



**Center for College
Access and Success**
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Programming Services



Mission

In partnership with schools and through building relationships, CCAS programs will provide exceptional educational experiences and access to college/career advancement opportunities with an equity-minded lens for Chicagoland K-12 students.

Culture & Practice

- Strengthen a culture and practice of trust and respect with each other and all our stakeholders
- Ensure our values and theory of practice are strengths-based and culturally responsive
- Build a more sustainable ecosystem leading to the removal of systemic barriers that truly institutionalize our findings

Middle School Transition Program & College Awareness Sequence

- College Awareness and Success Liaison
- College & Career Readiness Workshop for students
- College Visit Experience
- 5th Grade Summer Transition Program for students

Middle School College Awareness Sequence

- College Awareness and Success Liaison
- College & Career Readiness Workshop for students
- College Visit Experience

STEAM Package

- CCAS STEAM Liaison
- STEAM Professional Learning Series for Middle School Teachers
- STEAM Spring Conference

Family Services Package

- Supporting Postsecondary Aspirations
- Preparing for Postsecondary
- Applying to Postsecondary
- Enrolling in Postsecondary

Arts Integration Services Package

- Paint and Learn Workshops
- Make and Take Workshops
- Shadow Boxes Workshops

"Service quotes are only provided based on availability."

College & Career Readiness Workshop Series

Target Audience:	6th - 8th grade students
Program Length:	10 months
Occurrences:	Monthly
Max Participation:	30 students per classroom; 150 per student cohort
CCAS Staffing:	1 - 2 per classroom

Workshop topics: Exploring careers, understanding GPA, and high school and postsecondary options will help students prepare for the transition to high school and eventually college/university or any other postsecondary pathway. Also, during middle school, students will have to make important decisions about summer programs and high school classes and activities they will want to join.

Over the course of one school year, a series of 50 minute workshops are facilitated per classroom. Different levels of workshops are provided for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to be age-appropriate and engaging. All workshops are conducted during the school day in a classroom or designated space within a school. Online tools can be utilized to enhance the individual workshop experience for participating students. An ISBE certified teacher must be present throughout workshop presentations at all times. All workshop materials are provided for participating students throughout the series.

College & Career Readiness workshop topics include, but not limited to:

- Career Exploration
- College Terms and Values
- High School Success
- Time Management and Goal Setting

The CCAS College Visit Experience

Target Audience:	5th - 8th grade students
Program Length:	3 - 4 hours per event
Occurrences:	Based upon scheduling request and availability
Max Participation:	20 - 75 students
CCAS Staffing:	1:10 staff to student ratio; College campus volunteers will vary

College visits are essential for middle school students to increase awareness and understanding about postsecondary options and opportunities. CCAS coordinates custom college visits for middle school students that incorporate age appropriate activities such as team building, scavenger hunts, mini mock classes and student panels with first-generation college students so they can have an in-depth experience and become more confident about considering college in their own future. Each participating student is provided with a CCAS swag bag that includes a variety of takeaway items. Transportation for students is not provided, though lunch on the college/university campus is included. There is also a requirement of a 1/10 school staff to student ratio for all campus visits.

Middle School Summer Transition Program

Target Audience:	5th grade students rising to 6th grade
Program Length:	4 weeks, 4 hours/day
Occurrences:	Summer Program Only
Max Participation:	20 - 150 students
CCAS Staffing:	Can vary, depends on total number of students

The CCAS Middle School Summer Transition Program is an engaging and interactive program designed to help students smoothly transition from elementary school to middle school. This program aims to ease anxieties, build confidence, and equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in their new academic environment. Through a combination of fun activities, workshops, and team-building exercises, students will gain a deeper understanding of the expectations, routines, and opportunities that await them in middle school.

In order for this program to operate successfully there will need to be an office/storage space for on-site program staff and materials, 1 classroom per 15 participating students, access to a computer lab and/or laptops for students (school provided), access to the school cafeteria to provide snacks and lunches for students (included), access to the school gymnasium and outdoor space for daily programming, and access to the school auditorium for large student group meetings and events. The program is most successful operating 4 days a week for a total of 4 weeks, though adjustments can be made to the schedule depending on the availability of space. Any school staff that can be involved and provide direct support for this program separately is also highly encouraged.

