



Morris County
Vocational School District

Junior Parent Night Q & A

Thursday, November 19, 2020
6pm

Agenda

- ❖ Welcome
- ❖ Answers to submitted questions
- ❖ Additional questions (if time permits)
- ❖ Wrap up



Marisa

Question: What is the difference between the SAT's and SAT subject tests?

Answer: The SAT tests general knowledge and critical reasoning, the SAT Subject Tests are designed to measure knowledge in specific areas, such as biology, history, French, or math



Tracy

Question:When does CCM start in August and when is the summer orientation?

Answer:

CCM has not released their 2021 Academic Calendar as of yet. Orientation takes place in August, with several dates to select from.

The Fall 2020 Semester began on Sep. 9 this year. In 2019, the Fall 2019 Semester began during the last week in August.



Tracy

Question: Which classes other than the requirements are available to seniors at CCM?

Answer: Other than the core requirements, students will need to seek approval to take additional core-academic coursework to be included in the sponsored MCVSD's 24 credit allowance.

If student is paying out of pocket, without dual-credit HS transcription, students may take whichever courses they please through the CCM Challenger umbrella as a 'visiting high school student' program.

If a course is not on our pre-approved list for sponsored credit, then students must submit a request for approval & provide rationale.



Tracy

Question: What are the academy-specific courses at CCM for health care students?

Answer:

Gen Bio

Gen Chem

A & P I

A & P II

Approved CCM Courses for Seniors 2020-2021 Per Academy

Academy Program	Course I	Course I	Alternate	Alternate
Finance & International Business	ECO 211 Principles of Macroeconomics	ECO 212 Principles of Economics II (Micro)	BUS 213 Business Law I	MKT 113 Principles of Marketing I
Law & Public Safety	CJS 116 Introduction to Criminology	CJS 221 Criminal Law and Procedure	SOC 120. Principles of Sociology	
VPA Multimedia	MED 113 Multimedia II	MED 210 Digital Video Editing	CMP 108 Game Design Concepts	PHO 115 Photography I
Computer & Information Science	CMP 233 Data Structures & Algorithms	CMP 230 Computer Architecture & Assembly Language	CMP 239 The Internet and Web Page Design	CMP 244 Web Page Design II or CMP 170 Mobile App Design
Culinary Arts	HOS 100 Serv-Safe Food Handling & HOS 101 Introduction to Food	HOS 103 Food Production	t.b.a.	t.b.a.
Health Care Science	BIO 102 Anatomy & Physiology II	BIO 121 General Biology I	CHM 125 General Chemistry & CHM 126 Gen Chem Lab (4 cr)	
Sports Medicine	BIO 101 Anatomy & Physiology I	HES 111 Introduction to Exercise Science	BIO 121 General Biology I	BIO 102 Anatomy & Physiology II
Design	ART 122 Drawing I	ART 130 Two Dimensional Design	DSN 115 Basic Drafting	DSN 135 Fashion Construction Technology I
Veterinary Science		BIO 121 General Biology I	BIO 127 Biology of Environmental Concerns	BIO 122 General Biology lab
Education & Learning	CDC 110 Early Childhood Development	PSY 113 General Psychology	PSY 213 Child Psychology	PSY 116 Psych & Ed of Disabled
VPA Dance	By Teacher Referral			

Additional Approved CTE Courses for Academies:

COM 104 Interpersonal Communications COM 109 Speech Fundamentals CMP126 Computer Applications (all but CIS students)
CMP128 Computer Science 1 (all but CIS students) BUS 112 Introduction to Business (all but FIB students) ACC 110 Elements of Accounting (all but FIB students)



Marisa

Question: Is math a requirement or not?

Answer: Three years of math are required in order to graduate high school in the state of NJ. We recommend 4 years for several reasons: One, it helps keep a rigorous senior year schedule, and two, it is highly likely students will need math as college freshman - to take a year off is a detriment to placement testing and you could wind up taking (and paying for) a lower math as a freshman in college



Athena

Question: What is Senior Capstone?

