



9th and 10th Grade Parents

What you as a Parent can do to
help your child Prepare for
College

Who we are: Parents Helping Parents

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- Shari Chilbert
 - Graduates of Goucher & Tulane and a QOHS Senior
- Kathryn Brower
 - Senior at University of Maryland-Scholars Program & and a Freshman at Towson in music
- Marty Horan
 - Junior at Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) & a QOHS Senior
- Judy Reidy
 - Senior at Michigan and a Freshman at UPenn

Parents who have been through the process can help!

Why are you here?

To learn what 9th and 10 graders need to do to be prepared to apply to college

To familiarize yourself with the vocabulary of the college application process

To learn where to go to get answers to your questions

9th & 10th Grade Counts

- Grades matter
 - GPA includes 9th & 10th grades
- Look ahead to meet prerequisites
- Class rigor matters
 - Have your child try an Honors class
 - Be prepared for AP in upper grades
- Establish strong study habits and time management skills
- Practice ACT & SAT
 - Understand the nature of the test (not the score at this point)
 - SAT question of the day

Extracurricular activities

- Quality vs. quantity
 - 15 activities with little time commitment is not desirable
 - 2-4 activities that show passion
 - Look towards 2-3 with leadership positions
 - Captain of a team
 - Officer in a club
 - Activity chair
- Consider activities both inside and outside of school
 - Athletics, music, drama, clubs
 - Scouts, 4H
 - Church, political, or other groups

GPA and the Transcript

- Computing GPA
 - Unweighted A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E=0
 - 3 As, 2 Bs, 1 C, 1D then $GPA = (3*4 + 2*3 + 1*2 + 1*1) / 7 = 3.0$
 - Weighted
 - Honors and AP courses A=5, B=4, C=3, D=1, E=0
 - (all Honors) 3 As, 2 Bs, 1 C, 1D then $GPA = (3*5 + 2*4 + 1*3 + 1*1) / 7 = 3.85$
 - Some colleges recompute GPA using only core courses and different weights
- Transcripts sent once per year
 - Always check for mistakes and correct immediately

What Does Rigor Mean?

- Have your student challenge himself/herself in core courses (Honors and/or AP)
- Suggest a combination of core and elective AP courses
- Check out the QOHS course catalog
- Full schedules throughout HS (not the min only)
 - 28 credits is better than the minimum required 22
- Layout all 4 years now to find needed prerequisites

Honors vs. Advanced Placement Courses

- Honors is an accelerated version of a regular class
- AP is a college level class
 - National curriculum (CollegeBoard)
 - Standardized exams in May of each year (~\$90/ea)
 - Exam is recommended but not required
 - Graded on a scale of 1-5
 - College credit varies by college with scores over 3
 - University of Maryland gives credit for 3s
 - Some schools only give credit for 5s
 - AP scores are not sent with application however some school require self reporting

Are Maryland Minimum Requirements Enough?

- Check out the web sites of colleges of interest
 - Many schools require 3 or 4 years of a foreign language (UMCP requires 2)
 - Some schools will not accept MS language for the 2 years (Univ of Delaware)
 - Math requirements vary
- Collegeboard.com
 - Register to obtain a parent account
 - Explore
 - Colleges
 - Financial Aid

Applying for Art or Music

- Art Portfolio
 - Start collecting pieces now
 - Reduce to required number later
 - Submit work to contests
 - [2011\Tips for Applying to Art Colleges - QOHS Mtg 9-28-2011.ppt](#)
- Music Auditions
 - Audition for outside groups
 - To get experience auditioning
 - To build musical resume

QOHS Resources

- Get to know your student's counselor
 - He/She can provide a wealth of info
 - He/She will write a recommendation for your student
 - Requirements for Honor Societies (for some colleges honor society = merit/scholarship \$\$)
- Community service hours
- All 9th and 10th graders will take the PSAT in October each year
- Read the daily announcements on the QOHS Website

MCPS Resources Online

- **MCPS College And Career Information**
<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/>
- **<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/planningguides>**
 - Getting Started-A Career and College Planning Guide for 9th Grade students.
 - Getting Ready-A Career and College Planning Guide for 11th grade students
- **Prep Talk- A biannual newsletter with advice for parents and students on college preparation.**
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publishingservices/preptalk/>
- **Maryland Higher Education: Preparing for College--**
Investigate the steps you can take that will help prepare for college. <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/preparing/index.asp>

