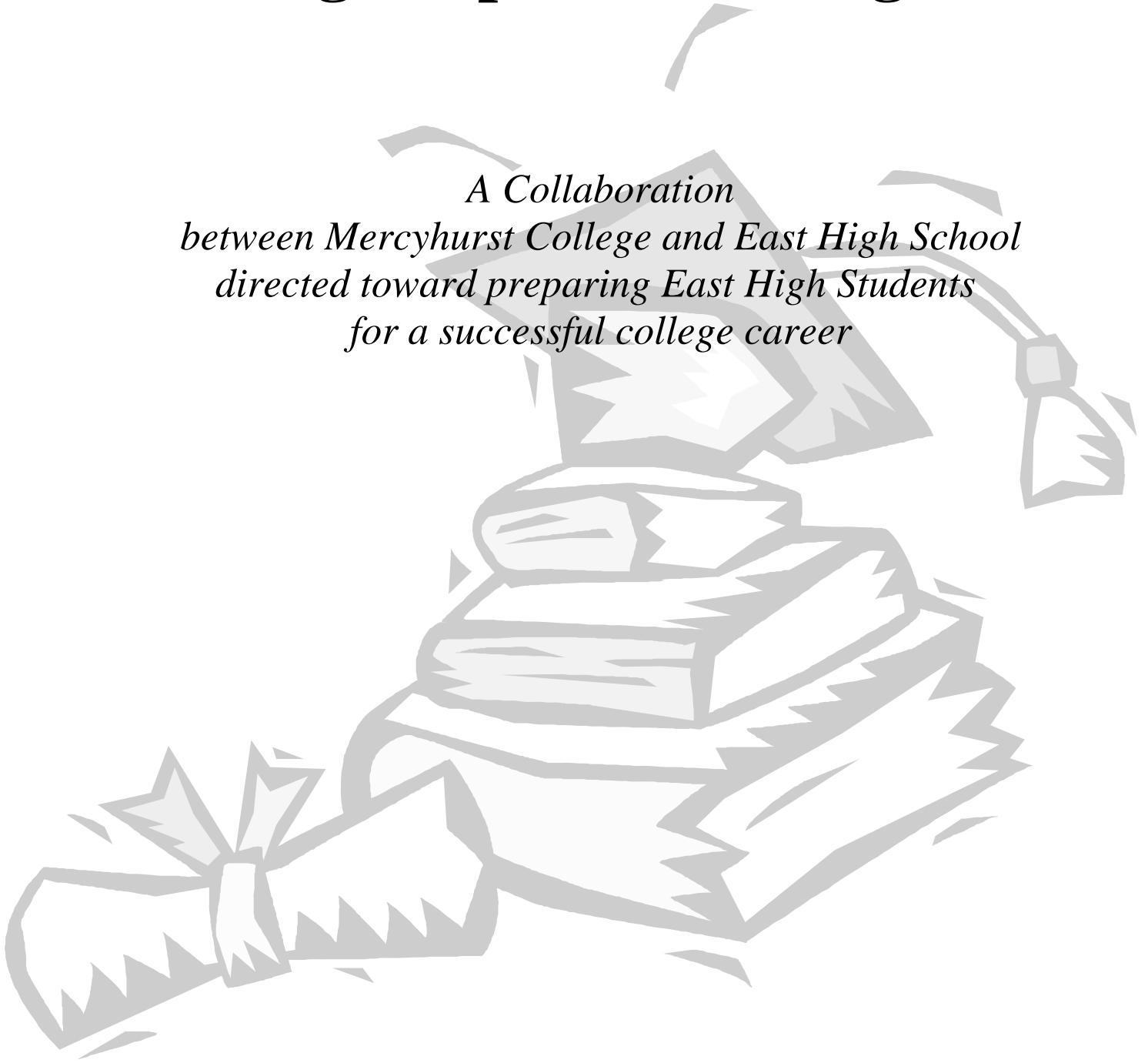


PROJECT C.A.P.

