

An Overview for Teachers, Staff, Volunteers, and Community Members

Our school is participating in Minnesota's statewide College Knowledge Month! To ensure that our events are helpful to our students, we need your help in promoting and coordinating this event – and making sure our initiative is exciting and fun for our students, families, and community!

What is College Knowledge Month?

In 2011, as part of a national initiative through the American Council on Education, Governor Mark Dayton proclaimed the second week of November Minnesota College Application Week. This initiative has grown and expanded to a month-long effort. It will provide a framework for high schools and postsecondary institutions to collaborate in a concentrated effort to engage and inform underrepresented students (first generation college students, students of color, and low-income students) about career/college exploration and the college application process.

What is the goal of College Knowledge Month?

The goal of College Knowledge Month is to provide every graduating high school senior with the opportunity to learn about and apply to college – and to encourage younger students to start planning for life after high school. While much of the focus of College Knowledge Month is geared toward first-generation, low-income students, we encourage all students to participate in events to help them explore and prepare for postsecondary education, including certificate programs, two-year degrees, and four-year degrees.

What happens during College Knowledge Month?

During the month of October, schools, colleges, and the community will work together to build excitement and awareness surrounding career/college exploration and the college application process. Schools will provide computer lab time to students to allow them to explore colleges and apply online, but the event becomes truly spectacular when we integrate fun activities into our school and community environments for all students. We want to emphasize that college awareness and exploration is an ongoing process – one that starts before October, and continues throughout the year.

How can I help?

You can help by assisting students in exploring their career or college options, lending one-on-one help with completing applications, contributing to the “spirit” of the week, or – perhaps most importantly – reaching out to students to encourage them to plan for life after high school. Seek out those students who might traditionally be overlooked when it comes to career or college planning, and talk to them about their options for the future.

MNCollegeKnowledgeMonth 2014

College Knowledge Month is sponsored by the following organizations: Achieve Minneapolis, Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC), Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnesota Association for College Admissions Counseling (MACAC), Minnesota Association of Counselors of Color (MnACC), Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP), Minnesota Private College Council, Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU), MN School Counselor Association (MSCA), Office of Higher Education (OHE), Saint Paul Public Schools, Sibley East Public Schools, TRiO Programs, University of Minnesota