

# ALL ABOUT COLLEGE...

**SMART Block**

# WHY NOW?

- Middle School is a time for learning and exploration
- You're developing social/academic skills and study habits that prepare you for high school, college, and beyond
- Building a foundation for success in the future

# WHY NOW?

- Beginning to determine
  - Which classes interest you (*not just core classes*)
  - Your favorite extracurricular/after-school activities
  - How you spend your free time/weekends
  - This **ALL** factors in with what you (think you) want to **study** in college, the **type** of college that interests you, the type of **environment** a college has, etc.
- **How you improve yourself now will increase your chances of getting into the college of your choice.**

# WHY NOW?

- Colleges look at every grading period of your high school career, *but almost never middle school.*
- This doesn't mean middle school "doesn't count."
- Focus on developing habits that'll help you do well in high school from day one.
- How well you do in your classes **NOW** will impact how well you do in your HS classes next year.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO 9TH GRADE

- 9th Grade is an exciting opportunity, both academically, socially, and personally
- Opportunity to explore additional areas and interests
- Challenge yourself academically, socially, mentally, emotionally
- Beginning of high school brings more talk about college and your future

# WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK AT?

- Overall grades
- Class rank
- College prep courses & types of classes
- Test scores (SAT, ACT, SAT Subject tests, AP)
- Personal Essay
- Extracurriculars
- Interest in the college
- Special talents/abilities
- Leadership positions and abilities
- Letters of Recommendations (from teachers/counselor usually)
  
- Which of these is most important??

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

- ONE application that can be used for many different colleges/universities
- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

# WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

- Plan Your Study Time
  - Stick to a schedule and avoid distractions!
- Keep a Calendar
  - Keep track of everything you need to be doing!
- Review Before and After
  - Review your class notes regularly.
- Get the Hard Stuff Out of the Way First
  - Prioritize assignments



# WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

- Study in Groups
  - Study buddies can explain points you may not understand.
- Don't Procrastinate!
  - Don't wait to the last minute to do what you have to do.
- Get help if you need it!
  - Attend appropriate SMART Block sessions; attend tutoring; ask your teachers for help.

# WHAT CAN I DO NEXT YEAR?

- Keep building your student skills
  - Stay organized
  - Study in advance & avoid procrastination
  - Plan long-term projects/assignments out in smaller chunks
  - Prioritize
- GET INVOLVED IN SCHOOL
  - Clubs, sports, organizations, leadership opportunities, volunteer, etc!

QUESTIONS?

SEE ME!

EMAIL ME!

MODULE 2: LESSON 8

# MYTHS

THE MEDIA HYPE &  
MYTHS ABOUT COLLEGE APPLICATIONS