

# Colleges, Careers, and Other Important Stuff



Caroline High School Junior Class  
Presentation  
Fall 2012



# We will cover:

- Your School Counselor's Role
- Future Choices
- Graduation Requirements
- PSAT/SAT; ACT; ASVAB
- College Search
- Application Process
- Financial Aid
- Decision-Making



# Who is your school counselor? How can a school counselor help you?

Mr. Hutt Williams—last names A-Ci

Miss Felicia Minor—last names Cl-H

Dr. Jennifer Burruss—last names I-Ri

Miss Jenna Pielocik--last names Ro-Z

Mrs. Lorrie Hummer—Career Coach

School counselors provide assistance to students by working with them regarding academics, personal/social issues, and career interests.



# Future Choices

- Four-year college
- Two-year/community college
- Technical school
- Military
- Straight to work



# Graduation Requirements

- See Handout
- What is a “Verified Credit”?
- Advanced Studies Diploma:
  - 24 Standard Credits (including foreign language)
  - 9 Verified Credits
- Standard Diploma:
  - 22 Standard Credits (including sequential electives)
  - 6 Verified Credits
  - *If you need to retake an SOL test, see your school counselor to sign up.*
  - **Join Early College Scholars-Applications are in the School Counseling Office**



# The PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)

- Given Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT
- It measures critical reading, math (including geometry), and writing skills.
- It is **FREE** and offered to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders



# The PSAT contd.

## ■ Benefits:

- Scores are used by the college board to determine nominations for National Merit Scholars Program.
- Taking the PSAT can help prepare you for the SAT. PSAT scores can tell you how you might do on the SAT and can give you detailed information on what to study.



# The PSAT contd.

## ■ Tips:

- Bring a #2 pencil and a scientific or graphing calculator– **THE SCHOOL WILL NOT PROVIDE CALCULATORS**
- **Take the test seriously!** (Any student who distracts other test takers will be escorted out)
- The test is timed– take the practice test!
- Do **NOT** blind guess– educated guessing only!





# The SAT

- The SAT is used by 4-year colleges as a predictor for college success
- Students should take the SAT for the first time during spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - CHS SAT dates: Dec. 1, Jan. 26, March 9, May 4; can be taken multiple times
  - Fee waivers available for qualified students
  - You may register by paper form or online at [www.collegeboard.com/sat](http://www.collegeboard.com/sat)



# The SAT contd.

[www.collegeboard.com/sat](http://www.collegeboard.com/sat)



# The SAT contd.

- Prepare for the SAT!!!
  - Review your answers from the PSAT
  - College Board materials are available in school counseling office
  - SAT prep books
  - SAT Prep Course offered at CHS (registration forms available-starts Oct. 23rd)



# The ACT

- Accepted by all four year colleges
- Based on information you're learning in high school
- Four multiple choice tests: English, mathematics, reading and science
- Can register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)



# The ACT contd.

- Given at CHS—testing dates are December 8, Feb. 9, April 13, June 8; scores can be reported directly to colleges you plan to apply
- Fee waivers are available for qualified students

