Elementary/Middle School Student College Presentation

The key with this presentation is to make it interactive - ask the students questions and allow them to respond. These questions are noted below in italics. If you have a whiteboard, feel free to write down some of their answers.

INTRODUCTION
1. Welcome everyone and introduce yourself
2. It’s never too early to start planning for or thinking about college. Let’s see what you already know: Name some colleges or universities you have heard of.

COLLEGE IS THE KEY: Why do people go to college?
1. College can be the key to the kind of future you want. It can help you:
   a. Learn more
   b. Get a better job
   c. Earn more money
   d. Meet people from all over who will be your friends and co-workers for the rest of your lives.

COLLEGE BASICS: What comes to mind when you hear the word college?
1. There are thousands of colleges and universities all over the world. It’s all about finding the college that’s right for you.
   a. Colleges come in many sizes. They can be small, medium-sized, or large.
   b. Colleges can be in cities, suburban neighborhoods, or in rural areas
   c. There are many types of colleges. There are private or public colleges, 4 or 2 year colleges, and research or liberal arts colleges.
2. Regardless of what college you go to, you will have to declare a major.
   a. Your major is the subject you will study during your two or four years.
   b. Think of it as your favorite subject.
   c. You don’t always need to know exactly what you want to study before you get to college – and you certainly don’t need to know now – but you can start exploring your academic interests.
3. College is also a lot of fun. Many people say that college is the best four years of their life.
   a. You have the opportunity to live on campus, away from home.
      i. You learn to be an independent adult. So, if you want to play video games until 3am, you can. Or, if you want to study all night, you can do it too.
   b. You have the opportunity to study in other countries.
   c. You have the opportunity to be a part of many clubs.
   d. You have the opportunity to attend a wider variety of sporting events, artistic performances, and speaker series.

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE: How can you prepare for college?
1. Getting into college can be a competitive process, depending upon where you want to go to school. But, if you start planning early, you can set yourself up to be admitted to the college of your dreams.

2. What you can do in elementary school:
   a. You can continue to challenge yourself in your classes, do your homework, and get good grades.
   b. Colleges won’t see your elementary school grades but the skills you learn now will set you up to be successful later on.

3. What you can do in middle school:
   a. Develop skills that are valuable in high school and essential in college: word processing, online research, note-taking, and time management, for example.
   b. In 8th grade, you’ll want to take algebra and a foreign language.
   c. Colleges won’t see your middle school grades, but studying hard will prepare you for high school.

4. What you can do in high school:
   a. Get to know your school counselor. Your school counselor will help you pick schools and apply to schools.
   b. Get involved in activities you are passionate about. This may mean being a part of a club, doing community service, having a part-time job, or playing sports.
   c. Strive for good grades.
   d. Take challenging classes. Some schools will offer Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes in many different subjects. These are advanced level classes that look particularly good to colleges.
   e. Study for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams. Some of these tests may be used by colleges in the admission process.
   f. Attend college fairs at your high school and talk to admission counselors at the colleges you want to attend.

5. When it’s time to apply:
   a. You have to apply to and be accepted by each college. As a part of your application for college, you will have to turn in essays about yourself, a list of things you like to do for fun and letters from your teachers.

CONCLUSIONS:
1. Again, it’s never too early to start thinking about college. It may seem very far away, but the hard work you put in now should help you later on.
2. Questions?