

## Brookdale Early College Programs @ Keyport High School



### ***What is the Keyport Middle College?***

Middle College is a structured program that offers Keyport high school Juniors and Seniors an opportunity to earn 30 college credits through Brookdale Community College. Students take the most highly transferable general education courses so that they have completed an entire year of college by the time they graduate from high school, thus saving approximately \$20,000 in college tuition compared to the average NJ state public university.

### ***Can a student take more than 30 credits while enrolled at Keyport High School?***

Yes. Very ambitious and high performing students can take up to 60 credits, even completing an entire associates degree, while still in high school. Such students need approval of the parent/guardian, guidance counselor, and Office of Early College Programs at Brookdale. With approval, students may take courses in addition to the Middle College courses in the summer, and in exceptional cases, permission may be granted to begin in the Sophomore year under a program called "Fast Start."

### ***Why is Brookdale no longer offering the Early College High School Academy?***

Students who have graduated in recent years from Early College programs have reported difficulties with transferring some of their credits under the following circumstances:

- (1) when transferring to out-of-state universities that are not bound by the NJ Lampitt Law;
- (2) when students earned credit for Advanced Placement (AP) courses with a score of 3 or 4 on the AP test which was below the acceptable threshold for transferring the credit to a particular university;
- (3) when the college courses also counted toward high school credit and were taught in the high school with only other high school students in the classroom; and
- (4) when students decide to change majors upon transfer.



### ***Why is the Middle College better than the Early College High School Academy?***

Brookdale has learned quite a bit about the benefits and drawbacks of Early College programs over the past ten years. Benefits include acceptance at some of the most prestigious universities in the country, significant growth and development for academically gifted students, and substantial savings of time and money. Our analysis of our experience to date, however, has led us to revamp the Early College programs to create the following enhancements:

- (1) High school students are not always ready to begin taking college classes in their Freshman year. The Middle College allows more students to develop and prepare, both academically and in terms of their self-confidence.
- (2) Students are not always absolutely sure what majors and careers they want to pursue when they are entering high school. Entrance in the Junior year allows more time for students to identify academic strengths and career interests.
- (3) The structure of the Middle College model circumvents the transfer problems that students have encountered under the older Early College Academy.
- (4) The Middle College model allows for the development of guaranteed transfer pathways with NJ state colleges and universities.

### ***Where can I get additional information about the Middle College?***

Brookdale and Keyport High School will be hosting additional information sessions specifically for prospective Middle College students and their families. For general information, you may contact:

- Jennifer Peirson, Director of School Counseling at Keyport ([ipeirson@kpsdschools.org](mailto:ipeirson@kpsdschools.org))
- Cara Novak, Associate Director of Early College and Educational Programs at Brookdale ([cnovak@brookdalecc.edu](mailto:cnovak@brookdalecc.edu))

