

DRAFT SCHEDULE  
College & Career Readiness Night  
Gaithersburg High School  
January 17, 2018

Session Presentations		
Title	Target Audience	Description
<b>Exploring the Possibilities</b>	Families/Students, Grades 6–7	This session provides a high-level overview of the many opportunities available within MCPS that students can start exploring now. Students can explore interests in early middle school years, so they can determine if there is an area where they might want to focus during high school. Additionally, consider the impact of students completing high school level courses—most notably, math, world languages, and technology credits—while still in middle school. Why does accelerating (or decelerating) make sense? What questions and conversations should parents/students be having with their local school to make the best decisions?
<b>Exploring the Possibilities and Building a Plan</b>	Families/Students, Grades 8–10	As students select course schedules, what should they consider? Presenters will share options such as on-level, honors, dual enrollment, Advanced Placement, and career readiness. Most importantly, this session will center on the planning process and outline the conversations parents and students should have as they prepare for future course enrollment.
<b>Creating a Timeline: What to Do and When?</b>	Families/Students, Grades 8–9	To take the PSAT or not to take the PSAT in 9 <sup>th</sup> grade, that is one question? What is the purpose of the PSAT in 10 <sup>th</sup> grade? When do students need to take the SAT or ACT? What are the SAT II subject tests and when should they be taken? When should college visits begin? During this session, presenters will share key elements families and students should plan for to ensure a smooth transition and avoid panic during junior and senior year.
<b>Creating a Timeline: What's the Plan?</b>	Families/Students, Grades 10–12	The session will highlight the timeline during junior and senior years, including when to visit colleges, when to take which standardized tests (SAT, SAT II, ACT, Accuplacer), when essays and the FAFSA are due, when to schedule interviews, when/how to start looking for scholarships, how to create a list of colleges of interest, and what other factors to consider.
<b>Résumés for Teenagers: Who Knew There Was Such a Thing?</b>	Students, Grades 10–12 (Families Welcome)	This session will provide advice on what to include and how to tailor résumés for particular pursuits. Students will learn the basics of developing a résumé for becoming an employee for the first time. Students will leave the session with a draft résumé and the resources to complete a résumé to use with employers.
<b>What the World Needs Now—Industry Perspective</b>	Families/Students, Grades 6–12	This session includes current employers from large and small businesses discussing the current hiring trends and where these industries anticipate the greatest need in the coming years. Come hear about the skill sets and experiences are businesses looking for in new hires.

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<b>If I Knew Then What I Know Now—MCPS Grads Come Back!</b>	Students, Grades 6–12 (Families Welcome)	This session is an opportunity to hear from MCPS grads about their transition to post-secondary pursuits. Included in this session is a discussion of the various opportunities they took advantage of while at MCPS and the ones they didn't, but wish they had. This session brings back MCPS grads who followed one local, cost-saving pathway to a 4-year degree. Come hear about their interests and how they are leveraging their experiences for college and career success.
<b>Financial Aid: What Do I Need to Know?</b>	Families/Students, Grades 6–12	In this session, learn how financial aid works today. Gain knowledge of the FAFSA requirements, even for merit aid opportunities. Have you ever wondered why some schools also require the College Board CSS Profile, how having more than one student in college impacts aid, and whether saving for college actually work against you?
<b>Identifying Interests and Appropriate Course Pathways</b>	Families/Students, Grades 6–12	What opportunities are available for students to explore possible career interests (e.g. encouraging STEM for girls)? What tools can students use to identify their areas of interest, and once identified, what are the course pathways available for different interests? "I want a medical, engineering, or journalism career. What courses should I take?" How can a student access those courses if they aren't offered at their home high school?
<b>How Do I Present My Best Self to Potential Colleges and Employers?</b>	Students, Grades 6–12 (Families Welcome)	This session will discuss the details that will make your candidacy stand out: interview tips, resume guidelines, your digital footprint, etc. Come hear about how to make the best impression for plans beyond high school.
<b>What Do Colleges Really Want to See?</b>	Families/Students, Grades 6–12	This session will focus on optimizing your candidacy for college. Topics include extracurricular activities, internships, as well as job, leadership, and volunteer opportunities.
<b>How do hundreds of students earn college credit while still in high school? Dual Enrollment!</b>	Families/Students, Grades 6–12	This gem-of-an-option allows students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously! Sounds perfect, right? So, what must you do now to take advantage of this opportunity to save money and time on college later? Make plans to attend this session to learn how this works and why so many parents and students are choosing to dually enroll in college while still in high school.

