



The Nyack Guidance Department

Nyack Middle School & Nyack High School

Guidance Department Mission Statement

School counselors:

- assist students with academic, personal, social, and vocational growth.
- advocate for, and assist students with, major life transitions.
- act as liaisons to parents and our community by providing communication, information and insights about school life.
- bring a unique repertoire of skills, tools and experience to help our students mature, grow, learn, and make a smooth transition from one level to the next.

We hope to make that journey an enjoyable and successful one for our students!

What are the many roles of a counselor?



- Advisor-Assist students with academic planning.
- Student Advocate- A voice for student's social, emotional and academic needs.
- Consultant-Liaison for each grade level team that we work with.
- Personal Counselor- Work with students to ensure social and emotional well-being.
- Crisis Counselor-Help at-risk students and those in immediate need.
- Group Counselor-Conduct mediation and conflict resolutions.
- Career Counselor-Facilitate "Career Cruising", Career Day, College Fair, Early College Awareness.
- Community Outreach-Assist families in need and work with community liaisons.

Creating and Sustaining a College- Going Culture



“Unless students want to go to college, telling them how to get in and how to pay for it is a waste of time and resources.”

- Step-by-Step College
Workshops for Students

Conditions in Nyack that Create a College-Going Culture



- Academic programs with a college emphasis:
 - wide variety of honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses at NHS
 - NHS recognized by the College Board as a 2014 Honor School for expanding access to AP course
 - strong college emphasis among the counseling staff
 - extensive Guidance Department, including counselors, clerical staff, and recently improved facilities

Career Readiness

- Rockland BOCES programs provide students with the opportunity to graduate high school with college credits, technical experience, professional skills and industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand fields.
- 11th- and 12th-grade students can enroll in Career and Technical Education programs.
- Curriculum is aligned with Common Core State Standards, Career Development and Occupational Studies Standards, 4+1 Multiple Pathways requirements and industry standards.
- Students participate in SkillsUSA, industry-sponsored competitions, internships and career-oriented community service.
- Training takes place in state-of-the-art workshops with instructors who are industry experts.





Career Readiness – Middle School

- **Career Speakers' Day**
- **Presentations :**
 - job readiness
 - interviewing skills
 - resume writing
 - dressing for success
- **Career Cruising:**
 - career interest inventory
 - learning styles survey
- **Classroom Presentations:**
 - course planning
 - work ethic
 - post-high school planning

Middle School Overview



■ Early College Awareness:

- *Students will understand the importance of:*
 - good work habits
 - taking challenging courses
 - being active members of the school and community
 - how high school, college, and career relate to their futures
 - college-related vocabulary
 - ACT, SAT, HS transcript, and class rank

■ College Admissions Presentations:

- 25 colleges and universities have presented in individual classes and larger settings (library, cafeteria), including SUNY, CUNY Honors, Rutgers, Johnson and Wales, Mercy, and University of Alabama

■ Other College Awareness Events:

- College Fair – March (all grades)
- RCC College Night
- “Wear your favorite college gear”

6th Grade

- **Fall**– Guidance Orientation: introduction to services, academic expectations of NMS
- – introduction to Early College Awareness Program
- **Spring**–
 - Career Day presentations by parents
 - College Fair
- – course planning for 7th grade
- **Career Cruising**
 - *Interest Inventory*:
 - Students answer questions about their likes and dislikes to find careers that match up with their interests.
 - Students research colleges related to their career interests.
 - Students save this work to a portfolio.



7th Grade

■ Fall –

- College Presentations
- Early College Awareness

■ Spring –

- course planning for 8th grade
- study skills presentations in class
- orientation to accelerated classes
- Career Day – March
- College Fair

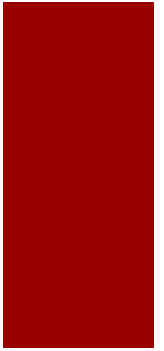
■ Career Cruising:

■ *Learning Styles:*

- Students discover how they learn and retain information and find tips on how to improve study habits to suit their learning styles.
- Students post this exercise to their portfolios.

■ *Junior Achievement:*

- 7th grade experience in Home and Careers
- Parents guide students through a curriculum of work-force readiness, entrepreneurship, and management skills.
- Goal: Empowerment!