College Aspirations Program

*A Collaboration
between Mercyhurst College and East High School
directed toward preparing East High Students
for a successful college career*



2006-2007 Student / Parent Handbook



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Introduction

East High School students who qualify have an opportunity to participate in a unique learning opportunity called Project C.A.P. (College Aspirations Program). The C.A.P. program, now in its third year at East High School, is designed as an enrichment program to explore the potential of a college degree and to facilitate a successful college experience for college-bound students by assisting them as they explore college options and prepare for the college admission process.

C.A.P. is a program that provides East High School students with the many opportunities and real world experiences to learn about all that a college education can provide.

The multi-faceted program will allow students

- take field trips to local college and universities
- to tutor elementary students
- as well as participate in an after school program designed to expose students to be prepared for college level literature.

The program is a joint partnership between Mercyhurst College, PHEAA, and East High School. This is an excellent and unique opportunity for your son or daughter. Students from East in grades 9-11 are eligible to participate



Levels of Participation and Activities



Level One

Students who participate at this level have elected to visit college campuses on group tours. Requirements for participation include:

1. Student is in good academic and behavior standing at East High School
2. Student has completed the application to enroll in the C.A.P. program
3. Student has submitted the permission slip to the on-site coordinator (Mr. Hutchinson) within the required time allotted to allow for planning for the trip.

If a student has not met the above criteria, the program coordinator has the right to deny a student the opportunity to attend the site visit.

Students who participate at Level One will have opportunity to attend:

Site visits to six colleges in the local region (within a two hour bus ride) will be made available to students each year

Site visit to the Erie Career Links Office to assess student's strengths and career aptitudes will provide students insights to help them begin planning

Additional visits to Mercyhurst College will be planned each year. Those visits include

- Visiting college classes in session
- Visits to the library, cafeteria, bookstore and other areas of interest on campus
- Opportunities to attend extra-curricular activities on campus



Level Two

Students who participate at this level have elected to participate in all the activities listed for Level One, plus the following:

1. Participate in the After-School Tutoring program offered at Wayne Elementary School on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Note, participants who have regular, faithful attendance will receive a \$30 per month stipend
2. Participants will have documented evidence in the form of reflection papers from their tutoring experience, and display them in their portfolio.

Students participating at Level Two will meet at Wayne Elementary School to tutor elementary students in basic skill development. A Mercyhurst Graduate student will be available as a mentor for the high school students



Level Three

Students who participate at this level have elected to participate in all the activities listed for Level One and Level Two, plus the following:

1. Students will prepare for the Academic Enrichment program held on Tuesday at East High School, including reading selected works of literature, writing and preparing responses to the literature
2. Students will have regular, faithful attendance at the Tuesday Academic Enrichment sessions, and those who have met this goal will be given an additional stipend of \$50 per month (for a total of \$80 per month)
3. Students who participate at Level Three will be eligible for additional perks, such as tickets to extra-curricular events at local college.

Students participating at Level Three will also have opportunities to

- Select and read works of literature in preparation for college entrance exams and college coursework
- Participate in a course on teen financial independence, also in preparation for college life
- Practice for the SAT or ACT examination for admission to college
- Students from Mercyhurst College will visit East High School for an opportunity for East students to interview them, to hear what college life is really like
- Additional faculty from Mercyhurst will visit East High periodically to lead in academic discussions of the literature being read by students
- A mentor from the Erie area who will provide support when doubts and fear kick in during their senior year of high school and freshman year of college.
- Take two 3-credit college courses at Mercyhurst (at no cost to the student) during their senior year of high school This opportunity provides the student with
 - Real world experience at successfully completing college courses
 - 6 college credits
 - Confidence to know they can be successful in college



Benefits for Students

Opportunities Abound for students who choose to enroll in the C.A.P. program!

