Supporting Your Scholar Through Course Selection: Junior Year and Beyond
* Why talk about course selection?
* Registration procedures
* What are graduation requirements
* The importance of planning the next two years
* What are colleges looking for?
* Honors vs. AP and off-campus classes
* Considering electives/languages
* When challenges arise
* Considering Electives
  * Consider these as an opportunity to showcase student’s passions and interest, or future career interests
  * Just because graduation requires only a certain number of courses doesn’t mean a student can’t exceed that (i.e. more than two years of a foreign language, extra science and math)
  * We recommend electives in these three areas:
    * World languages
    * Arts (theater, art, sculpture, music, band, etc.)
    * Extra academic courses (extra math, science, literary courses that are not required for graduation)
Course Selection:
* How involved are you?
* How has the process been for you?

Registration Procedures:
* According to Julia Royal, School Counselor at Cummings High School
  * Career Cruising (new name is Pathfinder) to register students online
  * Each high schools’ registration dates will vary some, but should be coming in February/March.
* EA information from advocates:
  * Western and Southern: Began this week
    * Southern offering the opportunity for families to meet regarding course selection and interested parents should contact school counseling office
  * River Mill: @ April 14th, at the earliest
* Course registration materials are given to students in advance
* Students are encouraged to speak with their family, current teachers, school counselor
* EA recommends scholars set an appointment via email with school counselor
* School and EA recommend most rigorous courses available to them for which they are prepared
* Each high school will have their own plan for how registration will go, but all students will input their course selections into Career Cruising and will be given a Course Sign Off sheet that they must take home to get their parents/guardians to sign. This sheet will list the students’ course selections and the parents can discuss with the counselor if they have any questions about it.
* Graduation Requirements
  * [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/home/graduationrequirements.pdf](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/curriculum/home/graduationrequirements.pdf)

* Plan for junior AND senior year to be sure that you meet all requirements and can fit in all your desired courses and electives (some higher level courses may only be offered certain semesters each year)

* Be aware of pre-requisites (your course guide and/or school counselor are your best resources)
What are colleges looking for?

- Core subjects each year (math, English, social studies, and science)
- At least two years/classes of the SAME foreign language is a minimum (check your potential schools for requirements)
- A challenging/rigorous course schedule vs. straight A’s (even senior year)
- That a student made the most of their academic environment/took advantage of the opportunities available to them
* Honors Vs. AP (Advanced Placement)
  * Honors: Level of expectation will help to prepare you for college
  * AP: Workload and expectations similar to college
  * Expect increasing workload per level

* When do we recommend honors or AP?
  * If you have an A or B in a CP level of a prerequisite course and you have an honors level available at the next level, then it is Highly Recommended that you “bump up” to an honors level
  * If you are making an A or a B in an honors level course then you should consider signing up for an AP level of the course.
  * If you receive a C in an honors course, but have plans for improvement or feel more comfortable with a certain section of a subject (Algebra vs. Geometry) you may consider staying in the honors course
A few more notes about AP classes:

- How many AP classes can you, and should you take in 1 year?
  - It depends on the student. The first time that a student is taking an AP course, it is recommended that they only take one AP course. After that, two per semester is ideal (4 per year).

- What are AP exams and why should students take them?
  - If a student takes an AP course exam and receives a grade of 3 or higher out of a 5 point scale then they can receive college credit (usually exempting them from one course) and not have to take as many courses to graduate from college.
  - AP courses are less expensive than college courses so if a student passes the AP course exam then it’s a “cheaper” way to start “chipping away” at college requirements.
  - Fee waivers or reductions are available and students should see their counselor as early as possible to discuss this.

- Should my student take an AP class just to boost their GPA?
  - The short answer is No. AP courses should be taken only in subjects where the student has clearly demonstrated the ability to perform well (i.e. they were receiving A’s or B’s in the Honors level) AND they have the desire to complete the extra work associated with an advanced course.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Level</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Prep</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Selection**
* College classes off campus
  * NC Career and College Promise out of Alamance Community College (ACC) for Junior and Senior year
  * Tuition FREE!!
    * Be a high school junior or senior.
    * Have a weighted GPA of 3.0 or higher on high school courses.
    * Demonstration of college readiness in reading, writing, and math on a state-approved assessment test.
  * [http://www.alamancecc.edu/admissions-site/career-and-college-promise/](http://www.alamancecc.edu/admissions-site/career-and-college-promise/)

* Junior Year:
  * College Writing at Elon

* Senior Year:
  * Collegiate Start @Elon
    * [www.elon.edu/collegiatestart](http://www.elon.edu/collegiatestart)

*Course Selection*
When Challenges Arise/Other Helpful Hints:
* You and your student should have adequate time to consider schedules and should not feel rushed or forced into any schedule choices or classes
* Please consider the student’s past performance as choices are made and consult the school counselor or EA for recommendations
* There is no ABSS policy that states that schedule changes cannot be made until the start of a student's semester
* Students are encouraged to talk to their school counselor as soon as they discover they want to change their schedule and persistently and respectfully advocate for changes
* Parental advocating may be useful if schedule conflicts arise

Course Selection