

SMART STEPS TOWARD COLLEGE AND CAREERS

In 6th through 12th grade, students begin to take education into their own hands. However, parental support is more important than ever. Make sure your child understands the resources available and the importance of education. Push them to take challenging courses like Advanced Placement, Dual Credit and advanced math. Let your child know you care about his or her future by talking about college, internships and careers. Talk to them about experiences and opportunities that benefit them in college and in a career choice.



MIDDLE SCHOOL: 6TH – 8TH GRADE

ADVANCED READING GOALS

- Read at an advanced level
- Meet the required 25 book standard by reading books of different genres and at their individual reading level as specified per grade level
- Score proficient or advanced in communication arts on the annual M.A.P. test each year

MATH GOALS

- Score proficient or advanced in mathematics on the annual M.A.P. test each year
- Pass Algebra I with a “C” or better
- Pass the E.O.C. (End of Course exam) by the end of their 8th grade year

Ask questions. Set up a meeting with school staff. Also, encourage your child to use available resources and help from teachers. Middle school is a time to explore different interests. Use our 1-to-1 technology-rich environment to explore technology and learn about future careers.

6TH GRADE GOALS

- Pass 6th grade Mathematics with a grade of “C” or better

1050+
LEXILE SCORE

**Proficient
or Advanced**
M.A.P. TEST

7TH GRADE GOALS

- Pass Pre-Algebra with a grade of “C” or better

1100+
LEXILE SCORE

**Proficient
or Advanced**
M.A.P. TEST

8TH GRADE GOALS

- Pass Algebra I with a grade of “C” or better

1150+
LEXILE SCORE

**Proficient
or Advanced**
M.A.P. TEST / E.O.C. EXAM

WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

- Communication Arts (reading and writing)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies (Geography, History, Government)
- Foreign Language
- P.E. / Health
- Art, Music, Technology
- Participation in extra-curricular activities such as tutoring, clubs, robotics, academic interests and sports teams

HIGH SCHOOL: 9TH – 12TH GRADE

FRESHMEN

Freshmen will take a college and career readiness course to help them navigate their high school course of study and plan for future college and career choices.

MATH: 4 YEARS

Mathematics coursework emphasizes college preparatory algebra and other content of comparable or greater rigor. Students who complete algebra prior to the freshman year would be expected to complete 3 additional units in grades 9–12.

SCIENCE: 4 YEARS

Science coursework emphasizes college preparatory biology and chemistry. Coursework should include at least one laboratory course like biomedical science.

COMMUNICATION ARTS: 4 YEARS

English and language arts coursework emphasizes college preparatory composition, research skills and analysis of literature. Speech and debate courses may be included.

SOCIAL STUDIES: 3–4 YEARS

Social studies coursework emphasizes American history, Missouri government, Missouri history, geography and global studies.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE: 2–4 YEARS

Coursework emphasizes written and spoken language skills in languages such as French and Spanish.

FINE ARTS: ½–4 YEARS

Fine arts coursework emphasizes visual arts, instrumental or vocal music, dance and theater. Theory or “appreciation” courses may also be offered.

CAREER COURSES: 1–4 YEARS

Coursework emphasizes industry standards and credentials.

OPPORTUNITIES

Push your child to explore rigorous courses, challenge themselves academically and further prepare themselves for college and career choices. Here is a list of advanced opportunities offered by Center School District.

ADVANCED COURSES

- ◆ Advanced Placement (A.P.) Courses
(earn a “4” or better on the A.P. exam)
- ◆ Business Finance Institute (BFI)
- ◆ Biomedical Courses
- ◆ Engineering Courses
- ◆ Computer Networking Courses

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

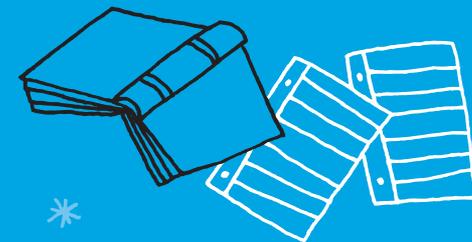
- ◆ UMKC Courses
- ◆ Penn Valley Courses
- ◆ Rockhurst University Courses

OFF-SITE COURSES

- ◆ Business Finance Institute
- ◆ Health Sciences Accelerated Academy
- ◆ Summit Technology Academy
- ◆ Herndon Career Center

All of these experiences are preparing our students for productive college opportunities and applicable career options. We want our students to have experiences that reflect real-world projects and work.

Stay involved in your child's education. Talk to your child's teachers about his or her progress. We are here to help our students navigate college and career choices. We all succeed together.



