

## College Prep. 101



**"In fact, 2.94 million students graduate from more than 27,000 high schools each year in the United States." (msnbc.com)**

The future, more specifically high school graduation, is something most, if not all, teens think about and look forward to. As graduation gets closer, questions from teens and adults arise such as, "Which college will I attend?", "What will my major be?", and "How in the world are we going to pay for this?" It should be comforting to know that you are not alone. In fact, 2.94 million students graduate from more than 27,000 high schools each year in the United States (msnbc.com). While some of this information can be overwhelming, here are some things to stay focused on as you help your teen down the road to graduation. The first thing you must do is be prepared! Find out all the information you can about each college your teen is considering. Talk to students who attend those schools and ask what they think. Look on the Internet to read and study the newest **US News and World Report's** college ranking report ([www.usnews.com/usnews/rankguide/rghome.htm](http://www.usnews.com/usnews/rankguide/rghome.htm)). If possible, go visit the campus. Spending a few hundred dollars to find out your teen does not like a college is better than spending thousands on a semester of misery. Second, remember that behind every successful teen, there is a supportive network. If you look at the enrollment of the most competitive colleges, you'll find that most of the kids who attend have been assisted enormously by families, mentors, community members, teachers, or all of the above (msnbc.com). Third, remember that God is in control. Through all of the waiting, disappointment, excitement, and worry, God will use your tireless preparation, never-ending support, and countless prayers to reveal His perfect plan.

### **As you prepare for college, here are the Top 10 things colleges are looking for in high school students:**

1. A high school curriculum that challenges the student.
2. Grades that represent strong effort and an upward trend throughout their four years in high school.
3. Solid scores on standardized tests (SAT, ACT).
4. Passionate involvement in a few activities, demonstrating leadership and initiative.
5. Community service showing evidence of being a "contributor."
6. Work or out-of-school experiences (including summer activities) that illustrate responsibility.
7. A well-written essay that provides insight into the student's unique personality, values, and goals.
8. Letters of recommendation from teachers and guidance counselors that give evidence of integrity, special skill, and positive character traits.
9. Supplementary recommendations by adults who have had significant direct contact with the student.
10. Anything special that makes the student stand out from the rest of the applicants! (familyeducation.com)

## Pulse

### **Some interesting thoughts on college...**

After graduation, I plan to:

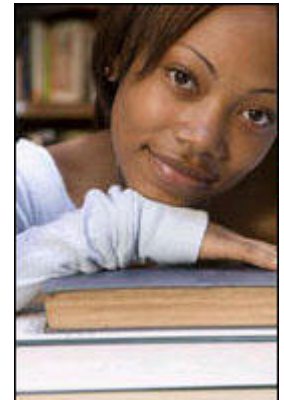
- 65% - Go to college or a trade school.
- 15% - Get a job.
- 15% - Figure it out when the time comes.
- 5% - Travel around for a while.

(libraryloft.org)

Christian teens who go to college or a university should...

- 21% - Attend a Christian institution.
- 3% - Attend a secular institution.
- 61% - Pick based on interests and personality.
- 16% - Attend wherever they can afford!

(pluggedinonline.com)



## The Parent POV

(point of view)

**Planning for the future takes hard work and perseverance, but it really does pay off in the end. Here are some questions to ask your teen as they prepare for college and their future.**

1. What do you like to do for fun? Why? If you had to do something all day long, what would it be and why?
2. Do you think college is necessary to meet the goals you have set for yourself? Why or why not?
3. If you could pick your dream college, what would it be? What needs to happen to make this dream a reality?
4. Where does God fit in as you plan for the future? Do you think He has a plan for you? How do you figure this plan out?



# Focus on Prayer

### Pray that:

1. God will reveal His plan for your son/daughter in a real and clear way.
2. God will give your teen the desire to do things with excellence in every area of their lives as they grow to become godly adults.
3. As parents, you will be able to support and encourage your teen in whatever profession or passion they pursue.
4. God will allow you to see every obstacle in getting ready for college as an opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ.

### More College Information

Although college is not for everyone, in today's world, it is something every teen should at least consider. The biggest hurdle I hear from families is, "We just can't afford it." Let me encourage you to not let money make this decision for you. There are thousands of grants out there and student loans are a viable option. I should know, I just finished paying mine off this year!! Yeah!!!

Here are some more websites which may be useful to you as you investigate college. Also, if I can help in any way, please just let me know.

