

PrepTalk™

Advice for Montgomery County Parents and Students on College Preparation • Summer 2001

PrepTalk Preps You for Summer

The school year is coming to a close, but your opportunities for college preparation are just beginning. Whether you're a parent or a student, summer is the time for pursuing activities that enhance college admission applications.

PrepTalk, a joint publication of Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College, provides you with information you can use about financial aid, testing, study skills, time management, and the college planning process.

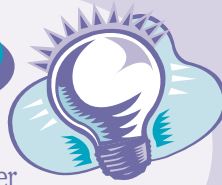
PrepTalk's premier issue, which debuted this spring, met with resounding success.

Make Summer Sizzle

Dr. Jerry Weast, superintendent of schools, and Dr. Charlene Nunley, president of Montgomery College, discuss ways to use summer to your advantage. See page 3 for more information on opportunities for re-energizing this summer including reading, working, and learning.

SuccessTalk

Bright ideas and techniques for better learning and study skills and personal growth.



MoneyTalk

Useful information about the college financial aid process and tips for applying for aid.



TestTalk

What to expect from the various college-prep tests and what scores mean.



The Inside Scoop...

Look for these segments throughout this newsletter to find helpful information for getting ready for college. From taking tests, planning academic schedules, and improving study skills, to paying for college and planning for key deadlines—you'll find it all here.

TickTalk

Deadlines for high school testing and the college planning process.



StraightTalk

Quotes and anecdotes from current MC students who graduated from MCPS high schools.



PrepTalk™

A service of the Montgomery College-Montgomery County Public Schools Partnership

PrepTalk

Q&A: How Can Parents Help This Summer?

I'm the parent of a high school junior....What are the best ways to help my child?



our junior is soon to be a senior, which means it's time to gear up for college applications. Summer is a great time to get ready and do all those things he or she has put off. Here are some things you should encourage your college bound son or daughter to consider:

Prepare for the SAT or ACT

If your student is a self-starter, then a good book and practice tests combined with a well-disciplined schedule should be fine. You can even administer a simulated test by being the timekeeper. If your child needs a little more discipline, then a solid test prep summer course is a good idea.

Visit some colleges

One challenge your child will face is choosing a college. Visiting schools and walking on their campus is a great way to get a feel for schools and their surrounding environment. A fantastic idea is to make a family trip out of the college visit. Traveling

A summer job demonstrates to colleges that your student works hard and can stick to something...

to several colleges and exploring their surrounding cities is a great way to combine a college tour with a family vacation.

Consider a summer job

A summer job demonstrates to colleges that your student works hard and can stick to something that is not necessarily enjoyable. Plus, it doesn't hurt for your child to use those summer earnings toward his or her college savings.

Explore your financial options

Take a look at the costs of college and begin planning how to pay for it. Speak with an accountant, project how much you can afford, and look into financing options. Don't wait until the last minute. The worst scenario would be for your son or daughter to work hard to get into a school only to be told that you can't afford it. **PT**

Source: Gen and Kelly Tanabe, authors of *Get Into Any College* and *Get Free Cash for College*, at www.supercollege.com

TickTalk

Mark Your PSAT™ or SAT® Test Dates



- Fall 2001 PSAT™ test dates:
October 16 (free of charge for MCPS grade 10 students; fee required for grades 9 and 11) and October 20 (fee required for all)
 - Fall 2001 SAT® test date:
October 13; register September 11
- Applications are available at your high school career center or online.

Source: The College Board Web site, www.collegeboard.com

Hit the Fast Track at MC

Students who wish to improve their placement in developmental math courses at Montgomery College may enroll in the Fasttrack Algebra Review course. The course, offered at the Germantown and Rockville campuses this summer, gives students a chance to work on math content and retest for higher course placement.

Germantown Campus

July 30–August 10, 6–8 p.m.
(Course ID: CRN11241)

Rockville Campus

August 6–17, 9–11 a.m.
(Course ID: CRN 11170) or
August 6–17, 6 to 8 pm
(Course ID: CRN 11169)

Call Montgomery College's Workforce Development & Continuing Education Office at 301-279-5188 for information.

