Welcome to **Sophomore Conferences!**

Please do the following as you wait for the presentation to start.

1. Pick up a **RED FOLDER**.
2. Write your name on the tab.
3. Log in to a laptop.
4. Find the link to Family Connection on Centennial's website, and log in with your student ID# & 8-digit birthdate.
5. Close the lid until the end of the presentation.

Class of 2020

Counselors

A-B	Mrs. Marshall
C-Han	Mrs. Lassiter
Hao-Mc	Mrs. Ott
Me-Sa	Ms. Green
Sb-Z	Mrs. Thompson

Ms. Portnoy, College & Career (Tues/Thurs)

Overview….

- Taking ownership of your education!
- Credits
- Graduation Requirements
- Transcript
- GPA
- Class Rank
- College Admissions

Credits

- 26 credits are required to graduate. Most students earn more.
- You must have a 70+ for your semester average, and not have too many absences to be issued credit for the class.
- If you do not earn credit, you must repeat the class (if required for graduation).

EOC Exams

- You must pass all 5 EOC exams to graduate. If you failed any of the 9th grade tests last year and did not pass over the summer, you will retest the first week of December.

- English 1
- English 2
- Algebra 1
- Biology
- US History

Your grad plan…

- DEFAULT – Distiguished Level of Achievement
  -- Multidisciplinary Endorsement
  - ✓ English 1,2,3,4
  - ✓ Geography, World History, US History, Government (.5), Economics (.5)
  - ✓ Biology, Chemistry, 2 additional sciences
  - ✓ Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, 1 additional math
  - ✓ Speech (professional communications, .5), health (.5), 1.0 PE, 2.0 Foreign Language (more is preferred by colleges), 1.0 Fine Arts, 1.0 Technology Applications
  - ✓ 4.0 electives
- Other endorsements possible, but counselors will figure out which ones based on your selected courses – no need for more, no impact to college admissions or graduation
- Performance Acknowledgements appear on transcript for things like bilingualism, dual credit, AP test scores, etc.

Dual Credit...is it the right fit?

- Not right for everyone.
  - Taking advanced math classes? You are better off continuing on that path here instead of taking College Algebra while in high school.
  - Taking AP English Lang Junior year? Follow it up with AP English Lit Senior year. The combination of these two (passing) AP exams is equivalent to the English offered for dual credit.
  - Dual Credit classes receive more weighted GPA points than on-level, but less than AP.

- Offerings include Junior/Senior English, US History, Government, Economics, Biology, College Algebra, Plane Trigonometry, Texas Government, Sociology, Psychology, Art Appreciation

- Maturity and strong high school performance are a must!

More details will be shared as we get closer to course registration in February.

Accelerating Credits? Consider the Unintended Consequences of Doing Too Much

- Academic Implications (mostly Math related)
  - Could run out of options at CHS
  - Scoring 80 on an on-level CBE doesn't necessarily mean you're prepared for the future AP classes in that subject area.
  - Taking classes at Collin may not work out the way you think
    - STEM majors -- credit may only be accepted as "elective" by university
    - Non STEM majors -- don't need math beyond Calculus
    - Courses may conflict with normal school day
    - Transportation issues for younger students

Accelerating Credits? Consider the Unintended Consequences of Doing Too Much

- Financial Implications
  - Federal Aid stops after 120 credit hours (could be an issues if taking unnecessary classes for your major or if the university requires you to repeat the class.
  - Entering college as a Sophomore reduces available scholarships
  - Be on Time Loan (no more than 6 hours beyond degree plan)
  - NCAA doesn't count CBEs

Accelerating Credits? Consider the Unintended Consequences of Doing Too Much

- Social/emotional Implications
  - Large age gap among students in the same class, same project groups, etc.
  - Additional stress/anxiety, taking a heavier load than a college student
    - Normal college load = 12-15 hours/4-5 classes per semester -- those don't typically have daily assignments
    - We have students taking 7-8 AP classes (21-24 hours) with daily assignments
  - Pressure to keep up (advancing as much as someone else)

Rank Conversion Chart

PreAP/ AP	Dual Credit	Regular	GPA	
100			6.0	
99			5.9	
98			5.8	
97			5.7	
96			5.6	
95	100		5.5	
94	99		5.4	
93	98		5.3	
92	97		5.2	
91	96		5.1	
90	95	100	5.0	
89	94	99	4.9	
88	93	98	4.8	
87	92	97	4.7	

GPA Example
Use your semester average

- Regular English- 89= 3.9 points
- AP Human Geo- 88= 4.8 points
- Algebra 1 - 68= 0 points ☹
- Regular Biology- 79= 2.9 points

  - Add them all up- 3.9 + 4.8 + 0 + 2.9=11.6
  - Divide 11.6 by 4= 2.9 is your GPA

All classes count, but this example only shows core classes.