8th Grade – Fall/Winter

- **Fall –**
 - College Presentations
 - Early College Awareness
 - High School Elective Assembly
 - Students receive a list of high school electives to take home over the break.
- **Spring/March Madness:**
 - “Wear Your College T-Shirt” Day
 - Students research colleges.
 - Winner of contest receives a free college t-shirt of his or her choice.
- orientation to the high school with 8th grade guidance counselor

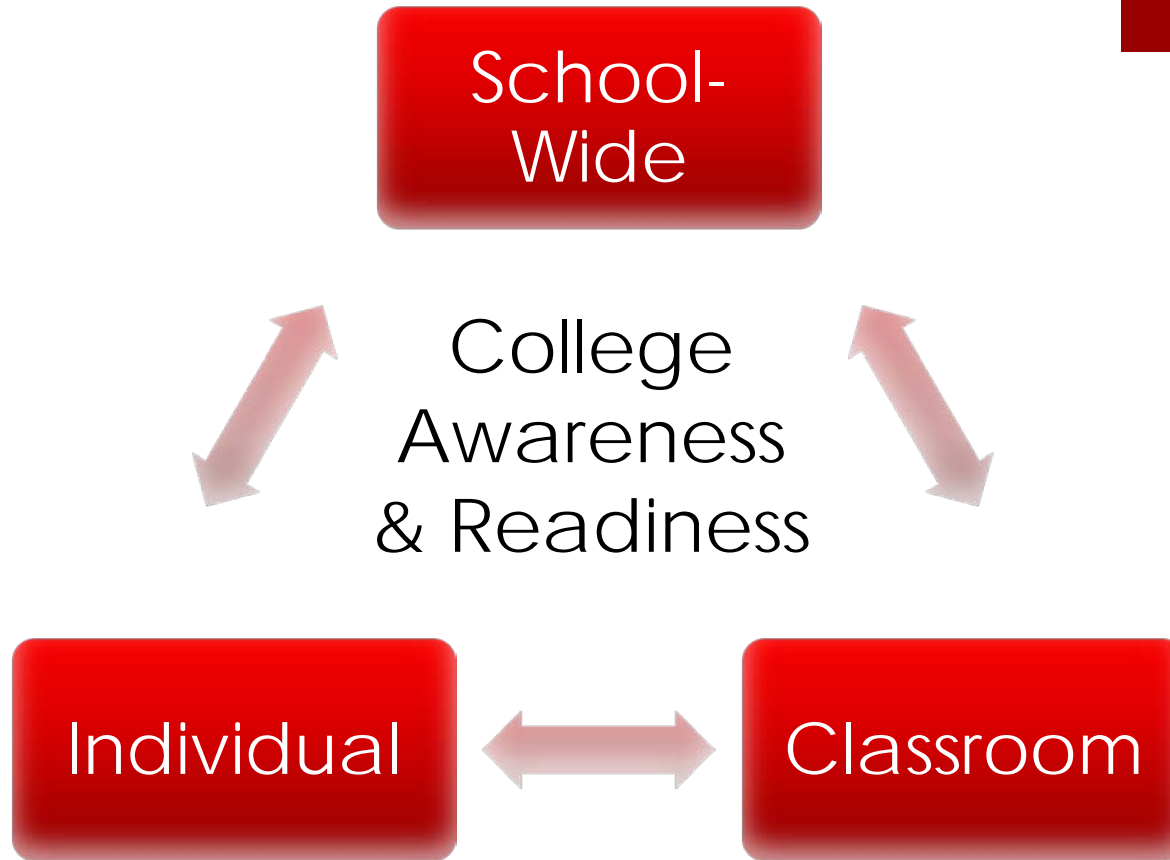


8th Grade - Spring

- **Spring –**
 - course planning for 8th grade
 - study skills presentations in class
 - orientation to accelerated classes
 - Career Day – March
 - College Fair
- **Planned for 2015-16:**
 - 8th grade field trip to a college
- **Career-Cruising:**
 - Students begin to identify potential colleges based on personal preference and academic interests.
 - Online surveys match students with careers and possible colleges.
 - Students analyze a high school transcript and set goals for high school.
 - Students save this work to their portfolios.



