HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING
for
COLLEGE and CAREER SUCCESS
AGENDA

- Why Apponequet?
- Graduation Requirements
- Course Levels
- Grade 9 Courses
- Postsecondary Options
- Explaining the College Admissions Process
- Financing a College Education
WHY APPONEQUET?

- 2017 MASSACHUSETTS COMMENDED SCHOOL!
- Named to the AP HONOR ROLL in 2012, 2013 and 2014 by the College Board for increasing student access to AP classes
- SAT Scores above State and National Averages— Critical Reading 570; Math 580 with 82% participation rates!
- 98% of our students scored Advanced or Proficient on the 2018 ELA MCAS, 92% scored Advanced or Proficient in Math, and 85% scored Advanced or Proficient in Biology
- 70% of students taking one or more of 16 AP exams received a qualifying score (3 or higher) which can equal future college credit
- 348 AP exams will be administered in 18 subject areas in May
- 58% of students in grades 11 and 12 took at least one AP class last year
WHY APPONEQUET?

- New programming to increase opportunities for all students, such as Engineering Technology and AP Chemistry
- Fine Arts requirement for all students, with a variety of classes such as Theatre Arts, Visual Arts classes including Mixed Media Arts and Digital Arts and Photography, Public Speaking, and a variety of Music classes
- Two year World Language requirement
- Emphasis on increased rigor by raising number of credits required for graduation from 110 to 120
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 120 credits
- 4 years of English Language Arts and Math
- 3 years of a laboratory based Science
- 3 years of Social Studies, including World History and US History I and II
- Two years of a World Language
- One semester of Wellness each year
- 2 semesters or 1 full year class in Fine Arts
COURSE LEVELS

- Advanced Placement (grades 11 & 12)
- Honors
- College Preparatory
TYPICAL GRADE 9 SCHEDULE

English 9  (College Prep or Honors)

Algebra I  (College Prep or Honors) OR
Geometry  (College Prep or Honors)

World History  (College Prep or Honors)

Biology  (College Prep or Honors)

Spanish I  (College Prep) or
Spanish II  (College Prep or Honors) or
French I  (College Prep)

Wellness  (College Prep)

Fine Arts Elective  (College Prep)

Academic Lab/Elective
COURSE SELECTION TIMELINE

February 8 - March 6
• Completion of 8th grade recommendation rubrics; math placement tests administered; course selection sheets completed

March 6
• Course selection sheet recommendations returned by teachers to Mrs. Jolly in Guidance

March 11 - March 15
• Grade 8 whole group and small group meetings for students with high school guidance counselors

March 15 - March 22
• Opportunity for parents to speak to teachers/guidance counselors regarding course placements

March 22
• Signed course selection sheets returned to Guidance

MAY 3
• Deadline for Course Level Change Requests
HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

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**APPONICHT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>YEAR REG.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**SAMPLE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>CR</th>
<th>YEAR REG.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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**Once a student registers for a course, this document becomes a contract.**

**Deadlines for Course Selection Sheet return is March 2, 2018.**

**Courses will be scheduled as recommended after that date.**

**Certain courses may be cancelled due to insufficient enrollment or budgetary restrictions.**

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**Student Signature**

**Date**

**Parent Signature**

**Date**

**Counselor Signature**

**Date**

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Proposed Draft 1/12/2018 59
HOW ARE COURSE LEVELS DETERMINED?

Grade 8 Teacher Recommendations
- Current course grade
- Work ethic
- Subject-specific skills

Placement exams for Math, Spanish
- Current course grade
- Course test grades
- Placement exam analysis
HONORS CLASSES

Honors classes move at a faster pace than College Prep classes. While the Curriculum Standards are the same, topics are explored in more depth, and the classwork and homework expectations are more rigorous and demanding.
HONORS CLASSES

Students who are best suited for Honors classes:

- have an outstanding work ethic and consistently earn excellent grades
- are independent, self motivated learners
- enjoy the challenge of utilizing the highest level of critical thinking and problem solving skills
- are able to quickly analyze and synthesize complex information
- have well developed writing skills which will be employed in a demanding writing program across all curriculum areas
- are willing to develop and consistently utilize sophisticated research skills
- have excellent time management skills and are effectively able to juggle a demanding homework load with other outside activities
College Preparatory classes provide a rigorous academic experience that prepares students to transition to a four year college, two year college, the military or to embark on a career pathway. The Curriculum standards are the same as the honors classes, but the pace is slower which allows for more reinforcement of concepts, and the homework expectations are less demanding.
COLLEGE PREPARATORY CLASSES

Students who are best suited for College Prep classes:

- have a good work ethic and earn good grades
- can be prompted, with teacher guidance, to utilize a higher level of critical thinking and problem solving skills
- are able to analyze and synthesize complex information, but at a slower pace and with concept reinforcement
- have writing skills that are still developing
- are able to do grade 9 level research, but have not yet developed the sophisticated research skills needed for higher level coursework
- have good time management skills but occasionally struggle to keep up with homework, especially when engaged in other outside activities
WHAT IF I DON’T AGREE WITH A RECOMMENDATION?

1. Contact your child’s teacher and ask how he/she arrived at the recommendation. The grade 8 teachers are well aware of the curriculum expectations in each subject area at the high school.

2. Talk to your child. Determine if he/she is committed to an increased workload demand and investing more effort into a more rigorous program of studies.

3. Analyze your child’s in school and out of school activity commitments. Will he/she have time/energy for at least two hours of homework each night?

4. If you still disagree with a placement, contact Mrs. Jolly in Guidance and ask for a “Request to Change Level of a Course” Form. These forms are due by MAY 3rd!!!
PLAN FOR COLLEGE WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

- The college admissions process starts the minute your child starts school in September
- A rigorous academic schedule is important, but don't insist your child take courses that he/she is not academically prepared for
- Career exploration is important--make sure your child takes courses in areas that he/she expresses a career interest in
- There is a college or postsecondary option for everyone!
POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

- 4 Year College
- 2 Year College
- Technical School
- Vocational/Trade School
- Military
- Work
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: IS IT STILL WORTH IT?

- 200,000 jobs for workers with at least a Bachelor’s degree were added during the recession.
- 60% of jobs in Massachusetts require education beyond high school.
WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS?
Academic Preparation
Grade Point Average (GPA)
Class Rank
Standardized Test Scores
Extra Curricular Activities
Community Service
ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Exceed the minimum requirements
- Take at least two years of one World Language in high school, but understand that most selective colleges require three to four years of study
- Prepare for a college major by taking as many courses relating to the major as possible
- Don't “take it easy” senior year
- EARN GOOD GRADES!
THE HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

• Year by year listing of all courses and final grades
• Number of credits earned
• Grade Point Average (GPA)
• Class Rank and number of students in class
## Grade: 09 Year: 15-16

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>English 9 Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>World History II Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>French I</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geometry Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology Honors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshman Seminar</td>
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**AVERAGES**: 4.10 30.00

## Grade: 11 Year: 17-18

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<tr>
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**AVERAGES**: 4.18 32.50

## Grade: 10 Year: 16-17

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<tbody>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra II Honors</td>
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**AVERAGES**: 4.10 30.00

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<td>Criminology H</td>
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**AVERAGES**: 0.00

Weighted GPA: 4.56
Rank: Out Of 182
Printed On: Q1, 2018-19
Withdrewn Date:

Guidance Counselor’s Signature & Date

### ACHIEVEMENT  RESILIENCE  HONOR  SELF-ADVOCACY
HOW IS A GPA COMPUTED?

- GPA's are “WEIGHTED”—the number of “quality points” which are used to compute GPA are based on the grade and the level of the course.
- As an example, an “A” earned in an AP course is worth 5.0 quality points; that same “A” in an honors class earns 4.5 quality points and 4.0 quality points in a college preparatory class.
- The final numerical grade for all leveled courses is weighted and then divided by the total number of courses to determine a grade point average.
SO IT MAKES SENSE JUST TO TAKE ALL AP and HONORS CLASSES, RIGHT?

