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Dear Parents/Guardians,

SAHS does a lot to encourage student self-awareness so they can connect their skills and interests to logical career pathways. Developing an understanding of self and thinking carefully about relevant careers enables students to understand the importance of their high school education and the potential future educational requirements connected to specific careers. Although SAHS does a great deal, students benefit much more when parents and other mentoring adults communicate with kids about their career interests and the importance of post-secondary education. Ongoing discussions about these topics at home are important, and summer is an excellent time to discuss and investigate careers. Also, summer is the ideal time to visit colleges and help your student explore where they can further their education.

Be advised that SAHS encourages students to explore career, college, and financial aid awareness at collegeboard.org. Collegeboard.org provides a one-stop exploration platform called BIG FUTURE. Students can find very detailed information about these topics and for simply using the platform, students become eligible for a weekly \$500 scholarship and a \$40,000 annual scholarship. Other good methods of investigation include the on-line [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#): <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/> for career exploration, financial aid information/scholarship awareness at: <https://www.famemaine.com/>, and going to any college in-person or homepage for virtual tours and detailed college information.

It is never too soon to begin dialoguing with your student about the future for career and post-secondary learning opportunities. **However, parents of juniors must urge their student to get busy investigating and supporting them in their future planning process now.** College-going students will be completing admissions applications as early as the first of October, a few short months from now. Investigating, comparing, and creating a strong list of colleges to apply to is a process that cannot wait! It is also a very good time for anybody interested in the military to contact recruiters to learn about the opportunities the various branches of the military can provide. Those who are planning on entering the workforce should be encouraged to use time in the summer to explore the local job market and to begin developing a strong resume, cover letter and employment portfolio.

High school students need to understand what their opportunities can be, investigate their options to make common sense goals, and spend time comparing all possibilities. Adolescents need adults, especially their parents to urge them to tackle this process. Please encourage your student to get focused on this important objective and help them be ready for life after high school.

Please contact your student's guidance counselor if you have questions.

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