It’s Your Future
All Students College and Career Ready

Jefferson County Schools
Welcome to YOUR Future

Sure, the future can seem a little overwhelming. But that’s why you’re here—to get the information you need to make smart choices and get excited about all the possibilities.
Every Child a Graduate—Every Child Prepared for College/Work/Adulthood in the 21st Century

All students will enter 9th grade prepared and with a 4-year plan that addresses their individual academic and career interest needs. Your future begins NOW!!
Where do you start?
7th Grade

• Begin by building your portfolio in Career Cruising
  – What is a portfolio?
  – How do I start?
• Barsch Learning Styles Inventory
• Career Explorer
• Research 5 careers that interest you
• Get involved—look for sports, groups and clubs that match your interests and join!

Jefferson County’s approved plan for building your portfolio is CareerCruising
www.careercruising.com
7th Grade Continued…

• Understand that choices you make now will determine who you become tomorrow
• Choose your friends wisely
• Understand the value of your course selection
• Attendance in school is essential
• GRADES ARE IMPORTANT
8th Grade

• EXPLORE
  – What is it?
  – What do the numbers mean?
  – Learn more about EXPLORE (8th Grade) & PLAN (10th grade)
    • Your EXPLORE/PLAN scores are a predictor of your ACT performance. Benchmarks
  – Visit www.act.org to learn more

• Develop a 4-Year Education Plan
  • Course selections should be related to your career goals
  • Career Matchmaker / Career Scope / Career Explorer
  • Career One Stop is a website sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor. Career One Stop
  • This site will help you explore career opportunities
Are you ready for High School?

- This is where the courses you take will give you a strong background for your career choice.
- Diploma types
  - What does this mean to me?
- What is the value of the courses I take?
- GPA (Grade Point Average)
  - How is this determined?
  - What does it mean to me?
- What elective opportunities are at my school that will help me with my career goals?
- When are Career Tech classes available to me?
Jefferson County Academies

• What is an Academy?
• What Academies are available at my high school?
• Can I apply to Academies at other high schools?
• How do I apply?
• When are Academies available to me?
• Can I attend the Academy Open House?
• Am I enrolled the correct courses?
9th Grade

- Update your 4-Year Education Plan
  - Plan your coursework around your career goals
- What electives are available at my school that will support my career goals?
- When are Career Tech courses available to me?
- Your community is important! How can you get involved? Service Learning / Job Shadowing
- Career Matchmaker-refine choices
- Focus on Good Grades!
  - A high GPA is necessary for scholarships and entrance to college/career training after high school

Jefferson County’s approved plan for building your portfolio is CareerCruising

www.careercruising.com
10th Grade

- PLAN is for ALL students. It is free!!
  - PLAN is a predictor of ACT performance
  - Benchmarks
  - If you meet benchmarks, you have 50% chance of making a B or better in the matching college course/ 75% or better chance of a C or better.

- PSAT is preparation for the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)
  - This determines Jefferson County Superintendent’s Super Scholars
  - The Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), gives you a chance to enter NMSC scholarship programs and gain access to college and career planning tools.
  - PSAT

- ASVAB a Career Exploration Program (free)
  - When taken in the 10th grade, cannot be used for military recruitment
  - A great indicator of how well you will do on the ACT
  - Provides scores that help narrow your search for careers
10th Grade Continued…

- Update your 4-Year Education Plan
- Career Matchmaker – refine selections
- Start Community Service Projects/ Service Learning
- Spring: review career goals and plan coursework
- End of 10th grade
  - Apply for Summer Scholars/Enrichment Programs
  - Apply for Academies

Your Grades Are Very Important

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Jefferson County Academies

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- Am I enrolled in the correct courses?
Serious Conversations as a Sophomore

- Have you or your parent talked to your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate?
  - Individual goal setting with your counselor will help keep you on track
- Are your course selections preparing you for your career goals?
Serious Conversations as a Sophomore Continued….

• Start a conversation with your parents about your future
  – What are your future plans?
  – Do you want to attend a 2-year school, a 4-year school, a technical school, participate in an apprenticeship program, or go into the military?
  – Are there funds set aside for educational expenses?
    • If not, this does NOT mean that college is not for you!
  – Does the school you want to attend offer your course of study?
11th Grade

- ACT (American College Test) for ALL students
  - Does your school offer valid ACT preparation courses?
  - Additional Testing dates
    - ACT Test Dates
- Start a “To Do” List (calendar; www.mycollegeoptions.org, etc)
- Update your 4-Year Education Plan
- Individual goal setting with school counselor
- Attend NACAC College Fair in September / Jefferson County College Fair in October
- Research careers and schools that offer your area of study

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www.careercruising.com
11th Grade Continued…

• Research financial aid and scholarship opportunities
  – CSS Financial Profile
  – Help with FAFSA
• Continue Community Service Projects and Participate in Activities
  – run for an office…leadership skills are important!
• Update your Resume’ / Resume’ Builder
  – Add Activities, Awards/Certificates
  – Explore Colleges and Universities via internet or actual visits
• Summer Internships or Work Experience are invaluable
Serious Conversations as a Junior

• Have you talked to your counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate?

• Continue to have conversations with your parents about your future
  – What are your future plans?
  – Do you want to attend a 2-year school, a 4-year school, a technical school, participate in an apprenticeship program, or go into the military?
  – Are there funds set aside for educational expenses?
    • If not, this does NOT mean that is college is not for you
  – Do the schools you are considering attending offer the major you are interested in?
Summer before Senior Year

• Visit a post-secondary school and don’t forget the 2-year schools—this is a great way to get started. Many offer degree and non-degree programs.
• Visit www.ALCareerInfo.org
• Attend a College Fair
  – NACAC National Dates
• Job Shadow
  – This will help you decide if what you “think” you want to do is what people in those careers actually do every day
• Mark important dates and deadlines on a calendar
• Study for the ACT if you didn’t earn the score you need for entrance or scholarship opportunities
  – ACT Practice Tests
Where can I go to get scholarship information?

- www.fastweb.com
- www.mycollegeoptions.org
- www.zinch.com
- www.collegenet.com/mach25/app
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
12th Grade

- ACT—retake if you need a higher score
- Apply for acceptance to the colleges of your choice
- Apply for apprenticeship programs
- Complete FAFSA forms OR research financial aid programs
  - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Continue community service projects and participate in activities
- Explore careers and search for jobs on www.CareerOneStop.org
- Complete your Resume’ / Finish portfolio
- Prepare essays for scholarships
- Watch for DEADLINES! Most scholarships are due December 1st
For more information concerning this PowerPoint, please contact your school’s guidance counselor.