Answer: This is a required course for seniors who stay on campus senior year that challenges them to further develop and apply critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills they have acquired during the past three years to today's world. This course is designed to empower students to identify and create solutions to real-world problems by providing opportunities to research, explore, and solve current issues, and present their findings to an authentic audience.



Marisa

Question: Are SAT/ACT tests offered by MCST?

Should they be taken independently?

Answer: SAT & ACT tests are taken at a location chosen by you
- usually your home district. MCST is not a designated SAT or
ACT testing center.

Yes, they are taken independently on separate days.



Ashley

Question: Where is the SLE presentation?

Answer: There will be a separate presentation with an opportunity for Q&A at a later date.

For specific questions related to SLE, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Bedell or Ms. D'Orsi



Tracy

Question: What is the best way to research foreign colleges?

Answer: With regard to pursuing post-secondary studies internationally, line up your academics using the guidelines on the *College Board* website

The *Institute for International Education* (www.iie.org) provides a list of accredited universities with links designed to prepare & advise the overseas student.

Reach out to each university and ask if they have student ambassadors you can speak with *in addition* to the International Admissions Counselor.



Ashley

Question: How do I know if the schools my child is applying to are appropriate?

Answer: The “Scattergram” portion of naviance which will use the students GPA and previous test scores to give a good estimate compared to other students from our school. You can also find out under the admissions tab in Naviance what is most/least important to schools.

*It is also worth noting that if a student is applying to a specific program within the school, these statistics are not represented on the scattergram.



Ashley

Question: When can students begin applying for scholarships? How many should they apply for? Please explain scholarship websites in greater detail and provide the websites.

Answer:

- Two great websites: Going Merry and Fastweb.
- NEVER PAY FOR A SITE!
- Students should apply to as many scholarships as possible.
- Save essays and cater them toward the scholarship they are applying to. Some are very easy to apply to, and others are more involved.
- Scholarships are also listed in naviance and sometimes emailed to students.



Jen

Question: Where can I find a list of schools appropriate to apply to for students who graduated from my academy?

Answer: Every student is different and has unique grades, situations, needs, etc. It would be a good idea to make your own list of colleges based on criteria you choose rather than going off of what others did. Just as you would not apply to a school just because your friend did. Additionally, not all students in every academy decide to keep with their intended major. We do not supply lists of colleges applied to by academy.

When researching schools, use Naviance and Collegeboard as a starting point for making your own list.



Athena

Question: Can I get a list of 7/8 BS/MD programs?

Answer: Your counselor during your junior conference can help with this information.



Jen

Question: Worrying about transferring credits only applies if you don't intend on finishing the associates at ccm?

Answer: I believe the question being asking is: Will my CCM credits transfer to CCM if I matriculate and get my associates at CCM- Yes. All your credits transfer. Talk to your counselor if that is your plan so you take the appropriate classes.

ON THAT NOTE: QUESTION: Will my CCM credits transfer to colleges when I graduate from high school?

- Please visit NJTransfer.org, where you can find all course equivalencies for all NJ colleges/Universities and the County College of Morris.
- Shows every course at CCM and where it will transfer in NJ.
- Outside of NJ, there is a possibility that some colleges will not take some of the credits, but in our experience, most, if not all, credits do transfer.
- Harder to transfer credits to accelerated programs- keep in mind.



Athena

Question: With all that's going on how are we planning on going about taking any of these tests? (placement, SAT, ACT, etc.)

Answer: Testing continues to be difficult and unpredictable in the current climate.

Accuplacer: We are working with CCM - more info to come

SAT/ACT: continue to monitor college board and ACT websites for up to date information on test dates etc.



Ashley

Question: With the college application process how exactly is the information transferred from one school to the next?

Answer:

- Students send application through either common app, directly to the schools website, or by mail.
- Materials from MCST (transcript, school report, letters of recommendation) are sent straight through naviance regardless of how you are applying.
- There are step by step instructions given to you at your Junior Conference and are available on our guidance website.



Jen

Question: If attending CCM for the associates when should you actually apply to other colleges?