[www.in.gov/ssaci/](http://www.in.gov/ssaci/) (State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana)  
[www.triptocollege.org/](http://www.triptocollege.org/) (Step by Step College Planner)  
[www.salliemae.com/](http://www.salliemae.com/) (Not only where I work, but also a helpful site as you prepare for college)

In Christ,  
Steve  
yp@joybc.com  
(317) 752-1220



### Did you know...

- \* In October 2005, 68.6% of high school graduates from the class of 2005 were enrolled in colleges or universities. (bls.gov)
- \* Attending a public four-year college nationwide costs an average of \$15,783 per year, while attending a private four-year college nationwide costs an average of \$22,218 per year for tuition and fees. (readyssetgotocollege.com)
- \* Students who engage in extracurricular activities in college are the happiest students as well as the most successful in the classroom. They seem to find a way to connect their academic work to their personal lives. (msnbc.com)
- \* 107 students out of 300,000 test takers received perfect scores of 2400 on the first round of the new SATs in 2005 (msnbc.com)



## Music alternative

This hip-hop Christian group, The Cross Movement, is comprised of The Ambassador, The Tonic, Phanatic, and T.R.U. – L.I.F.E. "The CM has chosen to define itself as the Christian division of hip-hop culture as opposed to the hip-hop/rap division of Christian culture." They believe they are "instructed by Jesus to remain a part of hip-hop culture while being set apart from the majority of its followers...in order to influence it from within to conform to the moral code preached by mainstream Christianity." The CM is also a record label and a ministry which "aims to use creative ways to spread the gospel message within hip-hop culture."  
crossmovementrecords.com

## trends

If you had to choose just one type of music to listen to exclusively, which would it be? (Top 5 listed)

- 27% - Hip-hop/rap
- 23% - Pop
- 17% - Rock/punk
- 7% - Alternative
- 6% - Christian/gospel

(usaweekend.com)

## musicspotlight



### Albums:

"Late Night Special"  
1/2007

"Bluestars" - 5/2005

**Background:** Brothers - Spectacular, Pleasure, Slick Em, and Baby Blue - make up the quartet, Pretty Ricky. The group first exploded onto the Miami music circuit in 1997. Their Atlantic debut, Bluestars, "was one of the best selling albums of 2005" and quickly reached Gold status. Through such venues as online chats and Myspace, Pretty Ricky has been pushing their most recent album, Late Night Special. It is the biggest-selling chart debut of 2007 reaching the number one spot on both Billboard 200 and Top R&B/Hip-Hop albums' charts.

**What Parents Should Know:** Both of their albums contain a Parental Advisory warning. The newest album is full of sex including phone sex and sex with underage girls. It contains foul language; direct and indirect.

**Parent/Teen Q&A:** "Known for their explicit sexual references on tracks like 'Grind With Me' and 'Juicy', they have addressed this controversial notoriety with an innovatively moral marketing strategy for this new album. 'We're putting out two albums; one's clean and one's dirty. The same tracks but with different lyrics; one's about making love and one's about being in love'. Q: Do you think it's OK to listen to a "clean" version of an album? Why or why not?"



## filmwatch

The thriller and the comedy are KING. Here are just a few movies teens will want to see this month.

TITLE	RATING	RED FLAGS	GENRE	STARRING
The Reaping	R	For violence, disturbing images, and some sexuality	Thriller	Hilary Swank, David Morrissey, AnnaSophia Robb
Are We Done Yet?	PG	For some innuendo and brief language	Comedy	Ice Cube, Nia Long, Tahj Mowery
Full of It	PG-13	For sexual content, drug references, teen partying, and crude humor	Comedy	Ryan Pinkston, Kate Mara, Joshua Close, Teri Polo, Carmen Electra

# MARCH 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 \$\$ Due for Chasing Daylight and Indy Explosion	5	6	7	8	9	10 Chasing Daylight 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  (Chasing Daylight is an all day retreat designed to reach unsaved teens with the Gospel of Christ, while at the same time encouraging Christian teens to show <b>initiative</b> , be an <b>influence</b> , and take <b>risks</b> for Christ.)
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Indy Explosion (Pacer Game All-Nighter)	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Upcoming Events ~ More Information

April 21 - Parent Appreciation Dinner  
 May 6 - Indianapolis Indians Game

Please be praying for our missions trip June 24 - 29!!