GPA & Rank

- Class Rank is used for College Admissions Purposes, as well as determining Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and Top 10 Students for graduation..
- Rank is determined by weighted GPA.
- Pre-AP, AP and Dual Credit receive additional weight.
- No points are earned for failed classes.
- Summer classes & CBEs are not factored in.
- GPA & rank will be updated in Family Connection in February. New students will not be ranked until then.

If you use the Graded App, don't pay attention to the GPA. It is based on current grades, not the cumulative formula the district uses to calculate GPA.

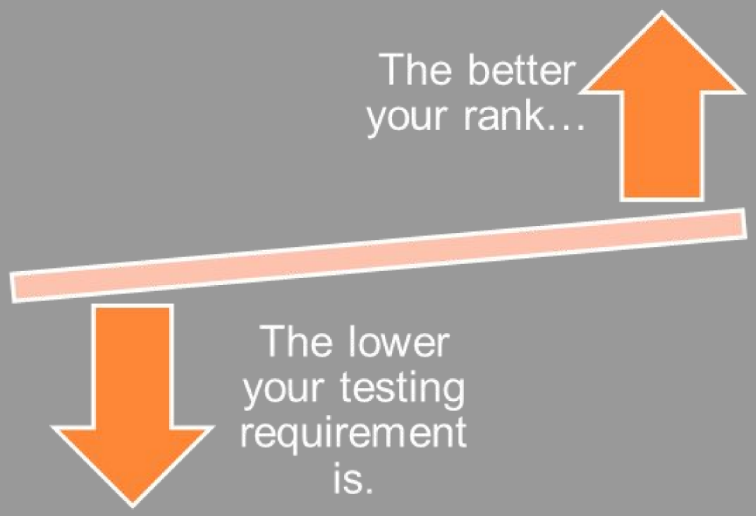
Your Transcript

- Your transcript shows your semester grades and credits and is sent to colleges. ALL grades count!
- The strength of your transcript is the most important item in college admissions.
- Your counselor will go over your transcript with you today!

sample transcript

Assured/Automatic Admission

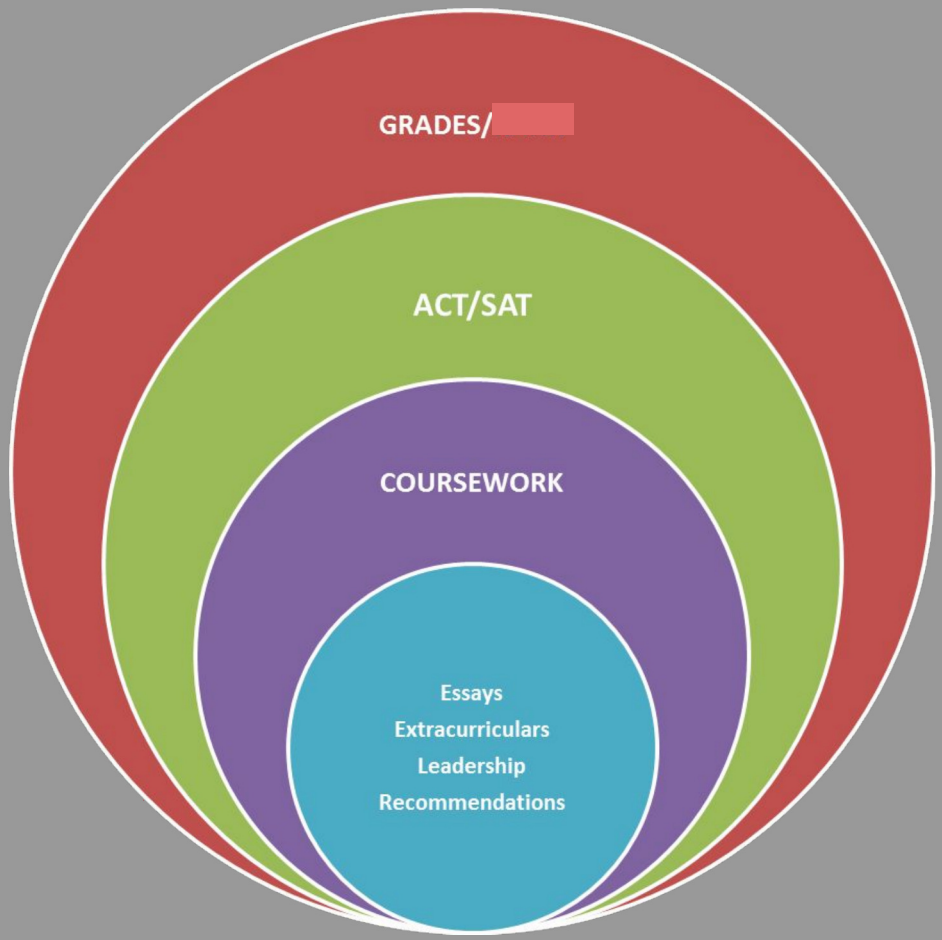
- Students who are in the top 10% of their class (calculated by weighted GPA) are automatically accepted into Texas public colleges. [exception: UT-Austin…top 6%-7%]
- Beyond this rule, some (typically public) colleges have Assured Admission standards (see blue handout).
  - Your rank will place you in a quartile (1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th quarter) **6 semesters = 1st impression**
  - The quartile and test score can guarantee your admission into some colleges.



