

One question that prepares your teen for Big Questions

Every spring, your student will make important choices that will shape their days next year and their lives for many years beyond that. Families can ask a simple question that can help your student **set themselves up to thrive next school year and through life**.

Find 20 to 30 quiet minutes to help your student pinpoint their strongest interests. Your initial question can take many forms. Use any opening remark that helps your student think about what classes or activities ignite their passions:

- What makes time disappear too quickly?
- What leaves them energized and curious?
- What interests do they pursue without deadlines, prompts or assignments?

Having started them thinking, this **key follow-up matters most**:

"Tell me more about that."

Keep prompting your student without offering any input, advice, or feedback. There will be lots of time for guidance later. What students need is time spent identifying which interests they should build upcoming registration choices around.

Economists tell us that the majority of the **jobs that our children will hold don't exist right now**. To successfully find their way into a career where they can thrive—as a professional and as a person—our students need to identify

their individual passions and strengths. **Building on those offers them the best chance of adapting in the rapid changes to come.**

We have graduation requirements. **Our counselors will ensure that your students register for those courses.**

Beyond those requirements, if you count the variety of social studies, math, science, and English electives that meet those requirements, your student can **choose 20% of the courses** they will take in high school. We need to help them choose wisely so that they **use that one fifth of their high school time to develop their strengths and explore subjects that may become their lifelong pursuits.**

Also, college admissions departments look for students who clearly have found a passion, a purpose, something to inspire their learning.