

College Bound and Senior Seminar

Prepared by Leanne Haddad

College Bound Classes - New Developments

NINTH GRADE

During the Fall 2021 semester, ninth graders learned a variety of topics primarily focusing on transitioning from middle school to high school. Topics included introduction to New York State graduation requirements, time management, and goal setting. Starting in the spring 2022 semester, the SMARTS curriculum was adapted into the College Bound course to enhance students' executive function skills. The MetaCog survey was used as a baseline to determine the executive function strengths and challenges for each student. Lessons were then specifically tailored and implemented based on the needs of each class section. This included working memory, organization and prioritizing, cognitive flexibility, and self-monitoring. In May, to help prepare students for Career Day, ninth graders are currently engaged in a career exploration unit. Students began drafting their resumes, taking the Holland Code career interest assessments, and learning email etiquette.

TENTH GRADE

Sophomores participated in a comprehensive guidance curriculum in the fall designed to promote executive function skills. Topics covered included a personal introduction writing assignment, time management, weekly/monthly planning, stress management, and a review of New York State graduation requirements and their transcripts. Students also created and continuously updated their resumes, which will continue to be updated until senior year. In the spring, the tenth graders explored different careers using the interest assessment *My Next Move*. Based on their results, they researched one career in depth using the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* which they will be presenting to their peers during class.

ELEVENTH GRADE

To help students begin to craft and finalize a postsecondary plan, eleventh graders used the U.S. Department of Labor's O*Net Interest Profiler and researched career options on The Department sponsored My Next Move website. Students explored careers that might be suitable for them depending on the level of education or preparation they are interested in pursuing. After choosing a career, students created a salary based budget based off of their income to learn about future expenses such as rent, insurance, cable/wifi, etc.

For the spring semester, the primary goal was to have students begin their post-secondary planning. SAT for All Day took place at TRCS. The entire junior class took the exam on April 13th. To help students prepare, practice sections of the SAT were administered in class leading up to the exam. After the completion of the SAT exam, students began learning about the college essay. They have started to brainstorm topics and ideas. This will continue until the end of the semester.

TWELFTH GRADE

The Career and College Office staff began working with the seniors from the first day of school. From September through December, the primary focus in Senior Seminar classes was college applications. Students completed their CUNY and SUNY applications and worked on their personal statements in class. One class requirement was to complete a personal essay that could be used on an application.

The spring semester focused heavily on choosing the best fit college using a variety of factors such as financial aid, graduation rate, retention rate, and major courses. In addition, seniors reflected on their high school experience and transitioning to college. Class time was spent assisting students matriculate to college. Seniors are currently completing the Freshman Scavenger Hunt to help them navigate the different offices on their chosen college campus.

College and Career Exposure

TENTH GRADE

Outside of the College Bound course, the College and Career Office worked closely with a group of sophomores on the Opportunity Network application throughout the spring semester. These specific students were nominated by teachers, staff, and the CCO. They attended a presentation in January 2022 to learn more about the program and its objectives. Eight sophomores committed to the process and began working on the application during lunch and afterschool. Of the eight students, six were asked to the group interview phase. Two students were successfully admitted to the program for the class of 2028. These students will begin the Summer Institute beginning in July 2022.

ELEVENTH GRADE

In the spring, admission counselors from CUNY Hunter and SUNY virtually presented during each class section of College Bound where the students learned about each college and its offerings. The entire eleventh grade class went on a local campus tour to Queensborough Community College in May. Students attentively listened to a presentation conducted by Admissions Counselor, Michelle Gluck, in one of the lecture halls on campus. This was followed by a campus tour where the students visited the library, football field, dining halls, classrooms, and labs. Students also had the opportunity to interact with college students to hear about their experiences on the QCC campus.

TWELFTH GRADE

In the fall semester, admission counselors from SUNY Oswego, SUNY Albany, CUNY, St. John's University, Adelphi University, and University of Rochester gave virtual presentations about their college and program offerings to the seniors during their Senior Seminar classes. During these presentations, students were actively engaged and asked insightful questions. Students developed relationships with the admission counselors who helped guide them through the application process, matriculation, and enrollment.