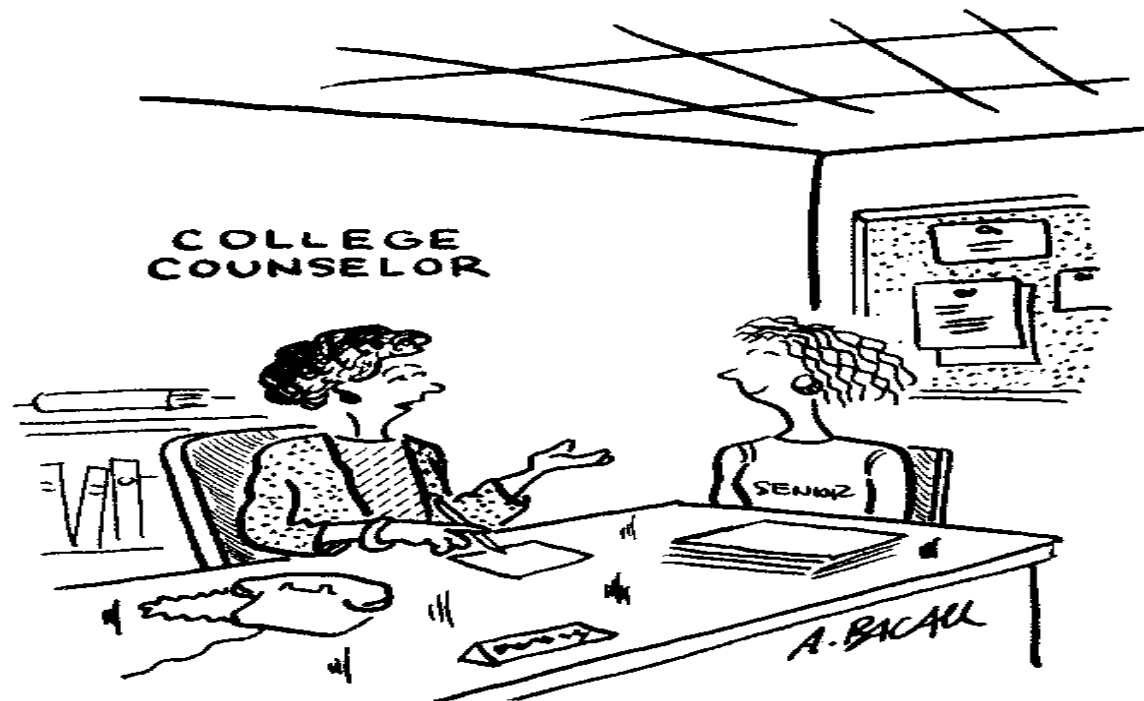


# The ASVAB

- The ASVAB is given to students who are considering enlisting in a military branch
- The next ASVAB date at CHS is November 9, 2012—students can sign up in the school counseling office

# Beginning the College Search

- Talk to your parents
- Meet with your counselor



"You want to go to an out-of-town college so that you can become a self-sufficient, independent person. On the other hand, you want to be near enough to home so that you can bring your laundry home?"

(Cited in Nieuwenhuis, 1997)



# College Search

- What you can do RIGHT NOW:
  - Virginia Wizard [www.virginiawizard.com](http://www.virginiawizard.com)
    - Practice site for the SAT, ACT and ASVAB
  - Explore resources
    - Books
    - Magazines
    - Recruitment Publications
  - Search the web: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
    - <http://www.collegeboard.com>
    - <http://www.petersons.com/>
    - <http://www.search4college.com>





# College Search

- Consider the following when searching:
  - Cost
  - Size
  - Majors available
  - Location
  - Selectivity
- Bring your ideas to your junior counselor meeting (after the holiday break) where you will discuss:
  - How many credits you have so far
  - Your GPA to date
  - Your SOL status
  - What classes/SOLs you will need to meet your diploma goals
  - Career goals and college ideas

# College Search

- As you approach your senior year:
  - Take virtual tours
  - Arrange campus visits
  - Utilizing school field trips
  - Narrow down the number of potential colleges to 3 to 6.
    - Reach
    - Good Match
    - Safety





# Application Process

- Research application deadlines
  - Regular decision
  - Early decision/Early action
- Request recommendation letters and transcripts (allow two weeks)
- Be sure you have taken the SAT and have scores sent to colleges
- Apply online



# Area College Websites

- 1) Virginia Commonwealth U [www.vcu.edu](http://www.vcu.edu)
- 2) Mary Washington U [www.umw.edu](http://www.umw.edu)
- 3) Virginia State U [www.vsu.edu](http://www.vsu.edu)
- 4) Randolph Macon College [www.rmc.edu](http://www.rmc.edu)
- 5) Germanna Community Coll [www.germannna.edu](http://www.germannna.edu)
- 6) J. Sargeant Reynolds [www.reynolds.edu](http://www.reynolds.edu)
- 7) Virginia Tech [www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu)
- 8) University of VA [www.virginia.edu](http://www.virginia.edu)



# Financial Aid

- FAFSA form

(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Stay informed of scholarship and federal student aid options
  - Scholarship Flyers (visit the School Counseling Dept.)
  - <http://www.fastweb.com/>
  - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>



# Financial Aid contd.

[www.fafsa.ed.gov.com](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov.com)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)



# Decision-Making

- You CAN BE in control!
- Which diploma do I want to earn?
- Will I take the PSAT?
- Will I register for the SAT during 11<sup>th</sup> grade?
- When will I begin to search for colleges?
- Will I research application deadlines?
- Will I fill out the FAFSA and/or apply for scholarships?

*The decisions you make now can affect your future options!*