How Will You Prepare?
Career Portals
Presentation Notes
The Adventure Starts Here

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ARE YOU.....

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What do you think this means? Discuss.
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Regardless of whether you are planning to go to college or not – you MUST be Career Ready if you plan to sustain yourself in the future.
Why should you care? Discuss
To get an idea of possible future pathways you can:
- take classes you like
- select and stay on track for your pathway
- get college and/or career ready

Idea: Have a small panel of 3 - 5 seniors (they do not necessarily need to be at the top of their class either) and the high school counselor on hand for a Question and Answer session. High school seniors can sometimes give more insight on this subject to their peers.
ACT: A college readiness assessment/standardized test for high school achievement and college admissions in the United States. Assess your general educational development and ability to complete college-level work, covering four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The writing test, which is optional, entails writing a short essay and measures writing skills and planning ability [http://act.org/](http://act.org/)

Advanced Placement Courses (AP): High school courses taught on the level of a college course

Class ranking: A mathematical summary of a student’s academic record as compared with other students in the class

Introduce and discuss terms and definitions. Students can create a personal dictionary and develop their own definitions for the terms.
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Grants: Money to help pay for college costs, awarded to you by colleges; federal, state, and local governments; and private sources; that you do not have to pay back and is awarded based on financial need.

Letter of recommendation: A letter recommending you for a position, written by someone who has knowledge of your skills and competencies and has an advisory or supervisory role.

SAT: A standardized test for most college admissions in the United States. It takes three hours and 45 minutes and tests your critical reading, writing and math skills. [Link](http://sat.collegeboard.org/home)

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Scholarships: Money to help pay for college costs, awarded to you by colleges; federal, state, and local governments; and private sources; that you do not have to pay back. Scholarships are awarded based on merit (such as outstanding academic achievement, demonstrated talent, or athletic ability) or involvement (such as membership in an organization or ethnic group, or employment in a company).

Transferable Skills: Skills that are important in order to succeed in any workplace but that are not specific to any particular job. Instead, these skills can be transferred from one job to another.

Transcript: A written record of your achievement in high school. It includes the courses you have taken, the grades you have earned, certain standardized test scores, awards or special achievements, and your attendance record.

Introduce and discuss terms and definitions. Students can create a personal dictionary and develop their own definitions for the terms.
Have a short open-ended discussion with students about how each listed skill pertains to reaching personal academic and career goals. Or, divide the class into groups and assign each group a skill to brainstorm about how it relates to academic and career goals. Question: What other skill(s) can be added to this list?
When you select a career, it generally falls into one career cluster and a pathway. The pathway is intended to keep you on track to reaching your career goals. The pathway has specific courses that give information and experiences about the career. The end result is for you to be ready to attend some form of post-secondary education (2 or 4 year college, trade school, training) or start your career. We will focus on three specific career clusters – Education and Training, Hospitality and Tourism and Human Services.
In the Education and Training Career Cluster you will find careers related to education such as teaching and training, administration and support staff members. Each of these careers require different post-secondary educational paths (2 or 4 year college, trade school, training) or you may begin your career immediately.
<table>
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<th>Programs of Study by Career Cluster</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality and Tourism</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Restaurant and Food/ Beverage Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lodging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Travel and Tourism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Recreation, Amusements and Attractions</td>
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In the Hospitality and Tourism Career Cluster you will find careers in restaurant and food/beverage services, lodging, travel and tourism and recreation, amusements and attractions. Each of these careers require different post-secondary educational paths (2 or 4 year college, trade school, training) or you may begin your career immediately.
In the Human Services Career Cluster you will find careers related to consumer services; counseling and mental health services; early childhood and development services; family and community services; and personal care services. Each of these careers require different post-secondary educational paths (2 or 4 year college, trade school, training) or you may begin your career immediately.
Principles courses are the "stepping stone" classes that progress to other classes you’re interested in and help prepare you for specific careers in that pathway. Within these clusters, students can learn specific skills necessary for upper level classes, college and careers.
No matter which career cluster and pathway you choose, the result is the same – preparation for college and career readiness.
Preparation for college and career readiness begins now – whether you believe you are preparing yourself or not. Actively preparing yourself for life beyond high school begins by setting realistic, attainable goals, both academic and personal. It also involves choosing academically challenging classes, maintaining good grades, becoming involved on and off campus and exploring your career interests. If you are not actively doing these things, then you are not preparing yourself for life beyond high school.
Your Turn! Write down your ideas for review:
- Turn to a partner and discuss the following:
  - How can setting goals now help me in the future?
  - My future goals include… (think short and long term)
  - How can I be sure I’m being challenged in my classes? Does this mean extra work for me?
  - How can I become involved in extracurricular activities?
  - How can I explore careers that I am interested in?

Ask students to discuss these questions. Make sure they write the answers to ensure a full discussion. If you have an interactive notebook, this is a great assignment to put in it.
QUESTIONS?
RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Images:
Microsoft Office Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Websites:
- ACT
  ACT Policy Report: College Readiness Begins in Middle School
- ACT College and Career Ready
  The Forgotten Middle http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/ForgottenMiddle.pdf