STEAM Conferences (Fall & Spring)

Target Audience:	5th - 8th grade students
Program Length:	5 hour Conference
Occurrences:	2 conferences, offered during the Fall and Spring
Max Participation:	300 students per conference
CCAS Staffing:	1:10 staff to student ratio

Our CCAS STEAM Conference is an exciting and educational event designed to inspire and engage middle school students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. The conference aims to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while introducing students to various STEAM disciplines through hands-on workshops, interactive sessions, and engaging activities. With a focus on collaboration and innovation, this conference provides a platform for students to explore their interests and discover the vast opportunities available in the STEAM fields. Conferences are typically held at our Northeastern Illinois University main campus, or our El Centro campus.

Program Overview:

- Keynote Speaker
- Workshop Sessions
- Interactive Exhibits
- STEAM Showcase and Awards Ceremony
- Catered Lunch

STEAM Professional Learning Series for Middle School Teachers

Target Audience:	5th - 8th grade teachers
Program Length:	120 minutes per session
Occurrences:	1 workshop
Max Participation:	10 teachers per session

The CCAS STEAM Professional Learning Series for 5th - 8th grade teachers is a comprehensive program designed to enhance educators' knowledge, skills, and confidence in integrating STEAM principles into their classrooms. This series provides teachers with practical strategies, resources, and hands-on experiences that empower them to create engaging and interdisciplinary learning opportunities for their students. By fostering collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking, these professional learning opportunities equip teachers with the tools they need to inspire the next generation of innovators and problem solvers. Our Professional Learning Sessions can be held at individual school sites, at our Northeastern Illinois University main campus, or at our El Centro campus. All professional learning materials are included with teachers' participation.

Possible Session Topics:

- Computational Thinking
- First Generation STEAM College Bound
- Robotics



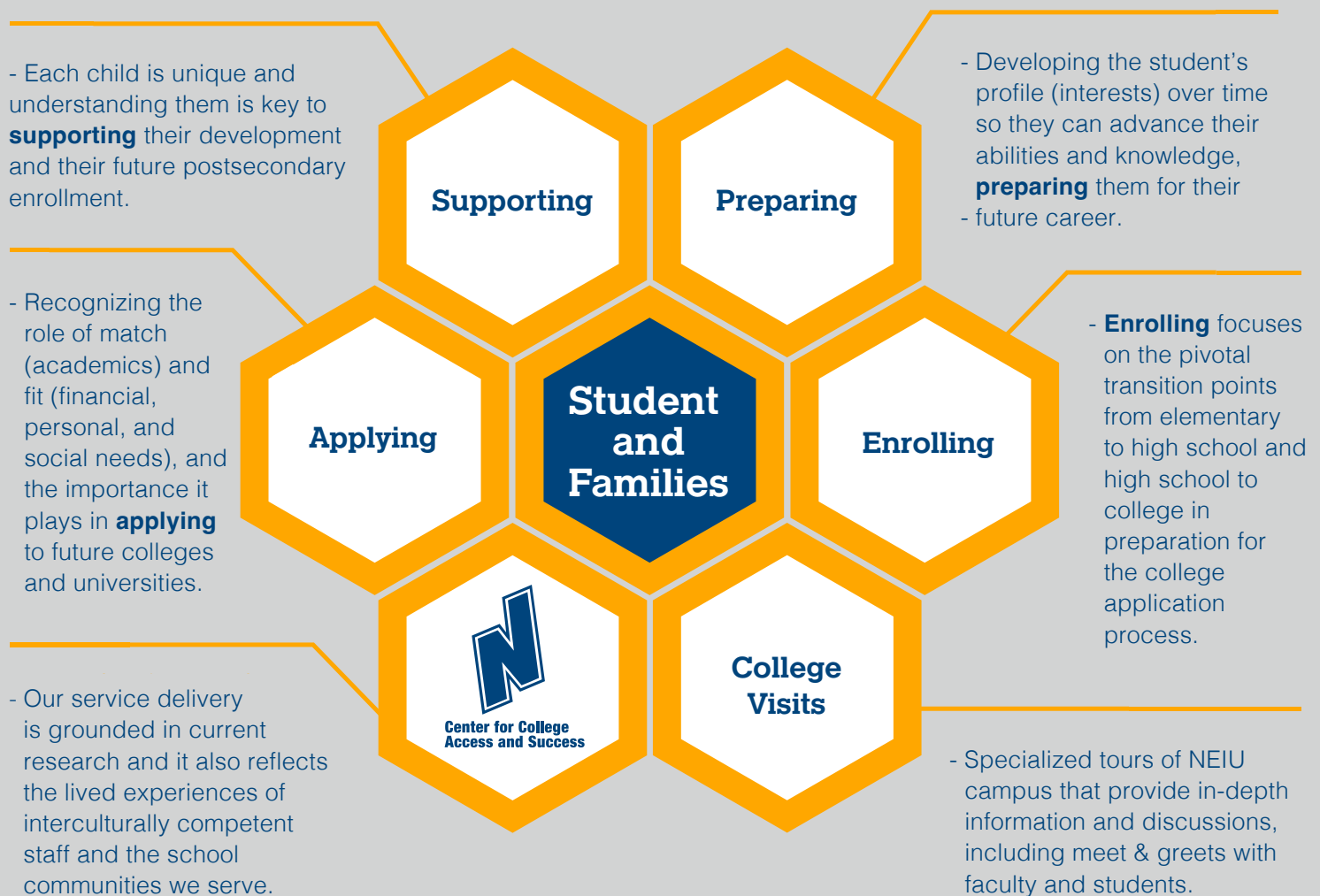
Family Services Package - Engaging Families in Postsecondary Conversation