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A newsletter for Montgomery County parents and high school students on preparing for college. Produced in partnership by Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College. Please direct queries to:

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Re-Energize this Summer

A Note from the Superintendent of Schools and the Montgomery College President

Students traditionally look forward to the summer as a time to kick back, relax, and re-energize. But re-energizing can be—and should be—more than taking a time out. Indeed, parents and students can use summertime as an opportunity to reflect on career and academic goals, and to plan the next steps toward completing these goals. Many students use the summer months to earn extra money for future college expenses and explore possibilities for financial aid.

Broaden Your Horizons

Summer is an opportune time for learning outside the classroom. You'll gain valuable experience and enhance your college application by trying a new sport or artistic venture, volunteering, attending summer camp, and travelling. MCPS's Summer Search booklet provides more than 300 opportunities for summer enrichment and personal development, locally and nationally. Summer Search is available through the MCPS Department of Communications at 301-279-3391 or TDD at 301-279-3323.

Bridging the Gap

Montgomery College and MCPS also offer a support program this summer for improving reading and writing techniques. The Summer Bridge program, for students who need additional preparation, will ease the transition from high school to college. Summer Bridge, offered at all three MC campuses, is free of charge for MCPS students.

A Novel Idea

Whether you're relaxing at the pool or on the beach, perhaps nothing suits a hot summer day better than reading a good book. Frequent reading greatly improves comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. You can add to your reading enjoyment by forming a book club and selecting a book to discuss with your friends. Reading is a lifetime activity—and a lifetime pleasure. Whatever your summer plans include, we hope you spend your time re-energizing—and reaching your goals.

Have a great summer!

Dr. Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools

Dr. Charlene R. Nunley, President
Montgomery College

TestTalk



Test Drive

In preparation for the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT®), help your child set aside daily time to complete SAT homework and practice. Set up timed, simulated testing conditions for "at home" practice tests. Score the practice tests with your child and discuss troublesome items.

Source: Sherwood High School's Top Ten Tips for Parent Coaches

MoneyTalk



Summer Pay Goes a Long Way

Don't forget about student employment [during the summer or school year] as an alternative for borrowing. Although working at a job can seem like an extra burden, so is struggling with high loan repayments after college.

Source: The College Board Web site, www.collegeboard.com

SuccessTalk



Get Involved This Summer

Getting ready for college isn't all work. Find something you really like doing, then dive into it. You'll develop skills and be more appealing to colleges (they like students who'll add something to campus life).

Source: The College Board Web site, www.collegeboard.com

PrepTalk

Recommended Program of Study for College

As students plan their high school classes, their focus should be on meeting graduation requirements, as well as college admission requirements. The following courses are highly recommended for college-bound students.

English

Four years required for a Maryland high school diploma. Focus on:

- Rules of grammar
- Communication and problem-solving skills
- Writing techniques
- Library research skills

Mathematics

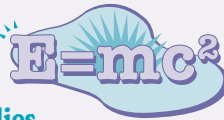
Four years required, including algebra and geometry. College-bound students should also take:

- Advanced algebra
- Trigonometry
- Calculus

Science

Three years required. Recommend three years of lab sciences:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics



Social Studies

Three years required.

- American history
- World history
- National, state, local government

Foreign Language

Minimum three years recommended.

Additional Requirements

Minimum one year required in each of the following course areas:

- Arts and Music
- Technology Education
- Physical Education

Minimum one semester required in:

- Health Education

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This publication provides information on what students should know to ensure their success beyond high school. We hope you'll find it useful and that you'll share your feedback.

Available in alternative format by contacting the MCPS Department of Communications, 301-279-3391 or TDD, 301-279-3323.

For copies of the Spring 2001 premier issue of *PrepTalk*, call Kathy Wessman at 301-251-7250 or Charla Levine at 301-279-3370 or e-mail partnership@mc.cc.md.us.

Montgomery County Public Schools
Montgomery College

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institutions 6/01

StraightTalk

How did high school prepare you for college?



"I feel that high school prepared me pretty well [for college]. I just had to learn to manage my time differently in college than in high school."

Brandon
Col. Zadok Magruder High School Graduate

"I honestly knew I wasn't ready [for college]. Now I am returning to school, and I am ready for the challenge. It definitely is very hard to go back to school."

Melissa
Winston Churchill High School Graduate

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