Other Resources Online

- QOHS Website
 - http://www.qohs.org/depts/career_center/
- College Confidential
 - <http://www.collegeconfidential.com/>
- College Board College Search Site
 - <http://apps.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp>

College Search Resources Online

- College Net
 - www.collegenet.com
- College View College Search
 - www.collegeview.com/collegesearch
- US News College Search
 - www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/tools/brief/cosearch_advanced_brief.php
- Peterson's College Search
 - www.petersons.com/ugchannel/code/searches/srchCrit1.asp?sponsor=1
- School Guides
 - www.schoolguides.com
- Go College
 - www.gocollege.com
- Any College Search
 - www.anycollege.com

The PSAT

- 9th & 10th graders take a practice PSAT
- 11th graders scores count toward SCHOLARSHIPS & some academic programs
- Does not count in college admissions
- Shorter & easier than the SAT

Do not let your child blow it off as it could mean scholarship money

College Entrance Exams

- SAT - Scholastic Aptitude Test (Choice)
 - 3 Section types: Reading, Math, Writing
 - SAT is an aptitude test
- ACT - American College Test (Choice)
 - ACT is more like a HS test as it measures what you know in 5 different subjects (Math, English, Science, Social Studies, & Writing)
- Either test is accepted by all colleges & universities
 - try both, concentrate on the one that fits your child best
- SAT Subject tests

Scores

“The value of good test scores is
scholarship money,
the path to good test scores is practice”

2-3 SAT Subject Tests are Required by Some Schools

- SAT Subject tests
 - 1 hour each
 - can take 3 on same day but not same day as SAT
 - Best to take after AP course as Honors is not enough preparation
 - Best to take at May/June test after completing the course
 - Sync up with an AP test

Subjects

- English Literature
- U.S. History
- World History
- Mathematics (Level 1 or Level 2)
- Biology E/M
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Languages

e.g. Pre-calculus in 10th grade means you should take Math Level 2 in June of 10th grade

The Resume

- Start to record all activities (suggest every quarter)
 - Community service
 - Athletics
 - Clubs
 - Religious activities
 - Scouts
 - Artistic awards
 - Music ensembles

Sample 9th Grade Resume

- 9th grade
 - Honor Roll - all quarters
 - Girls Scout Silver Award
 - JV Soccer
 - Drama Club (scenery & crew)
 - Varsity Swimming (lettered)
 - QOHS Scholar Athlete
 - Maryland State Minds in Motion (scholar athlete)
 - Community Service (making chocolates for the Dwelling Place)

Where Did QOHS Students Apply?

- UMCP
- Towson
- MC
- Salisbury University
- UMBC
- Penn State
- James Madison
- VA Tech
- Univ of South Carolina
- Clemson
- Univ of Pittsburg
- WV Univ
- Univ of Delaware
- Frostburg
- **UVA**
- **Georgetown**
- **Cornell Univ**
- American
- **UNC Chapel Hill**
- **Columbia**
- **Univ of Michigan**
- Florida State
- St. Mary's College of Maryland
- **UPenn**

UMCP Fall 2011 Freshman class

- over 26,150 applications for a class of 3,975.
- strong A-/B+ or better average
- took most challenging courses available (Honors, AP, IB)
- average (weighted) GPA of 4.05
- middle 50%
 - SAT scores range 1250 to 1400/1600 ACT scores 28-32
- **Honors College:** average (weighted) GPA of 4.35
 - middle 50% 1330-1480 SAT, 30-33 ACT
- **College Park Scholars:** average (weighted) GPA of 4.05

University of Maryland is not a Safety school for most students.

QOHS Students & UMCP

- For 2011
- Applied: 153 Accepted: 92
 - Fall : 83 January: 9
- For 2010
- Applied: 120 Accepted: 72
 - Fall : 55 January: 17
- Past Average accepted: 80 to 90 each year
- About half will attend

Financial Aid & Merit Aid

- Scholarships, grants, and loans
- Public vs. Private Colleges
 - private schools may provide significantly more money than public
- Online Resources
 - www.Fastweb.com
 - Parents work
 - Career center
 - Your Delegate/Congressman
 - Counselors
 - Maryland Department of higher education
 - JSSA (Jewish Social Services Agency)
 - Collegeboard.com
 - Scouts
 - place of worship
 - www.wiredscholar.com
 - www.weeklyscholarshipalert.com

Conclusion

- Visit a college and take a tour
- Attend Maryland Day and see what college has to offer
- Let them have fun but make sure they stay on track