



AIM HIGH PARENT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON EARLY COLLEGE AND CAREER AWARENESS



September Early College and Career Awareness Program at Priory a BIG Success

On September 16 over 130 students and parents attended a special program at Priory on Early College and Career Awareness. Aim High partnered with the Harvard Club of St Louis to plan and present this program to our Achievers. The program was designed to encourage first generation students to think about college early enough to use their high school years as a spring board to a post-secondary education. Topics included Preparation for College, College Match, Career Education, and Entrepreneurship. Presenters came from St. Louis Community College, Washington University, Ranken Technical College, Harvard Club of St. Louis, and Aim High Alumni.

One of the highlights of the morning was “How to Think Like a College Student: A History of Hip-Hop” presented by Dorian Brown, a history professor at SLCC at Forest Park. We wish to thank Mary Seager with the Harvard Club who helped put together this tremendous program for our Achievers.

What follows is additional information from the program and internet resources for you to check out.



Why College or Post-High School Program?

Here are a few reasons to consider attending and graduating from a post-secondary school or program after High School Graduation.

- Every level of education after high school increases the chances you’ll earn better pay.
- The more education you get, the more likely it is you will have many paths to a job.
- College (2 or 4 year) is an opportunity to meet new people and explore your interests; while gaining valuable skills and knowledge for your future.
- College prepares you for a career by providing specialized degrees and resources. This is particularly true in STEM Careers

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT COLLEGE.

- Middle school is the time to get prepared for success in high school and begin building a foundation for a successful college application.

- Preparing for high school in middle school is a great way to prepare for your future, whether it be a 2-year or 4- year college, a technical program or trade school.
- You need to maintain good grades and should participate in extracurricular activities in middle school, you are laying a foundation to succeed in high school and beyond.
 - Maintain A's and B's through both middle and high school.
 - Volunteer for a community service organization. This shows your commitment to your community. Volunteer experiences are increasingly important and can make a difference between admittance and/or scholarship.
 - Tell your guidance counselor that you plan to go to college and ask for their help. They can help you take the right classes, explore your options and fill out applications or go to college fairs.
 - Plan to join a high school college prep program such as
 - The UMSL Bridge Program
 - College Bound
 - Wyman TOPS



**YOU NEED TO HIT THE 9th GRADE RUNNING
AND THINKING ABOUT SUCCESS!**



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL?

- There is time to decide, but not time to wait in excelling in school and doing your best.
- You may have a pretty good idea of what your future will hold. But there are many ways to explore the possibilities.
Take a skills inventory. Missouri Connections Career Awareness offers a web based tool to explore your strengths and interests and what careers are a natural fit for you.
<https://portal.missouriconnections.org/>
- Explore different jobs – requirements, job market, salary level and much more at Missouri Connections website <https://portal.missouriconnections.org/>
- Explore the different colleges that offer your preferred major. (Not all colleges will offer your major. Be sure to look for a list of majors at any college you research before you choose to apply.)

HELPFUL TIPS AND WORDS OF ADVICE!

1. Choose a career that you are passionate and enthusiast about!
2. Ask yourself a lot of why questions about that career and dig deeply to find the answers.
3. DO NOT choose a career that can be replaced by a robot or be outsourced to a different country. Corporations do not care about their employees (in general). They are concerned about making money and their profit line!
4. Talk to others in order to try determining how your likes and skills and society needs intersect. It is important to choose a career path that isn't so limited that there is a tight job market and you may not be able to land a job.

The steps you need to take regardless if you wish to attend Harvard/Princeton or St. Louis Community College.

1. Excellent attendance: as close to perfect as possible.
2. Maintain a high school GPA of 3.5 or better. If available, take AP courses in your strongest subjects.
3. Take 4 years of mathematics; 4 years of English; 4 years of another language (Spanish, Chinese, or Arabic); 4 years of social sciences; 4 years of sciences; available computer science classes.
4. Participate in extra-curricular activities: school-based, church and community service projects, athletics. Document part-time work. Look for internships. Be consistent and try to choose areas that might test particular career interests.
5. Look for youth support organizations like The Bridge and Wyman which will enhance your academic and leadership skills.
6. Take advantage of the free parallel curricula. Go to the museums which are free. Learn to use the libraries and free online resources like Kahn Academy and EDU-X.
7. Start thinking about college/career choices now. Pick a reach college, a sure thing, and one likely. These will probably change during high school but do it.

