



**COLLEGEBOUND
FOUNDATION**

To College. Through College.

College Connection

RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT Tests

Register by 9/9
Test Date 10/1

Register by 10/7
Test Date 11/5

ACT Tests

Register by 9/16
Test Date 10/22

Register by 11/4
Test Date 12/10

NSSFNS College Fair

9/30
Coppin State University

PSAT TEST DATE

10th and 11th Graders
10/12

Elijah Cummings

"How to Pay for
College" Seminar
10/17, 5pm - 8pm
Enoch Pratt Free Library
Central Branch

NACAC College Fair

11/7-11/8
Convention Center

NCAA Seminar

12/10, 9 am—1 pm
Notre Dame of Maryland
University

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A message from your CAPS

I hope your summer break was a blast. I am Nakia Green, your new CollegeBound College Access Program Specialist (CAPS) and it is with great pleasure that I join your educational community. Seniors, I look forward to assisting you in your transition from a high school senior to a college freshman. Within the span of a few months, you have many critical tasks to complete:

- Take or retake the ACT or SAT this fall
- Complete college applications by the Thanksgiving Break
- Research financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- Complete the FAFSA by February 15, 2012

You are to be commended on your accomplishments thus far, and there is an entire village standing behind you to ensure you finish high school on a high note and move on to a college or university of your choice. Juniors, I look forward to working with you to keep you focused on the college access process. Please keep in mind the importance of this year. Take care and stay focused!



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Make Your Own Top Ten List

It's hard to believe that when you choose a college, you have the possibility of 3,500 two- and four-year colleges and you'll have just one to attend. Here are some tips on narrowing down your choices and making your own Top Ten list to work with.

- Think about how colleges differ: Four-year, two-year, number of students, location, tuition, majors offered, type of school, and student activities. What's important to you?
- Visit different types of schools so you understand what it's like to be on a campus with 5,000 or 25,000 other students or what it's like to be in a small town.
- Narrow down colleges by how close or far away they are from home, average student GPA, even majors offered. If you know what you want to study, finding a school that offers a strong program in that major

can be more important to you than the prestige of a certain school.

- Make your college visits when school is in session. Visit a classroom, talk to professors and students, eat in the cafeteria, stay in a dorm room – experience the college. CollegeBound Foundation's one day tours are free and Specialists have a comprehensive list of fall open house events, overnight visit opportunities and fly-in programs.
- Take charge of the search. Work with your parents, counselor or CollegeBound Specialist as a team, but lead the effort, take responsibility, and determine what would be the best choice for you.
- Be realistic. Use your time wisely and look only at colleges you think you would really want to attend.

What Questions to Ask at College Fairs

- Does the school have a liberal arts, technical, or pre-professional focus?
- What percent of freshmen return for their sophomore year?
- What sort of extra-curricular activities are offered?
- What types of facilities are available for drama, music and athletics?
- What types of career advising and support services are offered?
- How are financial aid needs met?
- What types of jobs or graduate and professional schools do most students enter upon graduation?

CollegeBound's College Application Sticker Program

There are rewards for maintaining excellence attendance and grades. CollegeBound Specialists have college application fee waivers for seniors who maintained a 94% attendance rate in their junior year or are ranked in the top 15% of their class. These college application fee waivers may be used for most four-year colleges and universities in Maryland and over 130 out-of-state institutions.

Great opportunities for student athletes!

Fall College Fairs

Attending a college fair provides students an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the college admission process, learn what scholarships are offered and narrow down the list of colleges that fit their needs. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

NACAC College Fair

Baltimore Convention Center
November 7th, 9 am - 1 pm & 6 - 9 pm
November 8th, 9 am - 12 noon

NSSFNS College Fair

Coppin State University
September 30th, 10 am - 1pm

CollegeBound Foundation College Fairs

- Nov. 14: Digital High School, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Northwestern High School, 11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15: Carver Vo-Tech High School, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Reginald Lewis/W.E.B. DuBois High Schools, 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Nov. 16: Vivien T Thomas Medical Arts Academy, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Augusta Fells Savage Visual Arts Academy, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17: Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Edmondson Vo-Tech High School, 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.
- Nov. 18: Heritage High School, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Baltimore Freedom Academy, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Upcoming College Tours

A college tour is like a window-shopping trip for the college bound student -- an unofficial first step in the increasingly rigorous admissions process. CollegeBound provides students an opportunity to participate in one-day college tours at no cost and overnight tours for a modest fee. Tour participants will meet with admissions and financial aid staff; shadow college students in classes, dorms and dining facilities; and become empowered to make informed decisions about selecting a college.

One-Day Tours:

- October 4th—University of Maryland Eastern Shore & Salisbury University
- October 5th—Frostburg State University
- October 6th—Bowie State University & Capitol College
- October 19th—St Mary's College of Maryland
- October 26th—Gettysburg College
- November 2nd—Anne Arundel Community College & School of Art and Design at Montgomery College

See your CollegeBound Specialist for comprehensive list on fall college open house events, overnight visit opportunities and fly-in programs. Most are free, but may require pre-registration. You are encouraged to arrange for individual college visits on one of the following days this fall when there is no school for students:

- September 13th
- October 21st
- November 8th

NCAA Workshop

CollegeBound will host a NCAA Athletic Workshop on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Notre Dame University of Maryland. This workshop is designed to help middle and high school students and their parents understand the eligibility requirements for NCAA grants-in-aid as well as understand the nuances relating to practice and competition at the collegiate level. This free event has limited seating. Please contact your CollegeBound Specialist for registration information or contact Keysha Fearon at 443.677.7769 or kfearon@collegeboundfoundation.org.