RESOURCES AVAILABLE

TUTORING

Writers lab, math labs and extended day options offer extra support for success before and after school.

COUNSELORS

Career exploration, post-secondary study, healthy relationships and healthy lifestyle support for all students.

MEDIA CENTER / COMPUTER LABS

Facilities available throughout the day and after school to all of our students.

NAVIANCE

An online resource that helps guide students through college and career exploration. (www.naviance.com)

ADVISORY GROUPS

Small class advisory groups meet to enhance discussion about post-secondary study, to talk about academic success and build relationships with teacher mentors.

CENTER FRIENDS

A school-based mentoring effort that links adult volunteers from the community with students in schools through things like having lunch with a student, helping with college prep, sharing an interest or a hobby or simply listening.

ATHLETICS

Students can choose to participate in Basketball, Soccer, Track, Golf, Swimming, Wrestling, Football, Tennis, Volleyball, Cross Country, Baseball, Cheer and Drill Team.

A+ PROGRAM / MISSOURI SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Graduates who participate in the program are eligible for state reimbursement for the cost of tuition to any Missouri public community college or vocational or technical school. To be eligible, each student must enter into a written agreement with the school and complete a list of requirements.

HEALTH SERVICES

Nurses and social workers available to assist all students.

ACTIVITIES

Offerings include Band, Debate and Forensics, Chess Club, D.E.C.A., Drumline, National Honors Society, Video Club or Youth in Government. There are over 20 options available.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Offered after school and during the summer to promote academic growth and help prepare students for college and their future.

CAREER EDUCATION

A combination of academics and occupational skill training preparing students of all ages to enter the workforce. For example, students can take Missouri Innovations campus course work at Summit Technology Academy and earn an Associates Degree.

A.C.T. PREP

Center High School prepares students for the A.C.T. college entrance exam through its curriculum. Students may also take an A.C.T. prep class or seek study help from teachers. A.C.T. goal is a 24 or higher to meet the threshold for college and career readiness.

The A.C.T. is a national college admissions examination that tests a student's skills in English, mathematics, reading and science. All Center School District juniors are required to take the A.C.T. and will do so during the school year. Seniors are encouraged to take the A.C.T. again to continue refining and growing their skills and score. Two other exams for post-secondary preparedness include ASVAB and WorkKeys — the exams measure aptitude and workplace readiness.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM

TESTING

The A.C.T. includes 215 multiple-choice questions and takes approximately 3 hours and 30 minutes to complete, including a short break. Actual testing time is 2 hours and 55 minutes. The basic registration fee includes score reports for up to four college choices, if you list valid school codes when you register.

A.C.T. SCORE GOAL:

24+

(visit www.actstudent.org for more information)

GET INVOLVED

Make sure your high school student has a well-rounded high school experience. Take challenging courses. Get involved in extra-curricular activities, leadership positions, mentoring and volunteering. In addition to academics, these extra activities will help your student see the "bigger picture." Colleges like to see high academic marks, but colleges also want the students who have enjoyed a wide array of high school activities and leadership roles and high school projects and internships.

EVERY YEAR COUNTS

Starting freshmen year, students need to understand that they are preparing for college and a career. Seek out service opportunities and outside internship work experience in a field that's of interest. Use our Center resources to make connections with people and companies in our community.

GLOSSARY

A.C.T.

The A.C.T. is a national college admissions examination that tests a student's skills in English, mathematics, reading and science.

A.P.

Advanced Placement classes are offered in high school to provide rigorous curriculum to align with college courses. College credit may be earned depending on an exam following the class.

E.O.C.

End of Course exams are issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at the end of various courses of study.

LEXILE®

Students receive a Lexile reader measure as a score from a reading test — it describes his or her reading comprehension ability. Your child may receive a Lexile measure in one of two ways: by taking a school-administered Scholastic Reading Inventory (S.R.I.) assessment, specifically designed to generate a Lexile measure of reading ability, or by taking a standardized leveled reading test that converts the results to a Lexile measure. Lexile also evaluates books for difficulty, with levels ranging from 200L to 1700L+ for advanced readers.

M.A.P.

The "Missouri Assessment Program" is a series of assessments for communication arts, mathematics and science at grades 3 to 8; and communication arts, mathematics, science and social studies in high school. These assessments are designed to see if students in Missouri are meeting the Show-Me Standards.

The Center community believes in the ability of our students. To see our successful graduates go into the world and do amazing work reinforces the trust in our schools. It takes all of us working together to raise students — together, we achieve!