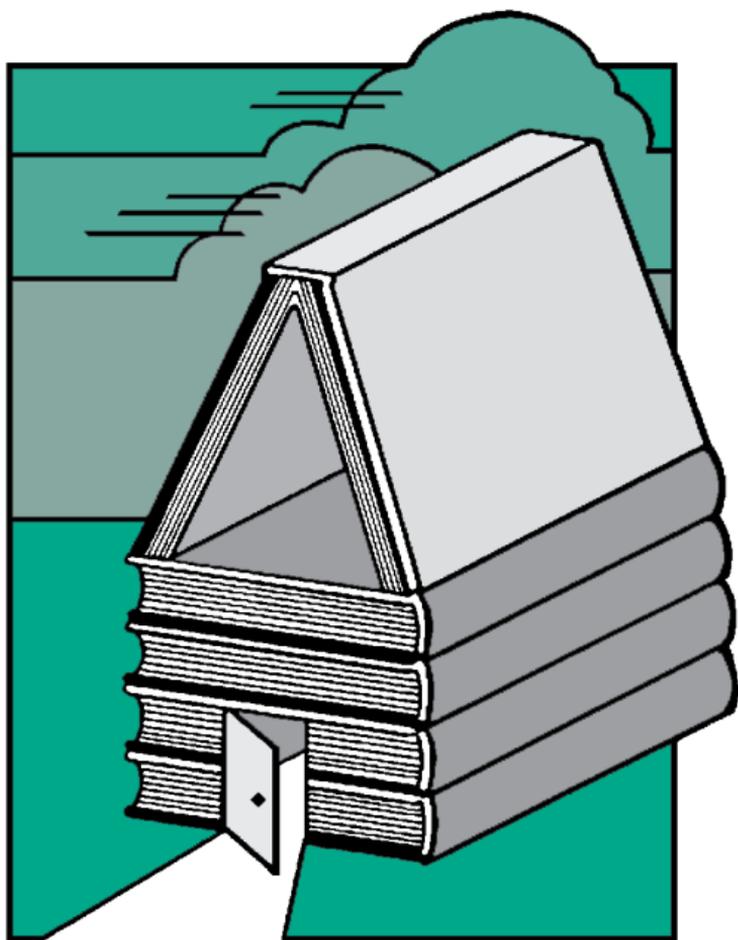


*Ensure Future Success ...  
Build on a Solid Foundation*



# *College Guide for Parents of Freshmen*



**TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE



If you require assistance while visiting a District 211 school, please contact the principal's office.

For individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, please access the following TTD/TTY telephone number: (847) 755-6654.

# The Right Direction

As a parent, you want the best possible future for your children. Today, an ever-changing panorama of college and career choices is available to young people. Planning may begin during the freshman year.

This brochure will help you and your student to begin exploring their options and opportunities.

4-Year Colleges  
and Universities



Technical and  
Vocational  
Schools



Community  
Colleges



# Starting Out

## What should my student do during high school years?

- Learn good study habits.
  - Concentrate on improving reading and writing skills. These are the most important and basic skills needed for a successful and fulfilling future.
  - Concentrate on attaining a firm foundation in mathematics (minimally through Algebra 2).
  - Take advantage of courses offered in English, mathematics, science, social science, and foreign languages. Colleges expect a student to take a minimum of four core academic courses in each high school term.
  - Use the EXPLORE test to assess personal academic strengths and career interests.
- 

## As parents, what is the most effective role for us right now? What can we do?

- Express an interest in what your teenagers are studying. The courses your students take and the grades they now receive affect what your students can do after high school.
  - Encourage self-reliance. Empathize with your students as they face difficulties. Support their ability to cope and help them come up with positive solutions. These efforts help produce a stronger individual who is more capable of handling college demands.
  - Together with the counselor, help your student select courses and develop a four-year plan.
- 

## How do we determine which courses our student should take in high school?

- Use the chart in this brochure as a guide as you choose courses for each year.
- Talk with your students about their future goals. Use the EXPLORE test results.
- Help them relate skills and evolving interests to careers. Use Career Cruising ([www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com))
- Recognize that the high school experience pivots around the process of self-discovery and independence.
- Share how your own choices affected your path toward your present position or role.

## How do we begin?

- Keep and use this guide to insure that your students are enrolled in appropriate courses.
- Encourage your students to take the most challenging courses they can handle. This will provide greater flexibility in future college and career choices.
- Encourage your students to study. Provide a place and limit distractions.
- Support school activities. Attend parent nights and talk with teachers and counselors.

Each District 211 high school maintains current information and testing to help with college and career decisions. College and Career Consultants in each school work with counselors to provide supplementary support for students when appropriate. You are encouraged to utilize these facilities.

## Concerns About College Costs

Deciding to attend college and selecting a college are important decisions for a family. College costs continue to escalate. Aid available to the “*middle class*” has diminished in recent years. Some funds are available, but you must plan ahead to receive them.