High School: College Readiness



High School Overview

■ Individual Events:

- school counselor visits to colleges and universities
- junior and senior individual counseling meetings
- junior and senior parent meetings
- Junior and Senior Planning Guides

■ Classroom Events:

- Freshman Orientation
- mid-year classroom presentations
- ASPIRE/PSAT presentations

■ School-Wide Events:

- College Fair Mondays
- Alumni Panel: former NHS students return to discuss their experiences in college
- financial aid presentations
- field trips to colleges

■ Naviance:

- one-stop shopping for college and career
- freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior tutorials
- parent training workshops

Additional School-Wide Events



- Opportunities for college-level coursework in Math and World Languages:
 - RCC
 - Nyack College
- ACCUPLACER Exam
- Nyack High School course offerings & curriculum:
 - SAT Prep – English & Math
 - College Essay Organizer
 - Rigorous Coursework – AP, Honors, Science Research, etc.

What is the ACCUPLACER?



- a College Board product used to assess College Readiness
- an assessment of all sophomores administered in March via RCC
- untimed, computer-adaptive tests of reading, writing, and math skills
- results delivered instantly to students
- results delivered to NHS include Arithmetic, Algebra, Reading, Sentence Skills, and Writing

SAT Prep/College Readiness Course



- Students are encouraged to take this one-semester course during their junior year or fall semester of senior year.
- pass/fail course
- 0.25 credit
- English and math on alternate days
- Students receive essential, college-level skills and strategies in English and math.
- established, successful program supported by A-List Education
- Students take several full-length SAT tests and receive an individualized score report for each test.

9th Grade

- **August-** Attend Freshmen Orientation to meet your counselor and learn the layout of the high school.
- **September-** Attend the Freshmen Social to learn about extra-curricular clubs and activities.
- **Fall Semester-** Monday Mini-College Fairs during Lunch → Visit the various college tables for information.
- **October-** Attend the College Fair @ Rockland Community College
- **Spring Semester-** Freshmen will be introduced to Naviance, our college & career readiness software program. Freshmen will begin their college search and start building their resume through this program.



10th Grade

- **October/ November-** Sophomores will take ASPIRE (Pre-ACT). This will show the students their academic strengths & weaknesses and where they place on the path to college readiness.
- Counselors will meet with students to discuss their ASPIRE results, enhance their Naviance search queries and college resume.
- **Fall Semester-** Monday Mini-College Fairs during Lunch → Visit the various college tables for information.
- **October-** Attend the College Fair @ Rockland Community College
- **January-** Sophomores will take the Accuplacer; this exam is another indicator of college readiness.
- **January-** Sophomores will meet with their counselors to plan and register for Junior schedules. This discussion includes possibly taking the SAT Prep semester courses that are offered.



11th Grade- Fall Semester

- **Fall Semester-** Monday Mini-College Fairs during Lunch → Visit the various college tables for information.
- **Fall Semester-** Register for your first administration of the ACT and/or SAT.
- **October-** Juniors will take the PSAT (Pre-SAT).
- **October-** Attend the College Fair @ Rockland Community College.
- **December-** The counselors will meet with the juniors to discuss your PSAT results. The scores will be uploaded into Naviance in order to assist you in refining your college search.



11th Grade- Spring Semester

- Review the NHS Scholarship Bulletin.
- **January-** Juniors will meet with their counselors to plan Senior schedules.
- **March-June-** Register for the SAT and/or ACT.
- **March-** Attend the Junior College Planning evening meeting for parents and students. Information will be shared about the college application process.
- **May-June-** Begin asking teachers to write letters of recommendation.
- **May-August-** Write the first draft of your college essay.

Summer Between Junior & Senior Year



- Fine-tune your college choices with your parents & discuss them with your counselor.
- If possible visit the college campuses you will be applying to.
- **August**- Initiate your Common Application.
- Update your college resume.
- Refine your college essay.

12th Grade

- **September-** Attend Senior College Planning Evening Meeting
- **October-** Attend College Planning workshops, Senior/Counselor Town Meetings, and Financial Aid Meeting
- **Fall Semester-** Monday Mini-College Fairs during Lunch → Visit the various college tables for information.
- **October-** Attend the College Fair @ Rockland Community College
- Attend College Open Houses, tours, and consider an overnight visit to a school that you are applying to.
- Review the NHS Scholarship Bulletin & apply to all scholarships that are right for you.



Where have we gone?



... & many more!!