

# “First in the Family”: Navigating the Road to College Part 1

Willowbrook Counseling Department

Fall 2010



# Benefits of Attending College

- Those who graduate from college will earn \$1 million more dollars in a lifetime than those that do not graduate college
- College graduates earn more over their lifetimes, have access to higher paying jobs, and benefit from better healthcare and retirement plans
- Most careers require some college or additional training to be employable



# Willowbrook's Post-High School Stats

- 99% of students attend college after leaving Willowbrook
  - 65% attend 4-year college
  - 34% attend 2-year college (College of DuPage)
- College Prep Curriculum
  - 20 Honors Courses offered
  - 20 Advanced Placement Courses offered (students are eligible to earn college credit through by taking the Advanced Placement exams)
  - 71% of students scored a 3 or higher on their AP Exams (the score typically necessary to receive college credit)



# College is a Family Affair

- Parents are the strongest force in the student's decision to attend or not to attend college; where they will attend college; how they will pay for college, and the transition to college
- Parent involvement/support is needed for your student to be successful in school because:
  - Promotes better grades
  - Increases chances of getting into college
  - Reduces student stress and anxiety
  - Decreases discipline issues in school
- All lead to a healthy and happy high school experience



# Becoming Your Student's Advocate

- **Ensure your student's success at Willowbrook by:**
  - **Communicate with Teachers and Counselors**
    - Email (Available on School Website and quickest response time)
    - Phone (Available on School Website)
    - Open House (September 23)
    - Parent/Teacher Conferences (November 22-23)
    - Curriculum Showcase (February 3)
    - Coffee with the Counselors (Quarterly)
  - Check your student's grades on PowerSchool
  - Become your student's advocate



# Steps to Parent Involvement

- **Step 1: Get Informed!**

- Find out how your child is doing in school
- Encourage your child to take advantage of resources

- **Step 2: Get Active!**

- Build relationships with your student's teachers and counselor
- Become a part of your student's educational decisions

- **Step 3: Get Ahead!**

- Become informed of the college process
- Help your student prepare for their college and career goals



# Step 1: Get Informed!!

- **Know what your child is doing in school**
  - Get a copy of child's schedule
  - Contact teachers via email or phone to hear their feedback of how your child is doing
  - Know what resources are available
    - Teachers/Cohorts
    - Academic Resource Center (Before school, after school, and non-credit course)
    - Math Resource Center (Non-credit skill building course)
    - M.A.C (Math Achievement Center-After school tutoring on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. in Room 242)
    - Writing Center
  - Check grades in PowerSchool
    - Receive emails updates through powerschool
    - Look up individual grades for assignments
- **Understand graduation and college entrance requirements**



# Willowbrook Graduation Requirements

- 4 Years of English
- 3 Years of Math (Including Algebra and Geometry)
- 3 Years of Science (Including Biology and Physical Science)
- 3 Years of Social Studies (Including World Studies, US History, Economics, and US Government)
- 4 Years of PE (Including Health and Driver's Ed.)
- 1 Semester of Reading (Unless Proficiency)
- Consumer Ed: (1 Semester of Consumer Management or a Full Year of Intro to Business)
- One Semester in:
  - A: Art, Music, or World Language
- One Semester in:
  - B: Business, Family & Consumer Science, Industry & Technology, or Vocational Science
- One Semester in A or B





# College Admission Requirements

Public Universities		Private 4-Year Universities /Colleges		Highly Selective Universities/ Colleges		Community Colleges
English	4 years	English	4 years	English	4 years	Requirements vary greatly from an open-door admission policy to selective admission for particular courses as specified by the different departments
Mathematics	3-4 years	Mathematics	3-4 years	Mathematics	4 years	
Science	3 years	Lab Science	3 years	Lab Science	3-4 years	
Social Studies	3 years	Social Studies	2-3 years	Social Studies	3-4 years	
Academic Electives (Art, Foreign Language*, Music)	2 years	Academic Electives	2 years	Academic Electives	2 years	
		Foreign Language	3 years*	Foreign Language	4 years*	



## Step 2: Get Active!!

- Become an active force in your child's education
- Help your child choose their classes based on career and college interest
  - Curriculum Showcase (February 3)
  - Course selection (February 7-24)
  - Course Guide located on school website
- Willowbrook Parent Organizations
  - Become involved in parent focus groups and organizations
  - Attend Board of Education meetings and read minutes on district website
- You and your student become active in Extracurricular Activities
  - Useful for college and scholarship applications and for career exploration
  - Students involved in activities have a more positive high school experience and enjoy having their parents attend their functions
  - Numerous clubs, activities and sports available at Willowbrook



# Step 3: Get Ahead!!

- **Start looking at colleges as early as Freshman year!**
  - Request information/visit website/visit campuses
  - Understand what colleges are looking for (admission requirements: classes, extracurricular activities, test scores, etc.)
  - Talk to counselor
- **Research careers**
  - Naviance- Exploring careers and career assessments
  - Volunteer/job shadow
  - Attend Career Vision Presentation on April 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Financial Aid and Scholarships**
  - Scholarships available for younger ages
  - Naviance- National Scholarship Search
  - Sign-up for FAFSA4Caster on [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)



# Upcoming Events

- **Freshmen Parent Night**-November 18, Room C2, 6:00 p.m.
- **Financial Aid Night**-December 7, Room C2, 7:00 p.m.
- **Kick off to College Planning** (*formerly Junior Parent Night*)-January 13, Room C2, 7:00 p.m.
- **Career Vision: “How to help your teen choose a motivating college major”**-April 19, Library, 7:00 p.m.
- **Sophomore Parent Night**-May 19, Room C2, 7:00 p.m.



## First in the Family- Part 2

**Join us on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 for Part 2 of our “First in the Family” Series & more information on:**

- Financial aid and scholarships
- Naviance
- Choosing a college major
- ACT and SAT tests

