COLLEGE APPLICATION
PARENT-2-PARENT INFO SESSION
DHHS
KEY TOPICS

1. PSA: DHHS 12th Annual Auction
2. Options after graduation
3. Your Key DHHS Resources
4. The application process
5. Standardized tests – SAT, ACT, and Subject Tests
6. Rigor of curriculum – AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment
7. Recommendations and Interviews
8. Options for financial aid
9. College tours
10. OPED: Some important things to know
11. Q&A
Druid Hills High School 12th Annual Auction
In Support of Academics, Arts & Athletics
Saturday February 1, 2020
Emory’s Miller-Ward Alumni House

You are Invited to GET INVOLVED!

Help us Raise $100K for the 100th Anniversary of our school Cluster!

Volunteer!
Donate!  Sponsor!  Attend!

Soooo many ways to participate and contribute!

• Join the very fun, very effective Auction Committee that makes the magic happen!
  • Become a Business OR Family Sponsor!
• Donate a fabulous gift or service for the online or live auction!
  • Save the Date, Attend the Auction & Be Generous!

For More Information & To GET INVOLVED, Contact Maria Gutierrez-Landis, Auction Chair
whereyoulead@aol.com (404) 398-3664 or Melissa Fishbein, Business Donations
dhhsauctiondonation@gmail.com (404) 376-1160
OPTIONS AFTER GRADUATION

1. 4 Year College Degree
2. Military - ROTC
3. Community College – Associates Degree
4. Apprenticeships
5. Gap Year

“There is a correlation between the path that is chosen and earning potential (up to 3-4x), but it is important to realize that choosing one path does not preclude the other, and that there are no absolute rules”

http://www.gaprobe.org/
Probe is an annual program of college fairs and guidance counselor workshops that are held throughout the state of Georgia. The program is managed by the Georgia Education Articulation Committee (GEAC), whose sole mission is to disseminate information and stimulate interest in post-secondary education for students in Georgia. Hundreds of colleges from across the nation attend Probe each year to reach thousands of Georgia high school juniors and seniors.

Sept.6th – Probe College Fair Trip for Seniors
DHHS KEY RESOURCES

https://dhhscounseling.wixsite.com/mysite

DHHS Counselors

A-Ce: Hanna Robinson, Head Counselor, hanna_robinson@dekalbschoolsga.org

Cf-Jn: Carla Brown, Counselor, carla_brown@dekalbschoolsga.org

Jo-Pq: Robin Wesley, Counselor, robin_j_wesley@dekalbschoolsga.org

Pr-Z: Takiedra White, Counselor, white_takiedra@dekalbschoolsga.org
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Most colleges will take the common app – some, such as UGA, have their own application portal
   1. https://www.commonapp.org/
   2. https://apply.uga.edu/apply/

2. Some schools will require recommendations, some will not. These are typically submitted through the application portal.
   1. Make sure recommender is comfortable giving you a quality recommendation
   2. Make sure your student allows plenty of time for recommender to submit
   3. Create a regular check back schedule with recommender

3. Almost all schools will require standardized tests – SAT or ACT
   1. Make sure that you understand the final results availability of your test, and the application deadline
   2. Make sure you take into account the test availability and result date for subject tests, where applicable

4. Parents – give yourselves time to fill out FAFSA and CSS Profile. CSS is non-federal, more detailed, and used by a number of universities to determine financial aid eligibility. Give yourselves at least 2-3 weeks before application deadlines

5. Personal essays are important. Some universities require multiple essays. Make sure your student plans accordingly. Make sure they use their own voice.

Factors Colleges Consider
• Rigor of curriculum
• Grades received
• Standardized tests
• Personal essay(s)
• Recommendations
• Extracurricular Activities
• Work experience
• Service
• PASSION!
STANDARDIZED TESTS – IMPORTANT