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Table Fair	
Title and Description	Target Audience
<b>How to Search for Scholarships</b> This table will have staff available to speak to parents/students about the various ways to search for scholarship information. When should you start looking? How do you keep track of the requirements and deadlines for application?	Families/Students, Grades 10–12
<b>Naviance: Understanding the Potential</b> This table will include information on how parents and students can use Naviance to help organize the students' post-secondary pursuits and interests.	Families/Students, Grades 6–12
<b>Internship and Work Opportunities</b> This table will give you information on opportunities available in MCPS, Montgomery County, and the surrounding area.	Families/Students, Grades 10–12
<b>"911" Emergency Help for High School Seniors</b> This table will have specialists ready to help parents and students that are a semester away from graduation but, for one reason or another, are still without a post-secondary plan. Are you going to college next fall? Having a gap year? Pursuing a technical credential? If you feel adrift, this is the perfect place to anchor for the night so you can leave with practical next steps and contacts for traveling the next few steps on your path.	Families/Students, Grade 12
<b>First Generation College Students: You've Got This!</b> The college process can be intimidating for ANY student/parent, but can be especially daunting when the student will be the first in their family to pursue a college degree. MCPS has many programs available, like ACES, to help students and parents navigate this process. Staff will be here to demystify the process and make sure you have the necessary contacts and resources to proceed with confidence.	Families/Students, Grades 6–12
<b>Local College Options: The Possibilities Parents/Students Shouldn't Ignore!</b> There are a number of reasons students see value in starting their post-secondary pursuits at local colleges like Montgomery College (MC) or Universities at Shady Grove (USG). This table will be staffed with individuals ready to answer your questions about how this option can help with student transitions and can help create possibilities for students.	Families/Students, Grades 6–12
<b>Student Service Learning Opportunities</b> What SSL opportunities are available that can help students explore possible career interests?	Families/Students, Grades 6–12
<b>Honors and Awards</b> This table will have information about honors and awards for which students can apply, including Athlete Scholar, National Honor Societies, and course or career-based awards, honors or recognitions. This will include prerequisites that students would need to know in advance, in order to be considered as candidates.	Families/Students, Grades 6–12

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<b>Finance Park and Junior Achievement</b> Information about the new Finance Park opening in 2018 at the Edison High School of Technology. All grade 7 students will engage in classroom learning about financial literacy before participating in an interactive life skills and budget simulation at the facility. Parent volunteers needed to support all middle schools throughout the year!	Families/Students, Grades 6–7
<b>Law Enforcement and Leadership</b> Learn about the new career program of study being offered at the Edison High School of Technology in 2018–2019. Developed in collaboration with the Montgomery County Police Department this program for rising juniors and seniors provides an introduction to careers in law enforcement. Following one year at Edison, students complete the program through selected electives, an internship with Maryland State Police, or dual-enrollment at Montgomery College.	Families/Students, Grades 6–11
<b>Science, Technology, and Engineering Programs</b> Learn about two new career programs of study. The Aviation program will introduce students to the field of aviation and aerospace; students will explore aircraft and flight systems in addition to unmanned/drone systems. The Fire Science and Emergency Medical Technician program will provide opportunity for students to earn seven certifications in fire science, hazardous materials, and emergency medical training.	Families/Students, Grades 6–12
<b>Cybersecurity, Computer Science, and IT Programs</b>	
<b>More Career Technology Education Program Options</b>	
<b>CollegeTracks</b> Juniors and Seniors, are you overwhelmed by the college application process, the deadlines, and paperwork? 11th and 12th grade students and their families can pick up a "Student Folder" to keep you on track to college by organizing and tracking your college deadlines and to-do items. CollegeTracks works with students at Bethesda Chevy Chase, Wheaton, and Watkins Mill High Schools.	Families/Students, Grades 11–12