Career Exploration: This multi-faceted program provides students with exposure to many careers:

- In addition to the tutoring at Wayne Elementary school, students will have opportunities to use video equipment
- Observe multiple college level classes
- Make site visits to the career-links office to explore other career tracks
- Receive counsel and encouragement to explore personal interests for careers

Academic Strength:

Students who participate at Level Two will

- sharpen public speaking skills
- sharpen mathematics skills as they tutor younger students
- increase speaking vocabulary
- practice verbal communication skills

Which are all essential skills for success in college, regardless of the career path they choose.

Students who participate at Level Three will

- Gain significant insights into multiple works of literature
- Develop broad perspectives of differences in cultures
- Improve their reading skills, comprehension skills and vocabulary
- Improve their writing skills
- Increase understanding of history through literature
- Develop an outstanding portfolio for use in preparing for college admission process
- Gain preparatory skills for the college entrance exams

Indeed, this aspect of the C.A.P. program is designed to assist students in preparing for academic success in college.



Interpersonal skills:

Students often experience a slump in their self concept during the high school years. While this is normal, studies show that belonging to an organization can help students find sure-footing again.

The cohort of students who participate in the C.A.P. program will find they have many things to discuss that are meaningful and useful to them. Students who choose to participate in **Levels Two** and **Three** of the program will have opportunities each week to refine their interpersonal communication skills. Those who tutor the elementary students will also practice their public speaking skills. Confidence is a natural byproduct of this program, and an essential interpersonal skill for students who are planning to attend college.

Organizational skills: Perhaps one of the most challenging aspects of early college life is learning to organize you own life. Once a student begins college, (s)he must quickly learn to manage their time, their activities, their commitments, and their money. Participants in the C.A.P. will be learning these basic skills, refining and discussing them as part of the preparation for college life.

Repeated exposure to multiple college campuses:

- This provides student with first - hand knowledge of many good college choices in our local region.
- This exposure helps students in the decision-making process.
- Relationships with multiple individuals leading the program helps build confidence, provide insight and perspective in the decision-making process.

Additional Opportunities for Students

In addition to the regular scheduled activities, students will be encouraged to attend extra-curricular activities on the Mercyhurst College Campus. When possible, complementary tickets may be made available to students and their families. Extra-curricular activities represent a significant part of college life, and we hope to demonstrate some of the multitude of activities available to students.



Academic Probation and Student Expectations for C.A.P.

- Students must maintain good academic standing. Good academic standing is defined as maintaining an 80% or higher in all classes.
- Students who tutor at Wayne Elementary School will leave their sixth period class at 2:40p.m. which requires parental and teacher permission. Students who do not receive this support will not be eligible to tutor at Wayne Elementary.
- Students will act as role models as members of Project C.A.P. Students cannot receive detentions, suspensions or other forms of school discipline. In order to tutor students Project C.A.P. students must display good academic and behavioral standards at all times.
- Students who are placed on academic probation must attend the mandatory extra-help sessions offered at East High School and cannot tutor at Wayne Elementary until they have been removed from academic probation.
- Students are expected to be reliable members of the program. Students are required to complete the guidelines outlined in their selected level of participation.
- Failure to meet these requirements will result in students being removed from that particular level or excused from the program.
- Students and parents should try to schedule all appointments on dates that do not conflict with the tutoring at Wayne or the after-school book club activities.
- Students must present an written excuse from a parent or guardian for any missing session. Excuses should be made to Mr. Hutchinson, program director before the scheduled date of the appointment. This allows us to notify Wayne School the names of tutors who may not be available on a particular date. These absences should be kept to a minimum (less than one per 9 week marking period).
- Students must maintain good behavior while attending field trips and campus visits. Students who misbehave during a trip will not be permitted on future trips.
- Students who fail to complete responsibilities associated with their level of participation may also be excluded from field trips.