Holistic Review/Admission

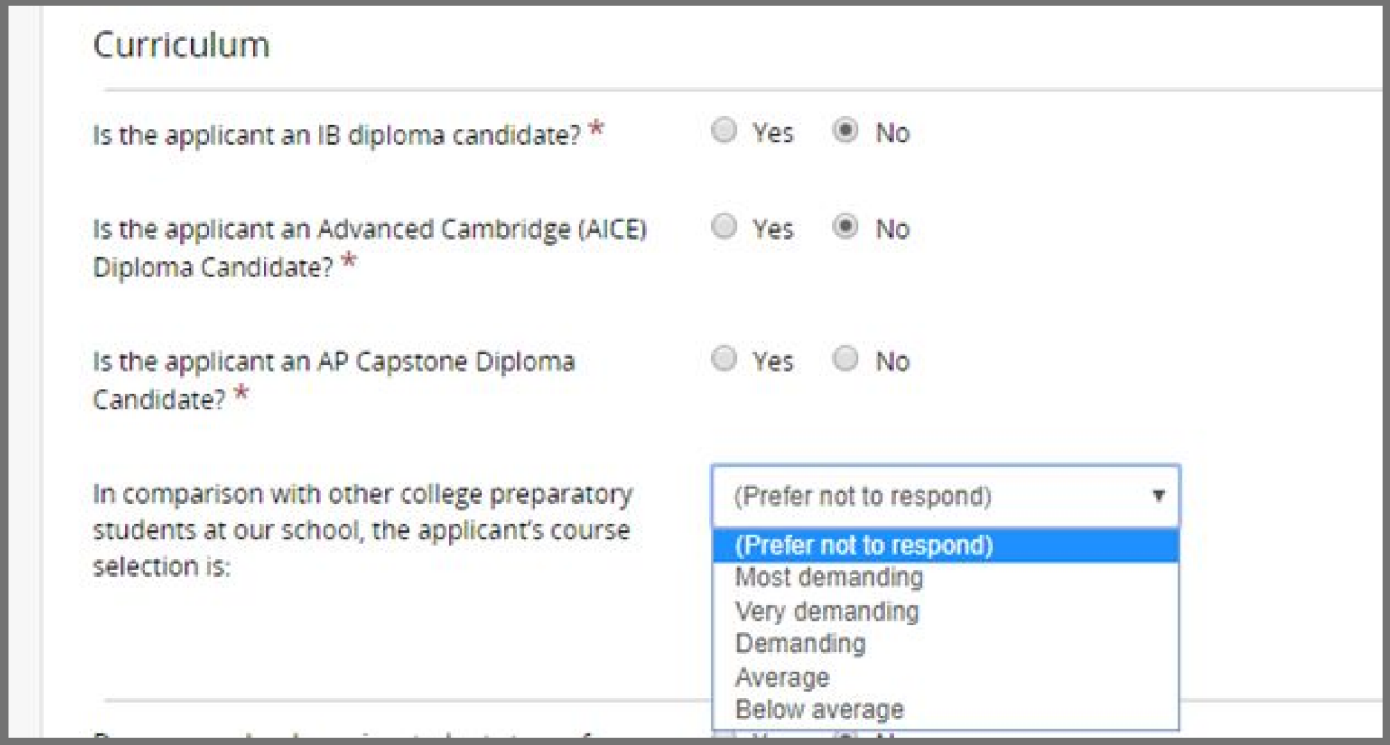
- Used when schools don't offer Assured Admissions, or when applicants don't meet Assured Admissions standards.
- Rank is less important, GPA typically recalculated to include just the classes most important to the college
- Needs of the college also come into play (factors outside of your control)

GPA Game reflections



Rigor of Curriculum

- Automatic Admissions -- helps your rank, **if you perform well**
- Holistic Admissions -- GPA will likely be converted to a 4.0 unweighted scale; rigor is considered separately from your re-calculated GPA.
- Counselors are asked to report on your curriculum.