Answer: If a student is looking to continue at CCM for a second year to complete an Associates degree, the student would work with CCM's transfer counseling department to apply to 4-year colleges. The student should reach out to receive services as soon as he/she is matriculated into CCM (after senior year) to plan for applying in the future. The timeline will be different for every student, depending on their course choices and major.



Tracy

Question: Should you still apply for fafsa senior year?

When would a person submit the FAFSA/financial aid forms?

Answer: Yes, always complete a FAFSA ~ even if you don't think you would qualify for any financial aid.

The FAFSA application opens October 1st. It is recommended families fill out the application sooner than later. Align the FAFSA submission with the Admissions application deadline to be safe.



Ashley

Question: Where do we find exactly which textbooks and supplies needed to be purchased?

Answer: All of the information needed will be included in each class syllabus.

Tip: Don't purchase any books until the first day of class as there will be books listed you will never use!



Tracy

Question: How involved is the school with the colleges we go to? As in, will they check with the college about our grades, will we visit college counselors (as opposed to the MCST guidance department), etc.?

Answer: Mrs. Amedeo is the Grade 12 Options College Partner Liaison, who connects the two worlds together in advocacy and communication, linking comprehensive counseling services.



Tracy

Question: What topics in English and Math will the Accuplacer be covering?

Answer:

- Reading (20 Questions)
- Writing (25 Questions)
- Arithmetic (20 Questions)
- Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, & Statistics “QRAR” (20 Questions)
- Advanced Algebra & Functions “AAF” (20 Questions)
- WritePlacer (1 Written Essay) *CCM will provide their own essay topic & expect a well written, classic, five-paragraph essay in response.



Jen

Question: Where can we find our unweighted GPA (4.0 scale)? Is the gpa we see in Genesis weighted?

What is the weighted and unweighted GPA out of? (4? 4.3?)
i.e. what is the highest GPA possible to obtain at MCST?

Answer: GPA's, Weighted and Unweighted are located in the student's Naviance portal. It is also located on the student's transcript, which can be provided to the student/parent by the student's counselor. Each student will receive a transcript during their individual junior conference.

Unweighted GPA is on a 4.3 scale, weighted GPA is on a 5.3 scale. The highest possible GPA varies by academy however the highest possible weighted and unweighted GPA for the class of 2020 is 4.85 and 4.26 respectively.



Tracy

Question: The Accuplacer NextGen test:

- Is it for math placement for *all* classes in Senior year regardless of where you take math (MCST or one of the college options)?
- When the students are applying to colleges their Senior year (for admission in fall 2022) will they receive those scores, too?

Answer: All Seniors interested in the Grade 12 Option must 'Accuplace' as this is the test metric used by most colleges around the country for college-course placement. If a student chooses to send their Accuplacer score to add to their college application portfolio, they may; however, it is not a piece of the college-application snapshot.



Tracy

Question: CCM application: All student will need to complete this, and then do additional one(s) if interested in programs elsewhere (e.g., FDU, Ramapo)?

Answer: Yes, all Grade 12 Options begin with the CCM application. Should a student choose to go to Ramapo, the next step will be to complete the required Ramapo application as well. **Note: these are not traditional undergraduate applications~ no essays, no letters of rec; just demographics & contact information.*



Athena

Question: Are the current seniors able to do their internships this year?

Answer: Yes, students are completing their internships, however, it does look quite different than it has in years passed. The number of hours is reduced, remote internships are being approved and there is an online component using a platform called Career Essentials. The SLE coordinators are currently working on the process for the class of 2022 and will have a separate presentation/Q&A.



Marisa

Question: Are the internships listed on the transcripts?

Answer: Internship is listed as “Structured Learning Experience” on the transcript for which students receive 5 credits and is Pass/Fail. The specifics of the internship are not described on the transcript. It is further described by the student in their college applications and/or the counselor letter of recommendation.



Jen

Question: My son is not scheduled to take SAT until March. As far as reach/target/likely schools, we can only go by GPA at this point. Is that a good indicator to determine reach/target/likely?

