

Developing Talent for College and Beyond

Finding Opportunities to Develop Talents

Begin With Your School

- Investigate Magnet Programs:
- GSST, Schools of the Arts in N.N. & York, career/technical academies
- Extracurricular Options at Your Child's School
- If the school doesn't have a particular club, encourage your child to start one

But Don't Stop There!

Explore Local Opportunities Outside Schools:

- *Sports* – Parks & Recreation, travel leagues
- *Performing arts* (voice, instruments, theatre, dance) – many private studios & groups
- *Visual Arts* – Peninsula Fine Arts Center, Charles H. Taylor Art Center, private studios
- *Nature & the environment* – Virginia Living Museum, local parks
- *Community Service* – a category all it's own

Include a Service Activity

- Important for competitive college admission
- Good for the soul
- Finding a Meaningful Service Activity
 - -Schools
 - High School (Key Club, other organizations)
 - Elementary & Middle (tutor, teacher assistant)
 - -Church (Sunday school, youth group)
 - -Boy and Girl Scouts
 - -Library
 - -Hospital
 - -Local organizations: VLM, PFAC
 - -Parks & Recreation (volunteer coach, assistant.)

Expand Your Child's Horizons: Don't Limit Him to Local Opportunities

Residential Summer Programs

- Summer Governor's School
- Talent Identification Programs at many colleges:
 - College of William and Mary, UVA, Johns Hopkins, Duke
- Sports Camps
- Performing Arts Programs/Camps

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Finding Summer Programs

- Locally
 - Read newspapers/other publications
 - Contact pertinent museums/organizations
 - Virginia Living Museum, Peninsula Fine Arts, Hampton Air & Space Camp
 - NASA Langley Research Center, Jefferson Lab (older students)
- Online search engines:
 - CTY- *Imagine Magazine's* searchable database of summer programs
<http://cty.jhu.edu/imagine/linkA.htm>
 - NAGC - Searchable Resource Directory
<http://www.nagc.org/resourcedirectory.aspx>

Competition Possibilities

- Odyssey of the Mind
- Competitions in math, writing, computer science, art, etc.
- Good reference for competitions:
 - *Competitions for Talented Kids* (2005), by Frances A. Karnes & Tracy L. Riley

Websites

- www.cogito.org
 - -Online community for kids interested in math & science
 - -Summer programs, competitions, internships
- Academic Earth: www.academicearth.org
 - Website that gathers free courses from top universities in one place
- MIT website for high school students -
<http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/hs/home/home/index.htm>
 - -Course materials for many MIT courses
 - -Other information for students & teachers

Mentors

- Academic: GSST Honors Research/Mentorship
- Paid or volunteer work
- Coaches and instructors

Conclusion

- Look for talents to develop at the intersection of your child's interests and abilities.

Want More Information?

For monthly information on making the most of high school and planning for college, subscribe to Dr. Fithian's free electronic newsletter, ***College Planning Minutes***. Just e-mail her at ellen@hredconsulting.com and put PreAdmission Parent in the subject line.

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