



# The College Connection

Making the dream of college a reality for Baltimore's youth.



## Western High School

### Message from Ms. Kyle Burke, CAPS



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Greetings to the Western Dove Family! It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as your new College Access Program Specialist (CAPS)! I am extremely excited about this year and I look forward to partnering with everyone on their college-related goals.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009! We are on the move, and our first task at hand is preparation and registration for the SAT (October 4<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>th</sup>). College applications, college applications! Seniors, the CollegeBound College Access office is here to assist you during this process. Pay close attention to all dates posted.

To the class of 2010, we will also be working very hard to meet all deadlines in preparation for your post graduate plans. Sophomores and Freshmen, it is never too early to get started, so please know that the CollegeBound College Access office is open to you too.

Thank you for welcoming me to the Western Community, and please feel free to visit my office to get more information.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT I Tests Cost = \$45	Register by: 9/9 Test Date: 10/4
	Register by: 9/26 Test Date: 11/1
	Register by: 11/5 Test Date: 12/6
ACT Tests Cost: ACT only = \$30 + Writing = \$44.50	Register by: 9/19 Test Date: 10/25
	Register by: 11/7 Test Date: 12/13
PSAT for 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders	October 17
Fall College/Career Fair Location: Cafeteria	November 3 2:00-3:30pm
American Education Week	November 17. 21

### Make Your Own Top Ten List

It's hard to believe that when you choose a college, you have the possibility of 3,500 two- and four-year colleges and you'll have just one to attend. Here are some tips on narrowing down your choices and making your own Top 10 list to work with.

- ✓ Start early and conduct a broad college search. Register to use PrepHQ at [www.prephq.com](http://www.prephq.com). See your Counselor or CollegeBound Foundation if you need a login and password. Start thinking about what you like and don't like in a college.
- ✓ Think about how colleges differ: Four-year, two-year, number of students, location, tuition, majors offered, type of school, and student activities. What's important to you?
- ✓ Visit different types of schools so you understand what it's like to be on a campus with 5,000 or 25,000 other students or what it's like to be in a small town.
- ✓ Narrow down colleges by how close or far away they are from home, average student GPA, event majors offered. If you know what you want to study, finding a school that offers a strong program in that major can be more important to you than the prestige of a certain school.
- ✓ Make your college visits when school is in session. Visit a classroom, talk to professors and students, eat in the cafeteria, stay in a dorm room. Experience the college. CollegeBound Foundation's one day tours are free and overnight tours are very reasonable and by invitation only.
- ✓ Take charge of the search. Work with your parents, counselor or CollegeBound Foundation Specialist as a team, but lead the effort, take responsibility, and determine what would be the best choice for you.
- ✓ Be realistic. Use your time wisely and look only at colleges you think you would really want to attend.

## **Fall 2008 College Fairs**

Attending a college fair provides students an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the college admission process, learn what scholarships are offered and narrow down the list of colleges that fit their needs. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

### **NSSFNS College Fair**

#### **Patapsco Arena**

October 1                      9 am. 1 pm

### **NACAC College Fair**

#### **Baltimore Convention Center**

Nov 11, 2008                9 am. 1pm & 6. 9 pm

Nov 12, 2008                9 am. 12 noon

### **Western High School College/Career Fair**

#### **Cafeteria**

Nov 3, 2008                      2:00-3:30 pm

## **Questions to Ask at Fairs:**

- Does the school have a liberal arts, technical, or pre-professional focus?
- What percentages of freshmen return for their sophomore year?
- What sort of extra-curricular activities are offered?
- What types of facilities are available for drama, music and athletics?
- What types of career advising and support services are offered?
- How are financial aid needs met?
- What types of jobs or graduate and professional schools do most students enter upon graduation?

## **College Tours**

A college tour is like a window-shopping trip for the college bound student -- an unofficial first step in the increasingly rigorous admissions process. CollegeBound provides students an opportunity to participate in one-day college tours at no cost and overnight tours for a modest fee. Tour participants will:

- Meet with admissions and financial aid staff.
- Shadow college students in classes, dorms and dining facilities.
- Become empowered to make informed decisions about selecting a college.

## **Fall 2008 Overnight College Tours**

### **Consider Maryland Overnight College Tour October 16-18, 2008 — Cost \$25**

Deadline for permission slips and money: October 3, 2008

Colleges/Universities: Capitol College, Coppin State University, Frostburg State University, Goddard Space Center, Goucher College, Morgan State University, Bowie State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and University of Baltimore

#### **Pre-Trip Parent Orientation**

**October 8, 2008, 6:30–7:30 p.m.**

**Baltimore Freedom Academy College Center**

### **West Virginia Colleges Overnight Tour October 16-18, 2008 — Cost \$25**

Deadline for permission slips and money: October 3, 2008

Colleges/Universities: Allegany College, Fairmount State University, Pierpont Community and Technical College of Fairmount State University, Potomac State College, Shepherd University, and West Virginia University

## **Don't Wait Until College to Try Career Counseling**

A number of students across the country are not taking advantage of all that their counseling offices provide. A National Center for Education Statistics survey of public high school counselors found that half or less of juniors and seniors took advantage of available career planning opportunities in their schools such as career assessments, career days, career speakers, internships, job site visits and job shadowing.

You may think it is OK to put off career planning until later in your college years, but you will benefit from any career exploration you can do in high school. You won't have as much time later on as you may think and you can start learning about careers now through classes and experiences.

## **Why Go to College?**

If you are uncertain about going to college or you just need some reassurance that you are on the right track, here are a few reasons to go to college:

- Every bit of education you get after high school increases the chances you'll earn good pay.
- Besides good pay, the more education you get, the more likely it is you will always have a job. According to one estimate, by the year 2028 there will be 19 million more jobs for educated workers than there are qualified people to fill them.
- Today, most good jobs require more than a high school education. Businesses want to hire people who know how to think and solve problems.
- Education beyond high school gives you a lot of other benefits, including meeting new people, taking part in new opportunities to discover and explore your interests, and experiencing success.