

Office of
Advanced
Programs

The College Connection

Volume 1, Issue 6

February 2011

Creating a College-Going
Culture in WCPS



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GC Facts

Location
Gettysburg, PA

Enrollment
2,600

Average Class Size
18

School Colors
Orange and Blue

Average SAT Scores
Critical Reading: 654
Math: 651

Students Receiving Aid
70%

Average Aid Package
\$31,997

www.gettysburg.edu

Prepare Early for AP Courses

Many students and their parents don't begin planning for college until eleventh or twelfth grade; as a result, these students may not have time to complete the sequence of academic courses required for college entrance or placement in credit-bearing classes.

Studies show that if students take algebra and geometry early—starting in the eighth and ninth grade—they are more likely to go on to college than students who don't. Students who complete required high school courses early have more opportunities to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

AP courses provide the opportunity for students to demonstrate their ability to handle college-level coursework. Most colleges look for AP courses on transcripts and award college credits based on AP exam scores. Research shows that students who participate in both AP courses and exams in high school have higher college GPAs, more credits, and higher four-year graduation rates than students with similar academic backgrounds who did not participate in AP.

Enrollment in a rigorous high school curriculum is a strong predictor of college entrance and completion.



Website of the Month

www.collegeboard.com

The College Board site offers information and practice for the PSAT, SAT, and AP tests as well as college research and planning tools for students and parents. Sections include Plan for College, Find a College, Apply to College, and Pay for College. Educator sections include sample test questions and syllabi for each AP course as well as pre-AP lesson ideas. Check it out!

College of the Month

Gettysburg College, a prestigious private college of liberal arts and sciences, offers 35 majors and 36 minors as well as a four year career preparation program that includes many internship and externship opportunities.

Located just one hour from Hagerstown, Gettysburg's efforts to ensure that cost is not a barrier for academically-eligible students earned the school the highest score on *The Princeton Review's* 2010 Financial

Bullets

Aid Honor Roll. Gettysburg's campus includes a music conservatory, professional performing arts center, state-of-the-art science center, public policy institute, and new Center for Athletics, Recreation, and Fitness.

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The College Connection

School Spotlight: SHS

This month's spotlight is on **Smithsburg High School's** tenth grade Life Skills class. Life Skills is a required course for WCPS sophomores that focuses on interpersonal skills, career choices, and consumer decision-making. Teacher Brian Getz added a college unit that includes researching colleges, the SAT, and college applications, credits, and costs. Getz requires his students to write a college essay and to compare their own GPA to the average GPA at colleges that interest them. He also organized a field trip for 44 of his sophomores to visit Gettysburg College. The trip was so successful that Getz is planning spring trips to other schools.



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SHS teacher Brian Getz and his classroom display of college pennants. Brian also decorated a cafeteria bulletin board with college materials.

How is your school creating a college-going culture? Send your activities and photos to Lori Parks-Murphy for publication in future issues of *The College Connection*.