What’s your dream for your future?

No matter where you want to go in life, college can help you get there.
If you really want to go to college, follow your dream.

You can get there.

When you’re in middle school, college probably seems like a long time away – or like an impossible dream. But it’s not! Right now, start thinking about going to college. The earlier you start, the more choices you’ll have later.

That doesn’t mean you have to decide now where you want to go to college or what you want to study. It does mean you’ll want to work hard in school, find out what really interests you, and talk with teachers, librarians, counselors, your family, and other adults who can help you do your best now before you start high school.

Maybe you think your family just doesn’t have the money to send you to college. Don’t ever think that you can’t afford to go to college! There’s lots of financial aid out there to help you pay for college.

Also, don’t ever let anyone tell you you’re not “college material.” You are college material as long as you have a dream and work hard to make it come true.

TIP!
Work on the basics — math, reading and writing.

Starting on the College Path.

- Let your family and teachers know you want to go to college and that you’ll work hard to get there. Then they can support and encourage you.
- If you want to know more about what college is like, talk to your teachers, counselors and mentors.
- If your school has a career fair, be sure to go. Bring a friend.
- Get involved! Take advantage of activities your school offers such as clubs and sports.
What is your dream?

Everyone has a talent. And everyone is interested in something. Maybe you like to draw. Maybe you’re a good swimmer. Maybe you like to build things. Maybe you like computers. And maybe you love music.

It’s important to develop your interests. You can do that through your schoolwork, by reading, looking things up on the Internet, going to the library, talking to adults you admire, and joining special clubs at your school and in your community. You don’t want to spend all your time doing just one thing, but if there’s something you really like, keep learning more about it and have fun doing it.

Also, use the tips in this brochure. They’ll help you figure out what you’re good at, what subjects you like, and how you can learn more about them.

As you learn more and know more, your dreams may change. But no matter what you dream of for your future, college can help you make it come true.

Remember: You can be whatever you want to be.

If you have the will, there’s always a way. It may be hard at times, but if you have a goal to aim for, you’ll get there. Think about what you want to achieve and then set little goals and meet them on the way to your big goal. That way you’ll always have a sense of accomplishment.

TIP! Be a serious student, but have fun at it! If you enjoy it, it won’t feel like work.

TIP! Ask for help whenever you need it.
What do you think?

Now that you’ve decided to go to college, take the time to organize your thoughts about what you like to do and what you can do to learn more about your interests. If you write down ideas, they will feel real to you. Write your thoughts here or in a notebook. Look at your entry now and then when you need inspiration. You can always add to it or change it later if you become interested in something new. Once you have an idea of what your interests are, talk with your parents/guardians, school counselors, teachers, and mentors about them.

Pinpoint your interests.

■ Things I like to do:

■ Classes I like:

■ Books I like:

Find out more about your interests.

■ Things I can do to learn more about my interests:

■ People I can talk with:

■ Clubs I can join:

To learn more about planning for college, visit www.GoCollegeNY.org

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