Answer: GPA is one of the best ways to start a list, but it is important to look at the school's admission websites and see what they are looking for in a potential candidate. While many schools do look strongly at GPA, most look at everything the student has done in high school: activities, work, leadership, awards, course rigor on transcript, etc. Students can also look at past PSAT scores for an idea of what score they might have on an SAT/ACT or take a practice test.



Marisa

Question: Is it strongly recommended to take additional courses at college your senior year to make sure course load is rigorous enough? (I understand I will be paying additional credits) If so, can his counselor recommend courses?

Answer: It is strongly recommended to take advantage of all 24 credits that MCST pays for. You have the ability to take a rigorous schedule this way, or by perhaps adding an additional course. It looks different for every student and every family, so definitely talk about this with your child's counselor during your junior conference.



Tracy

Question: Is it more likely for colleges to accept credits from Ramapo vs CCM?

Answer:

The courses you will be taking are “General Education” courses at the 100 or 200 levels. Both institutions yield courses with favorable transferability. We advise students reach out to the transfer admissions counselors at prospective four-year colleges for definitive answers.



Marisa

Question: I understand the students schedule their own courses. Is it common and possible for the students to schedule courses with their friends from school? I am concerned because the students did not have much of a high school in person social experience and now I plan on sending my son to college.

Answer: Scheduling classes with other MCST students is definitely possible. I can't say how common it is or is not, but I think it's fair to assume students intentionally schedule classes together.



Marisa

Question: I understand there is a website for NJ to see if college credits will transfer, if you want to check with out of state schools do you call admissions?

Answer: Yes, every school has a different policy so you should call the admissions offices directly for their specific dual credit transfer policy.



Tracy

Question: Accuplacer Next Gen test prep is recommended. How should students prioritize this test prep compared to PSAT/SAT test prep?

Answer:

Both exams are written by the College Board and will have similar format & content knowledge. The Accuplacer is an “achievement” test, measuring curriculum mastered. Studying for one, is studying for them both.



Ashley

Question: Have there been any instances in the past where CCM academic schedules conflict with MCST sports schedules? For example, class goes until 4, but practice starts at 3:30.

Answer: If you are involved in after school activities - clubs, sports, etc. - try to schedule classes before the end of the MCST school day. It is usually easy to avoid missing after school activities. It is rare but possible you may need a night class to avoid that scenario.



Jen

Question: Colleges are test-optional right now... is it still recommended to take standardized tests anyways?

Answer: This is a tricky question-(Test-Optional/Test Blind)-It all depends on the student and where the student is applying. From the feedback I have received from colleges so far, it seems that most will evaluate a student without a score and that will not hurt the student at all. But, if the student submits a score, the school will look at it. OR Test-Blind schools will NOT look at any scores, even if submitted.

It never hurts to have a SAT/ACT on file- if the student can do well (this varies by what each school is looking for). If you think it will help you get in, send the score. If not, DO NOT SEND IT. What about merit aid?- Schools are still working on it. Call the school's admissions office.



Marisa

Question: What is the essay prompt for colleges (the one that we start during summer)? Or is it a free-write?

Answer: The prompt(s) are determined by the college but Common App, which almost everyone completes, offers several prompts for students can choose from. They are typically the same each year and can be found at the below link. They typically confirm the prompts sometime in February/March. Certain colleges may require additional essays or personal statements and will determine their own questions and prompts for these. Pay attention to each individual application even if you are completing the Common App.

<https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>



Tracy

Question: Do the 3 absences in a college course include excused absences? Or are those acceptable?

Answer: Professors & departments will vary on their attendance policies and for some, an absence is an absence, regardless of medically excused documentation.



Athena

Question: Do the 3 absences for college visits include excused absences? Or are those acceptable?

Answer: Yes, these are considered excused absences. However, we also recommend you take advantage of your school breaks (winter, spring, summer) to visit college campuses.

*Professors & departments will vary on their attendance policies and for some, an absence is an absence, regardless of medically excused documentation.



Ashley

Question: Is the transcript that will be submitted to colleges complete once junior year concludes? Or does a part of the Senior Year transcript also get submitted?