Target Audience: 5th - 12th grade students & Families
Program Length: 60 minutes per session
Max Participation: 30 participants per session

CCAS offers a series of workshops based on the four (4) phases of college access: supporting, preparing, applying, and enrolling.

Each phase offers three workshops to help families

- (a) increase understanding for their child's interest, abilities and talents,
- (b) increase their knowledge about postsecondary options
- (c) increase awareness to help their child prepare for postsecondary pathways



One-on-one or small group sessions are available for each phase of college access for individualized conversation.

Specialized Visits to any of Northeastern Illinois University's campuses-Main Campus (North), Carruther's Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS, Bronzeville) and/or El Centro Campus (Avondale) can be coordinated.

Supporting Postsecondary Aspirations Workshops

Each child is unique and understanding them is key to *supporting* their development and their future postsecondary enrollment.

Supporting Postsecondary Aspirations	K-5th Grades	Middle School	High School
Understanding your child's interests, abilities, and talents	x	x	x
Postsecondary awareness	x	x	x
Encouraging growth	x	x	x

K-5th Grade

Families will learn about personality traits and their importance in identifying abilities within their children. We'll discuss how personality traits can influence high school, postsecondary, and career selection. We'll share opportunities families can explore within their communities that encourage their children's development and interests.

Middle School

Exploring careers, navigating high school fairs/open houses, understanding GPA, and high school options will help families prepare for the transition to high school. Families will gain insight about the different types of high schools, their selectivity, and Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs that are available.

High School

The importance of understanding college options including trade and certificate programs, selectivity, type, and financial considerations is important in supporting the college application process. Beginning with 9th grade, these presentations build upon the children's interests as they convert their interests, abilities, and talents to possible postsecondary pathways.



Preparing for Postsecondary Workshops

Developing the student's interest profile over time so they can advance their abilities and knowledge, *preparing* them for their future career.

Preparing for Postsecondary	K-5th Grades	Middle School	High School
Understanding your child's interests, abilities, and talents	x	x	x
Postsecondary awareness	x	x	x
Building their profile	x	x	x

K-5th Grade

Learning can be fun and found in everyday life. Understanding personality and learning style will help establish study habits, healthy routines, and tools to help prepare children for a lifetime of learning and will be the focus of these workshops.

Middle School

During middle school, families will have to make important decisions about summer programs and high school. These sessions will discuss CTE options, summer programs, and ways to keep children engaged in learning throughout the year.

High School

Selecting a postsecondary option begins with building up your children's extracurriculars. School clubs, volunteerism, and taking early college classes (dual enrollment and dual credit) can make a big difference in the types of financial awards children receive. Families will explore the different opportunities available to students and their importance in the application process.



