

Are You Getting the Message – Speaker Notes

Items needed for presentation:

Presentation

Speaker Notes – not to be read, but useful as a resource in preparing for the presentation

Handouts – acopy for each student

Writing utensils

| SLIDE # | HANDOUT | NOTES |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| <i>Slide #1</i> | | Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who we are• Why we're doing this program• Are you getting the message – education beyond high school is necessary to reach your goals• Starting early will help you get on the right path and be prepared |
| <i>Transition</i> | | Question for the students – who wants to go beyond high school? |
| <i>Slide #2</i> | <i>Handout # 1</i> | Activity sheet to start dialogue with the students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students write down ideas of what they'd like to do when they grow up• Students can share their thoughts with the group• To get students started in sharing, feel free to use personal examples (short). Here are some of our examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ One of our speakers wanted to be “Victor Newman” from <i>All My Children</i>○ Another wanted to be a paramedic because it seemed exciting, but later changed her mind when she realized that she couldn't stand the sight of blood |
| <i>Transition</i> | | Now that we've explored possible future careers, let's explore how school subjects might match up with these careers |

Slide #3 **Handout #3** Activity – can have the students do this individually or as a group.

You can start either with the subject or with the career to get the group talking. We are outlining each possible subject/ career to give you guidance – you do not need to use each example!

English – Ambassador, Governor, Sports Reporter
(skills developed – thinking, communication, writing, speaking & listening)

Math – we think that all of these careers need math, but especially in Computer Programming, Bank Manager, Veterinarian, Architect
(skills developed – analytical & critical thinking, statistics, measurement, budgeting)

Music – Radio DJ

Science – Paramedic, Crime Scene Investigator, Computer Programming, Veterinarian, Architect, Athletic Trainer
(skills developed – critical thinking, knowledge of the physical world)

Foreign Language – Ambassador, Governor, others if student plans to work in other parts of the world
(skills developed – communication, knowledge of other cultures)

Art – Architecture

Social Studies – Ambassador, Governor, Bank Manager
(skills developed – knowledge of people, cultures, current events, historical perspective)

Health/ Phys Ed – Sports reporter, Athletic Trainer

Transition

It's important to think about what you might want to do, and how the subjects you enjoy in school can lead to various careers.

It's also helpful to understand that there are many types of education to help you reach your goals. There are many different options, so students can choose the one that works best for their circumstances.

Slide #4

Vocation Schools

May be known as Career Centers, can be taken while in high school
Check with counselor or principal to see about enrolling

Advantages:

- Shorter term/ quicker preparation for job
- May be completed while in high school
- Very specific training
- Low/ No Cost

Disadvantages:

- Because they are so specific, workers will need new training to get new job
- May limit student's ability to complete college prep coursework in high school

Slide #5

Proprietary Schools

Small, single focus programs
Students usually receive some type of certificate
Usually short term – 6 – 18 months

Advantages:

- Short term
- Can gain unique certification/ marketable skills
- Cost efficient/ can receive financial aid

Disadvantages:

- Because they are so specific, workers will need new training to get new job
- May have limited opportunities for advancement into management
- May have difficulty transferring credits to other types of programs

Slide #6

Community College

Serve the local community (should mention the local community college)
Wide range of opportunities, both technical & transfer

Advantages:

- Great preparation for 4 year programs – can complete first 2 years

- Can also provide short term training to update job skills
- Very flexible in subjects, course availability & times
- Low Cost/Financial Aid available

Disadvantages:

- Students who go for specific training may need re-training to change jobs
- Students who pursue Associate's degree will have longer time to get into job market

Slide #7

Four Year Programs

Four year degree is entry level for management and supervisory positions.

This option is the “typical” college experience that is portrayed in the media. Students may have the option to live on campus or at home, may be able to get involved in student activities such as sports, fraternities and sororities, etc.

Advantages:

- Gives student time to explore wide range of subject areas
- Offers a well rounded experience – liberal arts courses, study abroad options, etc
- Gives students exposure to wide range of people – teachers, students from other parts of the world

Disadvantages:

- Higher cost
- Longer time to prepare for a career
- May not be as specialized, may not lead to specific career

Slide #8

Graduate/Professional School

Specialize – gain credentials to do a specific job

Advantages:

- Higher pay
- Very specialized in high profile career

Disadvantages:

- Will add extra time – 2 years for Masters Degree, 3 – 10 years in preparing for law & medicine
- Additional cost for additional schooling

Transition

As you have heard, there are many types of higher education available. There is a place for everyone to prepare for a future career.

Now let's turn our focus to what you can do now while you are in middle school to be prepared.

Slide #9

It's important to realize that preparing now is an investment in your future!

- Think about what you would like to do in the future.
- Think about the type of school that will help prepare you to reach your goals.
- What you do now is important!

Transition

What do you need to do in middle school and high school to be admitted to the school of your choice? Remember, it's always to over prepare – you'll have the widest range of opportunities if you prepare for the most difficult level of education.

Slide #10

College Prep Curriculum in High School

- Use this information as a planning tool for your future. Keep in mind that taking the maximum number of classes will give you the widest range of choices.
- If available, think about taking honors or advanced courses. You should take classes that are challenging (we don't want you taking classes so easy that you get bored, or so hard that you have no chance of passing)
- You may not know that some of the classes you take in Middle School can count towards high school – for example, taking Algebra in 8th grade, or a foreign language in 7th & 8th grade.

Transition

While it's important to take challenging courses, remember that colleges will look at a number of other factors as well.