- Good grades are most important. While colleges do want to see students pursue a rigorous program of studies, poor grades in AP/honors level courses NEVER look good on a high school transcript and earn LESS quality points than a “B” in a College Prep class.

- Although most elective classes in the Arts, Social Studies, ELA and Science do not offer honors credit, they provide wonderful and important opportunities for students to expand their interests and explore different career areas.
CLASS RANK

- Academic standing based on number of students in class and weighted GPA's in descending order
- Less important than GPA, as individual cohort groups vary from year to year
STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

• PSAT*
• SAT
• SAT SUBJECT TESTS
• ACT

Understanding that some students do not test well, there has been an increasing trend in college admissions toward becoming “test optional”.

However, many colleges still feel it is the best way to compare student achievement.
EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES and COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Colleges look for a well rounded student
- Number of activities not as important as level of involvement
- Colleges look for leadership potential, so being an officer of a club, leading an activity, or being a team captain is desirable
- Community service with one organization for a lengthy period of time is more meaningful than volunteering sporadically
HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHICH POST SECONDARY OPTION IS BEST?
SELECTIVE COLLEGES

- Ivy League and “Little Ivy's” are the most competitive colleges. They routinely reject valedictorians, expect students to have taken the most rigorous course schedule possible, have perfect or near perfect standardized test scores, innovative community service projects, etc., etc.

- Very Selective schools like Georgetown, Duke, Boston College, Northeastern, BU, Holy Cross, etc. generally require GPA's in the 4.0+ range

- Expect selective schools like Stonehill, PC, Roger Williams, Salve Regina, WPI, etc. to look for GPA's in the 3.6+ range
STATE COLLEGES and UNIVERSITIES

- Most popular options for students given the quality of education and affordability factor
- Generally accept most students with GPA's of 3.0 and above; lower GPA's must have higher SAT scores; no one accepted with a 2.0 or lower
- Universities generally are more competitive
- Certain programs have higher admissions standards: Business at UMA; Nursing; Engineering
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

- Accept all students
- Affordable
- Opportunity to take general education courses at a lower cost per credit hour
- Credits easily transferable to four year colleges
- MASS Compact allows automatic acceptance at state colleges
- Chance to improve skills and start fresh
TECHNICAL and TRADE SCHOOLS, VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- Provide opportunities for specialized career training
- Short term programs
- No general education requirements
- Immediate hands-on experience
- Apprenticeships leading toward professional licensures
HOW MUCH DOES A COLLEGE EDUCATION COST?

- Cost of college has risen more than 1,225% since 1979
- In its most recent survey of college pricing, the College Board reports that a “moderate” college budget for an in-state public college for the 2017–2018 academic year averaged $25,290. A “moderate” budget at a private college averaged $50,900.
- Private college tuition, fees and room and board ranges from $40,000 to $74,000 (100+ US colleges are now over $60,000)
HOW MUCH DOES A COLLEGE EDUCATION COST?

- 2018-2019 tuition and fees at UMASS Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell: $13,921-$15,412; with Room/Board $28,392-$29,187
- 2018-2019 tuition and fees at the MA State Colleges: approx $10,000; with Room/Board approximately $25,400
- 2018-2019 tuition average at MA Community Colleges: $5,800
- Vocational/Trade school tuitions vary; generally $15,000 to $28,000 per year
YIKES! HOW DO PARENTS PAY FOR COLLEGE???

- Fill out the FAFSA and determine what your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) will be
- Grants
- Student Loans
- Parent Loans
- Institutional Grants
- Local Scholarships
- Athletic Scholarships
- Merit Scholarships (Adams Scholarship)
TO GET TO THE HAPPY ENDING, YOU HAVE TO START WITH A GOOD BEGINNING....

- Encourage your child to work hard
- Set realistic expectations
- Make sure your child attends school and is on time every day
- Support your child's involvement in extra curricular activities and community service
- Work together with the school staff to insure your child has a positive high school experience
THE HIGH SCHOOL YEARS PASS BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...

We hope you've enjoyed

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING for COLLEGE AND CAREER SUCCESS