Financial Considerations

1. College is really expensive. Private colleges and universities cost more than public ones. It is less expensive to stay in your home state. Tuition is less, and you can live at home.
2. Your GPA and your ACT/SAT scores will count a lot toward both your chances of admission and financial aid. Elite private schools want GPAs as close to a 4.00 as possible. ACT scores above 30 out of a possible 38 and SAT scores between 700-800. SLCC needs an ACT of 25 for admission to the Honors program.
3. Missouri state programs like A+ can provide substantial interest-free funding at State schools like SLCC and the Missouri University system.
4. Research private scholarships for your choice. For example, the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholarship available to SLCC students exclusively is a full tuition two-year scholarship at Washington University. It requires excellence.



Technical Colleges vs. Community Colleges and Universities

Today, too many students graduate with big debt, but limited career prospects. Career and technical education is different. Graduates from high-quality technical colleges don't struggle to find jobs— they're in high demand!

There are currently more job openings than workers in most technical careers, and employers recognize the importance of technical education in training the workforce they need. When employers have to compete for skilled talent, there are huge benefits for technical college graduates:

- Higher starting salaries
- More job opportunities to pick from
- Less lag time from graduation to employment

There's great long-term potential, because these labor shortages are expected to continue – or even get worse – for at least the next decade. This means that the value of highly skilled workers will only increase.

Nonprofit vs. For-profit Colleges

So, what is the biggest difference you'll find when you compare for-profit vs. nonprofit schools? Basically, for-profit colleges are businesses. They're owned and operated by other businesses or people who want to make money from the school. Any money made by for-profit colleges from tuition or other fees are paid to the school's shareholders. As a result, other student services, like tutoring, financial aid, career counseling and job placement, become less of a priority at for-profit colleges. Many for-profit colleges are technical colleges.

Nonprofit colleges, on the other hand, are driven by what's in the best interest of the students. They don't have shareholders or stockholders. Technical Schools, like Ranken Technical College, are instead free to focus on programs, facilities and instructors, in order to help students be successful in their professional careers.

The U.S. Senate has a committee dedicated to education – it's called the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee. In 2012, they shared findings after reviewing for-profit colleges and comparing for-profit vs. nonprofit schools. They found that:

- For-profit colleges are more expensive, while nonprofit colleges are more affordable.
- For-profit institutions have to provide adequate financial returns for their shareholders and stakeholders. Making a profit is an absolute priority.
- Non-profit institutions operate independently of an owner structure and are free to focus on providing quality education to students.

When comparing a technical college vs. university education, it's important to consider how likely you are to find a job after earning your degree. Almost half of four-year college graduates find themselves with limited job prospects after graduation, and are forced to take jobs they don't want or that don't pay enough to make up for the cost of that degree. A 2014 report released by the Economic Policy Institute found that almost 17 percent of college graduates under the age of 25 are underemployed, and 8.5 percent are unemployed.

Unlike those students, trained workers with technical skills are in high demand, with plenty of job opportunities and potential for advancement. Starting salaries and job placement rates for technical jobs frequently match or even exceed the starting salaries for four-year degrees.



YouTube Video Links

The Future of Work

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Future+Jobs+in+Demand&&view=detail&mid=98E4CEA33DEF3E05231098E4CEA33DEF3E052310&FORM=VRDGAR>

Preparing for the Future Job Market

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=preparing+for+future+career&&view=detail&mid=8011C1E508CAD33F94258011C1E508CAD33F9425&FORM=VRDGAR>

The 8 Most In Demand Jobs in 2020

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Future+Jobs+in+Demand&&view=detail&mid=363D950315D98071E948363D950315D98071E948&FORM=VRDGAR>

Rankin Technical College Information

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=rankin+technical+college+youtube&view=detail&mid=E6418E0B97A8ABF354F0E6418E0B97A8ABF354F0&FORM=VIRE>

***'Better Futures Begin in the 6th Grade'
Aim High St. Louis***