

#### The Road to College

**Roads to Success** is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

For more information about Roads to Success, please visit our website: [www.roadstosuccess.org](http://www.roadstosuccess.org)

#### Did you know?

According to the America's Career Resource Network, 48 out of 50 of the fastest-growing jobs in the United States require some sort of education after high school.

<http://acrn.ovae.org/parents/afterHS.htm>

Applying to college can be a stressful process for both you and your child. All of the steps and deadlines may feel overwhelming at times, but you are not alone. School counselors and college websites can provide good information about what to do, and when to do it.

#### Standardized Tests:

- PSAT: College-bound students should take the PSAT in the fall of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Scholarship money may be available for students who do well on the exam in 11<sup>th</sup> grade.
- SAT or ACT: Many schools require standardized admissions tests. These are usually taken during the spring of junior year.

Students are also able to retake the exam during the fall of their senior year. To register online, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for the SAT and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for the ACT.



#### College Websites, Catalogs, Fairs and Open Houses:

How can you help your child figure out what college she wants to attend? Factors to consider are the location, size, cost, and the extracurricular activities offered by the school.

College websites are a good way to start this research.

RUReadyND.com is extremely useful for finding information about individual colleges. You can even request course catalogs, applications, and financial aid information online. College Fairs and Open Houses are a great way to find out more.

#### Resources:

For more information, check out these websites:

- RUReadyND.com
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

#### Grade by Grade: College Visits

College brochures, catalogs, and websites can answer basic questions about a college. To get the first-hand feel of a school, students need to walk around the campus and figure out if they like what they see. Roads to Success students will visit a local college in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Here are two ways to help your child get the most out of his visit:

#### Brainstorm a list of questions to ask on the campus tour, such as:

- What are the students like? What are their interests? How are they dressed?
- What are the dorms like? How are roommates chosen?
- What is the area around the campus like? What activities are offered on weekends?

#### Things your child should do on a college visit:

- Take a campus tour to look at the dorms, dining facilities, athletic facilities, library, etc.
- Look at posters for on- and off-campus events.
- Check out bulletin boards and pick up brochures, course catalogs, and financial aid forms.