1. New SAT – Scored out of a total of 1600, plus Essay
2. ACT – Scored out of 36
3. Subject Tests – SAT – Scored out 800 (will be required for the more competitive schools)
4. Many resources available to get a good sense of what will be required to get into the school of your choice. Collegeboard is a good catchall resource. Your students should have a login
5. Aim to be at least between the median and 75th percentile for your target schools to minimize this as a negative factor
6. You do not need to specify the colleges you want to send the test results to when you register, but if you do, it is free. Sending results after you receive them will incur a fee.
7. Several free resources available for students to practice and improve
   1. www.khanacademy.org/Practice/SAT
   2. https://academy.act.org
   3. 20-40 hours of study and practice can result in scores improving between 100-200 points for SAT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Test Date</th>
<th>SAT Results Date</th>
<th>ACT Test Date</th>
<th>ACT Results Date</th>
<th>SAT Subject Test Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 24</td>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>Sep 14</td>
<td>Sep 24-Oct 10</td>
<td>Aug 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Nov 12-Nov 26</td>
<td>Oct 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Dec 14</td>
<td>Dec 24-Jan 7</td>
<td>Nov 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Dec 23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Colleges will receive scores 12-14 days after release dates
2. Registration deadline typically a month before test date, with late registration deadline ~2 weeks before test date
## ADVANCED CURRICULUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>AP</th>
<th>IB</th>
<th>Dual Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>College level classes taken in HS recognized nationally</td>
<td>College level classes taken in HS recognized nationally and internationally</td>
<td>College level classes taken in college, as part of program sponsored by the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Credits</td>
<td>Minimum of 3 out of 5 required on the test. Some will require a 4.</td>
<td>Minimum of 4 out of 7 required on the test. Some will require higher.</td>
<td>Will vary depending on the institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptance</td>
<td>National. Highly selective institutions will look for some AP or IB</td>
<td>International. Highly selective institutions will look for some AP or IB</td>
<td>By State and Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigor</td>
<td>College Level Rigor</td>
<td>College Level Rigor</td>
<td>College Level Rigor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact on GPA</td>
<td>In GA, 0.5 added to base GPA to calculate Hope eligibility</td>
<td>In GA, 0.5 added to base GPA to calculate Hope eligibility</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RECOMMENDATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

1. Key things to consider for recommendations
   1. Different colleges will require different number of recommendations – know the numbers and plan accordingly
   2. Give your recommenders plenty of time! Approach early!
   3. Get a recommendation from teachers who know you and understand your passion!
   4. Put together your resume to help your recommender remember what you have done
   5. Check common app for completion, and follow up, but don’t be a pest
   6. Say thank you!

2. Key things to consider for interviews (usually most selective)
   1. Be authentic! Hopefully if you are at this stage, you know exactly why you want to go to this school and how it fits your passion and drive. Be able to articulate that.
   2. This is a good chance to have a genuine conversation with someone who has lived that particular college experience. It is an opportunity to ask thoughtful questions.
   3. The interviewer is trying to determine if you are a good fit for their alma mater, but so are you, so relax.

Letter of Recommendation
OPTIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
   1. Free application (needs based) to determine eligibility to Federal grants, loans, and subsidized federal work-study programs (Pell and FSEOG grants, Stafford and Perkins Loans)
   2. Do it online: [https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa)
   3. Once application is completed, students are provided with their Student Aid Report (SAR) with eligibility for different programs and Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
   4. States and Colleges may also use FAFSA to make their own Financial Aid decisions at the local level
   5. Necessary to fill out for Hope and Zel scholarships – every year!

2. CSS (College Scholarship Service) – Oct. 1st
   1. Fee based application ($25.00 for first school, then smaller fee for each additional school) maintained by the College Board to allow students to apply for non-Federal financial aid
   2. Also primarily driven by needs based assessment
   3. Requires more detailed information than FAFSA
   3. Be prepared to have previous year’s tax returns, asset and wealth information etc., when filling out these applications/profiles – yuck!, but necessary. Plan your time accordingly!

There are many other scholarships out there if your student is willing to do the leg work!!!
1. Opinion: college tours are a nice to have, not a must have
2. College tours will not increase your chances of admission
3. College tours can be expensive, if you are looking at institutions further afield
4. There are several virtual campus tour options available, and more popping up every day
   1. https://campustours.com
   2. https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/
   3. On the college website
5. Google is your friend! – many, many students have written about their current and past experiences at the institutions your student is considering
SOME IMPORTANT THINGS – MY OPINION, FEEL FREE TO IGNORE IT ALL!

1. Getting into the most prestigious university is not the end all and be all, nor is it a predictor of success or happiness.

2. It is OK to have the money discussion with your children – education is an investment – make sure your children understand the consequences of that financial commitment.

3. The next 2-4 years will be the time when your child learns how to learn, and be curious, and experiment deeply at an intellectual level – they will reinvent themselves many times over their career. As long as learning is the objective, there are no bad choices.

4. Your children are probably more stressed about college than they let on – be a safe space.
   1. Every doubt and worry they have does not need a solution – sometimes just an acknowledgement and an unconditional message of support.
   2. Don’t amplify their stress with your anxieties.

5. Some students could probably use help organizing their college application process. If you help, make sure they participate in the process, and avoid judgement.

6. Your experience and insight is valuable, but it is uniquely yours. No one will more honestly make you aware of that than your children.