

**Helping Middle
School Students
Begin their College
Exploration Journey**



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The Why, Who, When, How, & Now What of MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE EXPLORATION

1. WHY? → **2. WHO?** → **3. WHEN?** ↷

4. HOW? → **5. NOW WHAT?**



1.



WHY?

WHY College Exploration in Middle School?

My Why



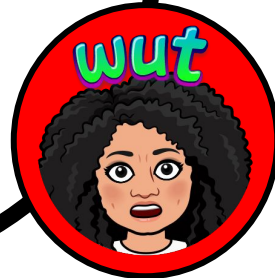
A marine biologist from Harvard?!



Educationally Adequate



Relevance is Key!



What's a GPA?



WHO'S
IN?

2.

WHO is a part of middle school college exploration?

The School Counselor

Where do middle school counselors learn about college?

Conference Session
Audience: High School Counselors = Middle School Counselors!
School Counselor Vertical Teams
Network. Ask Questions.



The Students

6th, 7th, 8th... does it look different?

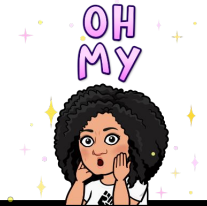
School-Wide Initiatives
Advisement
Counseling Class Lessons
Individual Counselor Decisions



Other Stakeholders

Admin, Teachers, Parents/Guardians... Oh My!

All Staff in School-Wide Initiatives
Parents/Guardians
Content Teacher Links



3.

WHEN



WHEN Do We Talk College in Middle School?

EVERYONE



Every student should know that they are "college material!"

EVERYDAY



There are many moments every day to talk about the future!

EVERYWAY



Talk about college in different ways. Different students will resonate with different approaches.

4.

HOW



HOW do we do it?



Goal Setting
Small Groups &
Advisement



**Reach Higher
Week**
Post-Secondary
Awareness Week
(began with 2
ideas)

**RH Week + Google
Expeditions**
Expanding the college
exploration
opportunities during
Reach Higher Week



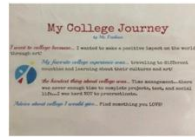
STEAM Night
How can school
counselors
contribute to STEAM
learning?

Flint Project
8th Grade
Counseling
Lesson year
long project

Reach Higher Week

PREP for Reach Higher Week

- **Getting College Swag**
 - Email Admission Offices and/or recruiters
 - Summer is best
- **Getting Info from Teachers**
 - Use Google Forms
 - Easy for teachers to complete
 - Not a lot of emails
 - Creates a spreadsheet
- **Used For**
 - Pennant signs by doors
 - My Post Secondary Journey Posters



Materials Needed & Cost

Free:

Pennants (asked for from colleges)

Poster board, construction paper, lamination for signs (school's supplies)

Prize bag goodies (from colleges)

Paid for:

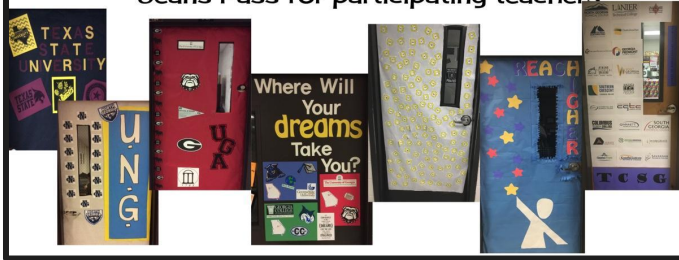
Tri-fold boards for media center display (1 time cost)

Gift card for grand prize (1 each year)

Reach Higher Week

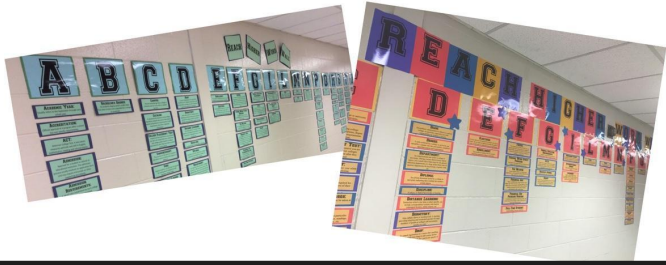
FFMS Reach Higher Week

Teacher Door Decoration
Jeans Pass for participating teachers



FFMS Reach Higher Week

Word Wall



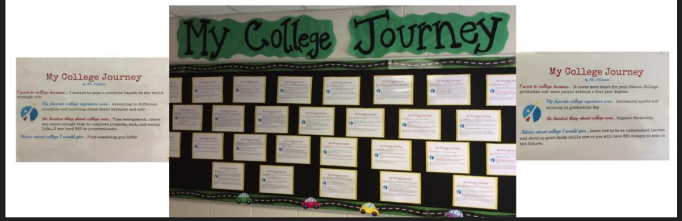
FFMS Reach Higher Week

Pennant & Poster Display w/ QR Codes
Fact Finding Sheets
Reach Higher Grand Prize Drawing



FFMS Reach Higher Week

My College Journey Bulletin Board



Reach Higher Week

FFMS Reach Higher Week

Media Center Biographies Display
Used list of Biographies in Media Center



FFMS Reach Higher Week

- ❖ Daily Announcements
 - College Fight Songs as intro/exit music for morning announcements
 - Trivia questions
 - PowToon Videos
 - Reach Higher Lingo Bingo
- Trivia or Bingo winners get prize bag with college swag



FFMS Reach Higher Week

Wall Displays



Reach Higher Week

Google Expeditions



STEAM Night



STEAM Night

BACK TO THE FUTURE

CRACK THE CODE

“Your future is whatever you make it, so make it a good one.”
~ Doc Brown, Back to the Future III

virtualjobshadow®
interactive career exploration

Step 2

AKS
ACADEMIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
7TH GRADE
2018-19 COMPLETE AKS

Student Plan of Study – Law Enforcement Services/Forensic Science

Digital Forensics Analyst

Law Enforcement Services/Forensic Science

SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY

C4C
counselors for computing

Other Opportunities to Help Explore College

College Planning:

Big Future: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

eCampus Tours:

<https://www.ecampustours.com/for-students/college-planning.aspx#.Yldw-pNKj8E\>

Road Trip Nation Career Finder:

<https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder>

Education Quest:

<https://www.educationquest.org/8th-10th-grade-students/getting-started/>

College Tours:

You Visit: <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/\>

Campus Tours: <https://campustours.com/>

eCampus Tours: <https://www.ecampustours.com/campus-tours.aspx>

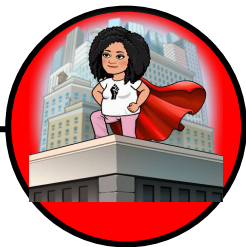


5.

NOW WHAT



So Now...WHAT do you do? WHAT is the next step for you?



What do you already do?

What do you already do (class lessons, small groups, advisement, etc.) where you can add in college exploration?

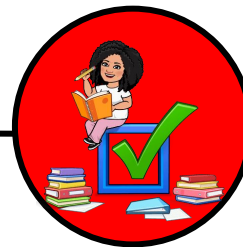


What ONE school-wide initiative can you do?

What is ONE thing you can do school wide around college exploration?

Make it fun!

Then build each year.



What already exists?

What other initiatives (beyond the counseling program) already exist at your school? How can you add in college exploration?



What's a new idea?

What is that idea you've been sitting on or just learned about? How can that fit into your program?



Questions?