---

### What is financial aid?

Financial aid is money provided from sources outside the family to help pay for educational expenses at either a four-year college or university, a community college, or a vocational school.

---

### How do we qualify for financial aid?

The majority of financial aid for education is awarded based on the demonstrated **need** of students and their families. Education costs are regarded as a family’s responsibility. A federal formula determines how much a family can afford to contribute. The aid for which each family is eligible is the difference between college costs and this assigned contribution.

Federal and State of Illinois grants and loans and university funds are available for this purpose.

Some “*merit based*” funds for education may result from a student’s special talent or skill or may come from a parent’s organization or corporate affiliation.

---

All families may participate in “College Illinois,” which allows the prepayment of college tuition to lock in favorable rates ([www.collegeillinois.com](http://www.collegeillinois.com)).

## Some Extra Help

In college planning, parents and students may wish to take advantage of the many resources available at District 211 schools:

- Students and parents can access the Internet from home or through their school to search for college, career, and scholarship information.
- Check your high school’s web site to find helpful college, career, and scholarship links.
- College guides, catalogs, and other reference materials are located in each school’s Student Services Department.
- Many universities mail pamphlets and guidebooks directly to high schools. Colleges and universities also make their information available on the Internet and will mail brochures to students’ homes upon request.
- Each high school offers different programs designed to help parents and students understand the college selection and financing process.
- Counselors are trained to offer assistance to families about colleges.

# Recommended Guide for Academic Preparation

## Types of Programs

Academic  
Areas

District 211  
Graduation  
Requirements\*

Community  
College Career  
Programs,  
Vocational Schools

4-Year Colleges  
and Universities,  
Community College  
Transfer Programs

Highly  
Selective  
Colleges and  
Universities

ENGLISH	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years: Emphasis on written and oral communication and literature	4 Years
MATHEMATICS	3 Years One year must be a 300-level course	2 Years	3-4 Years: Recommended Algebra Geometry Algebra 2 Trigonometry	4 Years: Recommended through Calculus
SCIENCE (laboratory sciences)	2 Years	2 Years	3 Years: Recommended core areas: Biology Chemistry Physics	4 Years: Recommended core areas: Biology Chemistry Physics
SOCIAL STUDIES	2 Years U.S. History Social Science Survey or equivalent	2 Years	3 Years: Emphasis on history and government (requirement varies)	3 to 4 Years
WORLD LANGUAGE	1 Year or Vocational Education/Fine Arts	None Required	2 Years **	2 to 4 Years
FINE ARTS			1 Year of fine arts is required at some out-of-state universities	
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION			2 Years: ** May include courses in: Applied Technology, Art, Business Education, Family & Consumer Science, or Music	1 Year Fine Arts Recommended

\* Additional District 211 requirements include: Health, Consumer Education, Driver Education, 4 years of Physical Education, and 6 other academic credits.

\*\* World Language courses and one or more years of fine arts courses may be required by colleges or universities. State-supported universities in Illinois **may** accept vocational education or fine arts courses in lieu of World Language. Check with a counselor for details.

The chart above compares the academic expectations of various post high school opportunities available to graduates. It is intended only as a general guide. **Colleges expect a student to program at least four core academic subjects into each year.** These college preparatory subjects are: English, world language, mathematics, science and social studies. Highly selective institutions require greater numbers of these core academics.

Counselors act as resource people but many specific questions are better directed to the college or university admissions staff. **Final admissions decisions are always up to the colleges.** Admission criteria usually includes academic courses, grade point average, and class rank as well as the student's scores on standardized admissions tests (ACT, SAT Reasoning).

## For More Information ...

### **Palatine High School**

1111 N. Rohlwing Road • Palatine 60074-3777  
(847) 755-1600  
[www.phs.d211.org](http://www.phs.d211.org)

### **William Fremd High School**

1000 S. Quentin Road • Palatine 60067-7018  
(847) 755-2600  
[www.fhs.d211.org](http://www.fhs.d211.org)

### **James B. Conant High School**

700 E. Cougar Trail • Hoffman Estates 60169-3659  
(847) 755-3600  
[www.chs.d211.org](http://www.chs.d211.org)

### **Schaumburg High School**

1100 W. Schaumburg Rd. • Schaumburg 60194-4150  
(847) 755-4600  
[www.shs.d211.org](http://www.shs.d211.org)

### **Hoffman Estates High School**

1100 W. Higgins Road • Hoffman Estates 60169-4050  
(847) 755-5600  
[www.hehs.d211.org](http://www.hehs.d211.org)

### **G.A. McElroy Administration Center**

1750 S. Roselle Road • Palatine 60067-7336  
(847) 755-6600  
[www.d211.org](http://www.d211.org)



## TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211

*"Building the Future, One Student at a Time."*

1750 South Roselle Road  
Palatine, Illinois 60067-7336  
Telephone: (847) 755-6600  
Web Site: [www.d211.org](http://www.d211.org)