- As a member of Project C.A.P., we expect you to represent your family, East High School and the School District of the City of Erie. Therefore, any student who does not represent those members in an acceptable manner may be removed from the program.
- Overall, we do not expect this to be a problem due to the educational opportunities available in this rewarding program.



Parental Support

Although this collaborative venture offers your student multitudes of opportunity, we believe that nothing compares to the support you as a parent provide to you child. With this in mind, we will plan a quarterly meeting for parents and student participants with three objectives in mind:

1. To communicate the progress and experience your student is gaining
2. To continue to answer questions as they arise about concerns you may have such as college costs, grant opportunities, student loans
3. To showcase your student's performance in the program

We would strongly encourage your participation at the meetings. Please know that you are also welcome to accompany your student to any of the sponsored visits to colleges, as well as to the after-school programs. We encourage your involvement, and we welcome you questions.

Contact Information

At East High School:

On-site Coordinator:

Mr. Jeff Hutchinson jhutchinson@eriesd.org

814-874-6400

Ms. Christine Balsiger cbalsiger@eriesd.org

814-874-6400

Ms. Nancy Sadaly nsadaly@eriesd.org

814-874-6400

At Mercyhurst College:

Program Coordinators:

Dr. Ruth Auld rauld@mercyhurst.edu

814-824-3370

Dr. Phillip Belfiore pbelfiore@mercyhurst.edu

814-824-2267

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Mercyhurst College
PHEAA - Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
Regional Center for Workforce Excellence

College Aspirations Program 2006-2007 Proposed Schedule



September

- Sept. 5** First meeting: Review guidelines, timesheets, etc. at first meeting
- Sept.11** Begin tutoring at Wayne (subject to change based upon Wayne after school program schedule)
- Sept. 12** Guest faculty at second mtg (Dr. Riley-Brown)
- Sept. 19** M.C. North East Campus Counselor James Houston visit
- Sept. 27** Parent meeting at Mercyhurst College 6:00 Heritage Room (Campus Tour at 5:00)

October

- Oct. 11** Field trip to Mercyhurst North East College Campus
 - 9th grade: Visit College Writing 1
 - 10th grade / 11th Grade: Visit Human Biology
- Oct 17** Emphasis on Portfolios (first review)
- Oct 24** Guest visitor to East: KDP students

November

- Nov. 15** Visit Penn State Behrend
- Nov. 21** Meeting with parents (at Mercyhurst)

December

- Dec. 1-2** Shakespeare *Twelfth Night* production at Mercyhurst College
- Dec. 6** Visit Gannon University
- Dec. 9** Christmas on Campus at Mercyhurst College (all day)

January

- Jan. 11** Field Trip to Career Link for career survey
- Jan. 23** Voluntary visit to Mercyhurst to attend MLK day breakfast

February

- Feb. 2** Job Shadowing Day at local elementary school
- Feb. 7** Site visit to Mercyhurst College to visit classes

March

- March 21** Site visit to Clarion University

April

- April 17** Site visit to Thiel College

May

- May 18 4:00** Open House for students and parents at Mercyhurst College

Level Three List of Literature for 2006 – 2007

To Kill a Mockingbird

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt

The Kite Runner

A Christmas Carol

The Girl with the Pearl Earring

The Catcher in the Rye

Animal Farm

Stargirl

The Perks of being a Wallflower

Tuesdays with Morrie

A Walk in the Woods

Financial Literacy for Teens

True Believer





East High School College Aspirations Program (C.A.P.) Application 2006-07

Name _____ Date: ____/____/____
Address _____/_____/_____
Street City State Zip

Parent or Legal Guardian _____

Grade _____ Graduating year _____ Homeroom _____ Phone _____

What plans do you have after high school? _____

Have you had any experiences working with elementary school age children? (please describe)

Have you had any work-related experiences (please describe them)

Have you done any other volunteer work? (please describe)

What do you do in your spare time?

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

When did you read it? _____ Why did you like it? _____

What is your best subject in school? Why?
