career paths.
 - > Collaborates with middle school personnel to assist students in making a smooth transition to high school.
 - > Guides seniors through the appropriate steps regarding their post-high school education or career plans.
 - > Provides assistance to students regarding personal, social, educational, and career issues and plans.

Standardized Test

- PSAE
- ACT/SAT
- AP Test
- IB Examination

Forming your TEAM

- In order to ensure a smooth transition from elementary to secondary to post secondary schools takes a network of people working together for the best interest of the student.
- Those people are:
 - > Schools (Teachers/Counselor)
 - > Community (Churches/community activities/non-profit orgs)
 - > Home (Parents/Family/Friends)

PARENTS REMEMBER

The more active you are in your child's education, they will become:

- ◉ Accountable
- ◉ Responsible
- ◉ Proactive
- ◉ Driven

And most importantly Successful!

Any Questions?