Answer: Since students apply to college the fall of senior year, the high school transcript shows final grades in years 9, 10, and 11, along with the cumulative GPA at the end of junior year.

Most schools will request a mid-year transcript with senior year grades and an updated list of 12th grade classes **MEANING COURSE RIGOR IN 12TH GRADE IS IMPORTANT!**



Tracy

Question: Will the PSAT juniors will be taking in January suffice when applying to CCM or any other schools for 12th grade or does they need to have an actual SAT or ACT. Is the spring an appropriate time take those tests?

Answer: In 2020, our college partners developed “Multiple Metrics” to establish college-readiness. For 2021, those discussions are taking place right now. When decisions are made, we will let you know.

Important to note: Placement *begins* with the Accuplacer Math and English exams. SAT/ACT scores have been used in the past to waive the need to take the Accuplacer for College Algebra/English Comp I placement.



Tracy

Question: For animal science-the choices of CCM, Centenary and WPU-where can I get a better idea of their course schedule/choices specifically for his academy to compare them.

Answer: Course schedules for Fall 2021 are typically released by universities in early April.

All courses begin with the foundational Biology / Environmental science course. Details will be provided as we receive them from our college partners.



Athena

Question: Expanding the colleges you are working with was it more to give students more options as far as driving distances from home? Trying to determine why I would choose one school over another if the decision is based on Academy program.

Answer: Our expansion is to provide more options to students including colleges and universities that can provide robust academy specific courses. The decision to choose one school over another should be made thoughtfully and carefully with your school counselor and based on the individual needs of your child and family.



Jen

Question: Why can't the senior year experience/ curriculum include a hybrid of MCST and one of the selected colleges?

Answer: Absolutely it can. Students can take their academics at one of the colleges and take their academy class or EMT (for those specific academies) at MCST. We cannot allow a mix because scheduling does not allow for it. For example, if CCM classes are three days a week and MCST classes are A & B day, how can the student manage both? It just is not realistic.



Athena

Question: How many times should you take SAT's ? Since the testing is being cancelled how will the admissions work as they student may not have test scores

Answer: 3 is the general recommendation. Colleges and Universities are working with students with an understanding that test scores are not available. Many schools have waived test scores or have gone test optional. Things will continue to change as we progress through our current climate.



Marisa

Question: The virtual visits are not as thrilling for my teen. Do you think the next best thing is to make appointments with college reps

who come to MCST? Will there even be anyone there with the current health crisis, before June?

Answer: I would encourage calling the admission offices and talking to a rep. See what they recommend and if they are offering any kind of in person experience. They will not be on our campus as far as we know.



Ashley

Question: Supplemental info and demonstrated interest in applying to schools can you elaborate?

Answer:

- Supplemental info might include an additional essay question, a portfolio, a YouTube channel, etc.
- Demonstrated interest includes reaching out and making connections with the college admissions office. This could include emails back and forth, college visits, etc.



Marisa

Question: What is the common app exactly and what do colleges use in lieu of this?

Answer: Common App is a universal application used by hundreds of colleges. You fill it out once and can send it to any number of schools. In lieu of CA you may be able to fill out the school's individual application if they offer one, or you might see Coalition app or Universal app. No one application is better and colleges do not care which you fill out. Sometimes if you fill out their app (if offered) you might get an application fee waived!



Athena

Question: Why can't you go to the college that is closer for you? I assume all colleges have course work in all the academies? Is it possible for Design Academy students to take courses at FDU or at any of the other colleges other than CC

Answer: Approving colleges for each academy is a well thought out process facilitated by our Assistant Superintendent and Deans and department chairs of our partner colleges and universities to ensure appropriate and robust coursework for our students. We will continue to expand our offerings. FDU is only available to Business Finance students at the current time.



Thank you for Participating!

The MCST School Counseling Department remains committed to supporting your families through this process during these unprecedented times.

Your Junior conferences will give us the opportunity to work with you and provide individualized information and guidance to help you plan for senior year. Any remaining or unanswered question can be addressed at that time.





Thank you and
stay safe!