Slide #11

Other Factors

- Getting good grades is always important
- ACT & SAT tests – you'll take these as a junior, and may also take pre-tests in 10th grade
- Extra curricular activities – can include sports, clubs, Girl Scouts, 4-H
 - Remember to keep a balance – don't let activities have a negative impact on grades

Transition

Preparing now is an investment – So let’s talk about how that preparation will pay off for you

Slide #12

What could you do with a million more dollars over your lifetime?

- Buy a car
- Buy a house
- Go on nice vacations
- Have a nice lifestyle

Pick one of the other bullet points and use example – it’s not just about the money

Slide #13

Pick 2 of the bullet points, give examples such as:

- Now that I’ve had a class in Art History, I enjoy visiting Art Museums
- Now that I’ve taken a class in Spanish, I have been able to visit Mexico
- The coursework I took in Business has helped me open my own shop – I learned about keeping the books, how to advertise to attract customers, etc.
- My uncle had a great job at the factory until it closed. Now he’s getting job training to find a new job, since he couldn’t find a job that paid very well with just a high school diploma.

Transition

Not everyone has graduated from college, but there are a number of highly successful people who have.

Slide #14

Activity

Have the students guess who has graduated out of this group. Answer – All of these people have. (we will insert the colleges for each)

Transition

Ok, we all agree that college is important and can help you reach your dreams. Let’s talk about how you can pay for college.

Slide #15

College can be affordable

There are many ways to pay for college. You don’t need to go into all of these definitions, but can answer student’s questions about these options:

Grants – Free money, based on family’s financial situation, do not have to repay

Scholarships – Free money, based on many factors such as grades or special talents, do not have to repay
Loans – Students can take out low-interest loans that don't have to be repaid until after leaving school
Work Study – Students can get a job on campus to help cover costs

Transition

You can work on saving now to help pay for college

Slide #16

Savings

- You can set a goal to set aside some money for college – but don't think that you have to have 100% of college costs saved up before starting college.
- See how small amounts of savings can add up to a lot of money?

Transition

How can you get money now and while you're in high school to save for college?

Slide #17

Activity

Give students time to think of ways they can earn money to save

Other ideas to share –

- Cutting grass
- Shoveling snow
- Part time jobs once in high school

Transition

Now that we've talked about ways to pay for college, let's discuss actual college costs

Slide #18

Before starting activity, be sure to define the terms.

Tuition = cost of classes, can vary based on the number of classes, can also vary based on the type and location of the college

Books = students are responsible for buying their own books and supplies in college. Some classes may require more than one book

Room & Board = students who live at their college in a residence hall will pay rent for their room and a set price for their meals (board). Many students may live at their parent's home, and will still have some living costs (rent or house payments, groceries, etc.)

Activity - Have students guess these costs. You can set this up so that every guess is correct, for example, if a student guesses a cost of \$100, that may equal the cost of a book for a course. You may want to research local colleges to have the average cost of one class, room & board, etc.

Transition

We've given you a lot of information about college to help you get a head start in planning your future. Now let's focus on the things you can do today to start on the path to college.

Slide #19

Do each item, one at a time. This slide is one of the most important in the entire presentation, so budget your time to allow for plenty of discussion.

#1 – Dreams & Goals set the pathway, will influence everything you do, the choices you make. When times get tough, come back to your dreams and goals for motivation & encouragement. You can keep your focus on your goals by cutting pictures out of magazines, writing out your goals, and posting in your room.

#2 – Develop good habits – just like great athletes prepare for competition by practicing basic skills (running lifting weights, etc.) great students prepare for college by practicing. This includes having a place to study that is free from distractions, reading over notes and text books, practicing math problems, and doing your homework every day.

#3 – Challenge yourself – don't just do what's easy. Take challenging classes, and see if you can get a jump start by taking Algebra or foreign language while in high school.

#4 - Read – reading for pleasure and practice will increase your reading speed and how well you understand what you reach. You can also discover new interests through books and magazines. Join the library reading programs, read the newspaper, just make sure to read!

#5 – Find a mentor – find a trusted adult to talk about your goals and dreams. Mentors can help you by providing resources, may be someone to write a letter of recommendation in the future, and can give guidance. Mentors can be found through formal programs like scouts & Big Brothers/Big Sisters, or through your church. (Safety?)

#6 – Ask questions – when you meet someone who is doing an interesting job, ask them where they went to school, what they studied in school, and if they have suggestions of what to do/not to do. You can also look at websites to do searches for various careers.

#7 – Family – work with your parents, siblings and other members of your extended family, talk about your goals, find someone to encourage you and who believes in you.

#8 – Access groups or high school counselor can be used to gain more information about college. Take advantage of trips to college campuses, test prep programs, college prep summer camps, and after school opportunities. (FYI - Access program may or may not be available in each school, are usually free, help connect low income & first generation students with college guidance. Check to see if any of these programs exist in your area.)

#9 & #10– Activities & Volunteering– doing extra curricular activities help you develop new interests and skills, and can help you reach your goals. They also help you learn to manage your time effectively.

Transition

Now you have the message - Education necessary to reach your goals, and starting early will help you get there. Now it's time for you to decide what you are going to do to prepare for your future.

Slide#20

Activity – Go through samples of goal setting practice.

Slide #21

Handout

Give blank sheet to students – explain how students can do the activity (either now or as a take-home activity) Encourage students to share these goals with their family!

Slide #22

Handout

Websites for more information.