

FACT OR FICTION

- FICTION - Just passing your classes is enough to get into college.
- FICTION Your grades only in 11th and 12th grade count.
- FACT If you want to have choices and options for college, you should shoot for a 3.0 GPA. (that's A's and B's on semester report cards)
- FICTION College is too expensive. (there is plenty of financial aid available, you just need to know where to look)
- FICTION You have to know what career you want to have before you can go to college.
- FICTION 30% of current Hispanic 6th graders in HISD will graduate from College.
- FACT 18 out of 100 9th graders will finish college in less than 6 years.
- FACT Students who graduate from a four-year college earn an average of **\$33,200** more a year than high school dropouts. Over a lifetime, that's an extra **\$1.4 million** in earnings!
- FICTION Preparation for applying to college begins your Junior year.

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THE SECRETS I WISH MY PARENTS KNEW ...

- Getting ready for applying to college starts NOW.
 - Look up colleges you're interested in
 - Look up their Freshmen profile (this tells you what the average SAT score and GPA were for students who got accepted)
 - VISIT colleges TODAY!
 - Visit HBU, Rice, Baylor, UT, Texas A&M.
 - These visits are FREE and give you A LOT of useful, important information
- Grades, grades, and grades
 - Grades on semester report cards COUNT!
 - They count in your GPA (grade point average)
 - Colleges look at this to see how prepared you are for their school.
 - The higher the GPA, the more choices you have, the more FREE MONEY you get to go to college
- The SAT...
 - This test is taken usually in the Spring time of your Junior year
 - 2 main sections → Math and Verbal
 - You must prepare TODAY!!!!
 - Know your vocabulary! (historically, this is the hardest section for us as second language learners)
 - Not only should you memorize your vocab. Words in English, but you MUST start using them on a daily basis
 - Read more challenging books → this way, you are exposed to the more difficult vocabulary words
 - Read the newspaper → these are well written, and give you a broader understanding of the vocabulary words that you are learning in class
 - Parents → Make sure your child is reading for at least 30 minutes per night
 - Average YES SAT score → 1030, good but not great. You want to shoot for a 1200 or higher!
- Extracurricular Activities
 - These are the "extras" that make you stand out from the rest of the crowd

- Join athletics, colt camp, student council, ambassadors, Yblazers
- They show colleges that you are a well-rounded student
- What do I do as a parent?
 - Your role is VERY Important!!!
 - You need to push your child to start preparing
 - Tell him/her to go to college websites and get information
 - Take your child to visit different colleges, starting now
 - Have them study vocabulary
 - Make flashcards and sit down with them to quiz them
 - Make them read challenging books and newspapers
 - Encourage your child to take rigorous, challenging course.
 - Take AP classes
 - Pass the exam, and save money in college
 - Even if you get a B in this type of class, it looks better than an A in a regular course.
 - Research has shown: the more AP courses a student takes, the more likely they are to graduate college
 - MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS AT SCHOOL EVERYDAY!
 - They can't learn and be prepared if they are not here!
 - If they miss too many days, they will not get credit for the course

HOW ELSE CAN YOU HELP?

- Set limits on bed time. If they have adequate sleep, they will be MORE FOCUSED the next day
- Help your student get out the door on time each morning.
- Get to know the teachers and counselor/advisor and encourage them to let you know if there is a problem, and work with them to solve it.
- Make sure to get a copy of your teen's report card at the end of each marking period.



Parent Conference Sheet

