Opportunities for College Preparatory Experiences in Prince William County Public Schools
Learning Targets

Participants will:

• Learn about the opportunities available to students who want to prepare for college level work

• Understand the difference between college preparation and earning college credit
First, let’s learn the language……

• Dual Enrollment – a program wherein students take coursework during their 11\textsuperscript{th} and 12\textsuperscript{th} grade year to earn high school and community college credit concurrently. Opportunities for this already exist in several Prince William County high schools.
First, let’s learn the language……

- **AP/IB/AICE** – the advanced course programs currently available in PWCS
  - AP – Advanced Placement
  - IB – International Baccalaureate Program (Gar-field and Stonewall Jackson only)
  - AICE – Cambridge Program (Potomac and Brentsville only)
First, let’s learn the language……

• Transfer Credit Agreements – Agreements created between the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and most public and private universities in the state of Virginia which clearly spell out how community college credits transfer to a four year college.
First, let’s learn the language……

- Guaranteed Admission Agreement – Agreements created between the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and many public and private universities in the state of Virginia which guarantee admissions to students who complete an Associate’s Degree at a community college and meet certain criteria.
How do our students prepare for college?

- Advanced course work in middle school
- Advanced course work in 9th and 10th grade (Pre-AP, Pre-IBDP, IGSCE)
- College level course work in 11th and 12th grade (AP, IB, AICE, Dual Enrollment)
- Math and science all four years of high school
- College placement exams (PSAT, SAT, PLAN, ACT)
- Career Exploration in grades 7-12
How can students earn college credit while in high school?

• Earn a qualifying score on an AP, IB, AICE exam

• Earn a “C” or higher in a dual enrollment course through Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) or any other university with whom PWCS has contracted to award dual enrollment credit.
Do all colleges and universities award college credit to high school students in the same manner?

NO!

- Colleges require different qualifying scores on AP, IB, AICE exams and link them to many different courses.
- Most colleges accept community college credits earned through dual enrollment however, many only count them as “transfer” or “elective” courses.
Are students better off taking AP, IB, AICE courses or dual enrollment courses?

That depends…..

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>If.....</th>
<th>Then.....</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your student plans to go directly to a community college after graduation..</td>
<td>Take dual enrollment course work to get an early start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your student plans to apply to a highly selective four year college......</td>
<td>Take AP, IB, AICE courses to show college admissions professionals that you took the most rigorous course work available at your school</td>
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<td>Your student is unsure of his/her post-secondary plans but a two or four year college is definitely a possibility.....</td>
<td>Take a healthy mix of AP, IB, AICE and dual enrollment course work</td>
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<td>Your student does not want to pursue post secondary education and you want to give them a nudge in that direction.....</td>
<td>Take a least one dual enrollment course during 11^{th} or 12^{th} grade to test the waters of community college level work</td>
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What are the benefits of pursuing dual enrollment coursework?

• Students pay no tuition if the course is taken in a Prince William County School.
• Students get to experience college level work while enrolled in high school.
• Students will earn both high school credit and community college credit simultaneously (1 high school credit = 6 NVCC credits).
• Students will receive an additional .5 GPA weight for any dual enrollment credit earned in an approved course with a grade of “C” or higher.
What are the drawbacks of pursuing dual enrollment coursework?

- Students may find that not all credits earned transfer to the university of their choice as a required course.
- Students run the risk of starting a college transcript with an undesirable grade.
- Students will have to commit to stay in the course for the entire school year or risk not graduating from high school on time.
What are the drawbacks of pursuing dual enrollment coursework?

• Because community college course work has no external exam and no nationwide norming system, four year colleges and universities are unsure of the rigor to which the student has been exposed. In other words, it may not help a student’s college admissions profile, however it will help the student’s preparation.

• In some cases, community college credit earned in high school may not count for the many guaranteed admission agreements available in Virginia.
What are the benefits of pursuing AP/IB/AICE coursework?

- All students enrolled in AP/IB/AICE courses take an external exam, free of charge, which may earn them college credit.
- Students receive a 1.0 GPA boost for each AP/IB/AICE course in which the student earns a “C” or higher.
- Students who enroll in these courses are benefiting from a sequence and program of course work intended to prepare students for college, regardless of college credit earned.
- These courses are nationally and internationally normed and many college admissions professionals give “bonus points” to students during the college admissions process for each course taken.
What are the drawbacks of pursuing AP/IB/AICE coursework?

- Enrollment in the course does not guarantee that your student will earn college credit.
- Some students find the work load of multiple AP/IB/AICE courses daunting.
- Students earn college credit only when performing well on the external assessment, regardless of the grade earned in the course.
If you have further questions.....

Talk to your school counselor about whether or not dual enrollment is the right option for your student. Dual enrollment courses are not yet offered at all high schools.