**Program Planning**

Program Planning kicked off the day students returned from break. Students viewed a Program Planning video in TF and all resources have been posted to the Class of 2024 Canvas page. Department videos are also online on the Guidance Website under Program & Curriculum Page. Each student was given materials including instructions to enter requests and course codes. Once the window for course requests closes on February 6th, counselors will confirm requests with students until early March.

Students have been making individual appointments with counselors since early January to discuss selections. All MBIT students were scheduled with their counselor already to enter classes. Parents can view and verify course requests on March 22nd. Changes must be made by March 26th. Course levels may be adjusted but not electives after that time, with the exception of level changes as we know some students may need adjustments based on second semester performance/preferences. Contact will be made in August if there are conflicts.

Students often ask about the best way to prepare their for the rigor of college. Our recommendations for students are very much case-by-case. Generally speaking, we encourage students to challenge themselves while “preserving their sanity”. Begin consulting college websites to see what the curriculum looks like for various majors and see if there are courses at South that can help prepare/expose them to foundational material now.

AP course work- if students have questions about the rigor of the courses, we can tell them the room number of the teacher who teaches a particular class and students can stop by and chat with them so they have a better idea of class and work expectations. They can also go to CollegeBoard.com and under AP-Student look at deeper course descriptions to understand the content.

**Sophomore Focus Summary**

We discussed the importance of various “soft skills” that should be developed throughout high school: Self advocacy, encouraging good study habits, work ethic, community service, time management, independence, communication skills/talking to adults.

Second Chance Learning- While this is an option for students under the mastery learning model, we need to be sure we are encouraging students to study and learn on the front end for the first assessment as they are likely not going to have this opportunity in college. Students should be using Lunch & Learn time prior to assessments to ask questions- too many are doing so after the test for SCL. With that said, we encourage our students to still meet with their teachers to review take advantage of SCL, focusing on what they could do differently in preparing for future tests as well as the content they are trying to master.

Texting- encourage students to wait until the end of the day to discuss concerns with you rather than engaging them in conversation during the school day. We ask that parents partner with us in not texting students during class time. L&L runs 10:35-11:30, this would be a better time to connect if you must during the day.

We also discussed a couple of valuable websites students can use to find community service opportunities: [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) and [www.buckscountyalive.org](http://www.buckscountyalive.org)

**Pre-ACT’s**

CB South will be offering the Pre-ACT to our 10th grade students on Saturday, March 26th. This test, similar to the PSAT, gives students the opportunity to take a test comparable to the ACT as a practice test. To those who are not familiar with the ACT, it is used by every college as part of the admissions process the same way as the SAT. All colleges accept the ACT in place of or in addition to the SAT.

We recommend that students plan on taking the SAT and/or the ACT for the first time during the spring of Junior Year. For students selecting the Pre-ACT, this will give them ample time to complete any test prep they might need.

If students are interested in participating in the Pre-ACT, registration begins February 14th and closes March 14th on My Payments Plus- cost is $30. The test will begin promptly at 8am so we ask students to arrive by 7:40am to check in. Students should arrive no later than 7:40 AM and we expect the test to be completed no later than 11:30 AM. Students should bring a calculator and pen and pencil.

**Standardized Testing Prep Options**

E-Prep

Khan Academy

SAT Math and English Prep classes here at South

**Naviance**

Sophomores will complete 4 tasks this year as part of their Success Plan requirements.

Career Interest Profiler

Strengths Explorer

Achieve Work Skills and Reflection Survey

Resume Builder

More information can be found here- <https://www.cbsd.org/Page/64160>

While it is an independent project, students have opportunities to work on it here at school, like during Titan Forum and Lunch and Learn. We are hoping that these surveys are a valuable tool to help students get an idea of a direction they should consider.

Students can check out summer programs in Naviance under the “summer enrichment” in the college section. Many students have been receiving college mailings. We encourage families to consider the cost vs benefit factor before signing their student up for a summer program. We believe that there are many valuable experiences to be had that are no or low cost. Unless a program or experience is competitive in nature, it may not be a weighted factor in the admissions process.

College search tools in Naviance were explored. Now is a great time to begin dabbling with the various college search features in Naviance.