College Admissions Tests

- Two different tests….
- SAT
- ACT
- PSAT- for practice in10th & 11th
- Junior year you take the real ACT/SAT.
- Community college does not *require* these tests for admission, but students with strong academic skills may qualify for scholarships based on these test scores or an exemption from taking the Texas Success Initiative exam.

Community Service Reminders

- Use X2Vol community service link on Family Connection to enter hours. Log in with school email address and ID#. You'll have to create an account the first time.
- **Any hours completed prior to June were to be entered by the end of August**
- Must follow district guidelines (nonprofit organizations only!) Not all *volunteering* qualifies as community service!*
- Hours cannot be completed during the school day, or be awarded for donating money or material goods. They must also accurately represent time spent serving the community.

Athletes…play it smart!

SPORT	% of HS Seniors who go on to play in college	% of college athletes who make it to the pros	% of HS Seniors who eventually get drafted professionally
Football	5.80%	2%	0.09%
Men's basketball	2.90%	1.30%	0.03%
Women's basketball	3.10%	1%	0.02%
Baseball	5.60%	10.50%	0.50%
Men's soccer	5.70%	1.90%	0.08%

What else is considered?

- Other questions counselors are asked to answer...

Character and integrity matter!

Compared to other students in his or her class year, how do you rate this student in terms of: *

	No basis	Below Average	Average	Good (above average)	Very Good (well above average)	Excellent (top 10%)	Outstanding (top 5%)	One of the top few encountered in my career
Academic Achievement	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Extracurricular accomplishments	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Personal qualities and character	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Overall	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

I recommend this student: * (Select One)

Has the applicant ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at your school, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in the applicant's probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from your institution.

◉ No response ○ Yes ○ No ○ School policy prevents me from responding

To your knowledge, has the applicant ever been adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony?

◉ No response ○ Yes ○ No ○ School policy prevents me from responding

If you answered yes to either or both questions, please use your written recommendation to explain the violation or misdemeanor circumstances, including the approximate date of each incident.

Applicants are expected to immediately notify the institutions to which they are applying should there be any changes to the information requested in this application, including disciplinary history.

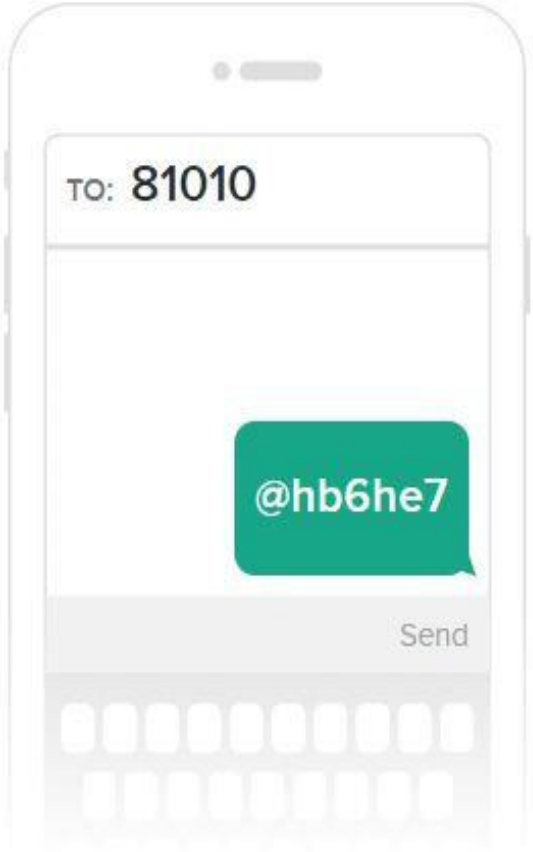
What you can do NOW…

TASK	REASON(S)
take challenging (AP) courses in strong subjects	* shows the college, and yourself, you are ready for college level work * weighted points help GPA/rank
make good grades	* better foundation for future classes * improves GPA/rank
take personality tests/career inventories	* can direct elective choices while in high school * changing majors can be costly * not all colleges offer all majors
get involved (clubs, organizations)	* find friends with common interests * colleges want students who will get involved on their campuses * provides opportunities for leadership & problem-solving
do community service	* serving others gives you a different perspective * scholarship opportunities are available * many college organizations are service-based * meaningful experiences can lead to great college essays
keep track of dates (ie. Resume')	* you won't have trouble remembering when you did what when it comes time for your college applications
research colleges	* finding the right fit is hugely important * colleges notice when you show interest in them * can help with financial planning for college

Helpful Resources

#1 COLLEGE GO app

#2: CLASS OF 2020 REMIND GROUP



3. Cen10Counselors

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