Applying to Postsecondary Workshops

Recognizing the role of match (academics) and fit (financial, personal, and social needs), and the importance it plays in *applying* to future colleges and universities

Applying to Postsecondary	K-5th Grades	Middle School	High School
Understanding your child's interests, abilities, and talents	x	x	x
Postsecondary awareness	x	x	x
Match and Fit	x	x	x

K-5th Grade

Understanding how children learn, make friends, and in which environments they thrive are indicators of where they'll be academically, socially, and emotionally successful. Families will identify characteristics of their children's learning styles to guide them into successful environments.

Middle School

As families look forward towards 8th grade graduation, this is also a critical time for deciding which high school children will attend. Workshops will provide tools for researching, considering, applying, and determining a good match and fit high school for their children.

High School

What's a good match and fit college/university for my children? The focus of these workshops is understanding postsecondary options, understanding the cost of attendance, scholarships, and the application processes in order to select the right postsecondary for your children. Families will also discuss campus visits and their importance in determining the "right fit".

Enrolling in Postsecondary Workshops

Enrolling focuses on the pivotal transition points from elementary to high school and high school to college in preparation for the college application process.

Enrolling in Postsecondary	K-5th Grades	Middle School	High School
Understanding your child's interests, abilities, and talents	x	x	x
Postsecondary Awareness	x	x	x
Accepting the Offer	x	x	x
Transition to College			x

K-5th Grades

Staying engaged with the school community leads to stronger support systems for children. Families will discuss the myriad of ways they can become involved in schools to support academic and social growth.

Middle School

As families experience academic milestones, their children are also entering new stages in their development. Families will better understand the process of enrolling along with the academic and social nuances of transitioning to high school.

High School

Regardless of grade-level, critical conversations need to occur among families regarding postsecondary options, financing, and decision-making. Families will better understand the cost of attendance, award letters, and the various financial options available in order to engage in a supportive conversation with their children.

High School to College Transition

Transition to college takes place as soon as students begin applying to college! This workshop will review the process that takes place once accepted at a postsecondary, and the various opportunities, the myths and facts about campuses, and campus events that are available to students. Families will also better understand the expectations of future college students and its impact on their relationship with their children



Arts Integration Workshops

Target Audience:	5th - 12th grade students & Families
Program Length:	90 minutes per session
Max Participation:	25 participants per session

What does CenterSpace do?

The CenterSpace brings multigenerational and diverse abilities individuals from all walks of life together to provide a safe, inclusive, communal learning space to accommodate new ideas using multimedia forms of interaction including but not limited to the concepts of STEAM and Gardner's Multiple Intelligence Theories but also addressing the cultural, historical and socio-economical aspects that often traditional and binary (college/trade school) methodologies of education may overlook. It is a space for workshops, public art and community events aimed at bringing educators, students and families and community members at large, in specific instances, together to learn, create and collaborate.

What is CenterSpace's mission?

The mission for the CenterSpace is to first and foremost honor the artist and educator within us all regardless of formal training and educational experience reinforcing the maker mindset of creating. It is a safe space that aims to provide the tools and instruction (both hands-on and background i.e origins of activity, etc) to learn to create. We aim to provide hands-on learning, concept exploration while fostering critical thinking skills and even boost self confidence.

Paint and Learn Workshops

- Loteria Canvas Art
- Llama Canvas Art
- 3 Little Pigs Ceramic Planter
- Small "Calaca" Ceramic Planter
- Flaming Heart Wall Art
- Llama "I am Loved" Ceramic Planter
- Sugar Skull Pumpkin Ceramic Candy Bowl

Make and Take Workshops

- Heart-Shaped Piñata Paper Art
- "El Corazón" or "El Nopal" Reverse
- Painting Shadow Box
- Tote Bag Make and Take
Tote Bag options include;
 - "Calaca" Frida Inspired Tote
 - Nopales
 - Owl
 - Spring Flowers

Paper Art Workshops

- Pachamama Paper Art (Mother Nature)
- Paper Succulent Planters
- Felt Heart or Nopales Art
- Watercolor Stencil Art
- Scratch & Scribble Art

Shadow Boxes Workshops

- City of Chicago Vinyl Wall Art or Shadow Box
- Neighborhood Shadow Box
- Affirmation Box Art
- Mini Paper Shadow Boxes
(Llamas, Nopales, Butterflies etc.)



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