

Arkansas Scholars Presentation - Little Rock School District 8th Graders

- The objective of the presentation is to help students realize how the choices they make NOW can greatly impact their future. Smart, responsible choices provides them more options.
- Try to connect and relate. Share your stories and expand on ideas from the slides.
- Estimated presentation time is 45 minutes. Your visit is scheduled for 1 hour. Allow time for questions.

Kids can ask some pretty personal questions. Give it some thought. How might you answer a question like: "So how much money do you make?"

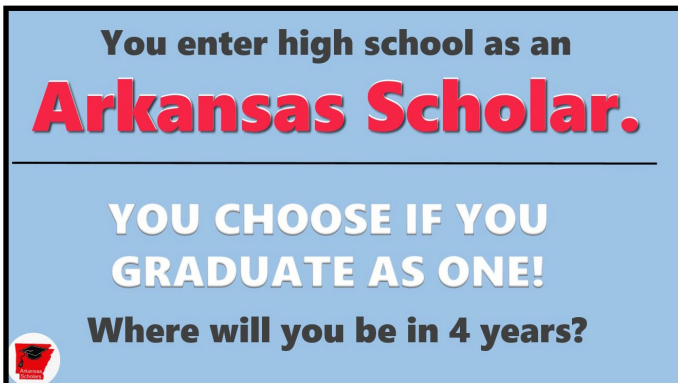
A fair response would be: "I am proud to say that I have worked in my career field for over xx years and have been able to provide for myself (and/or family) through educational and advancement opportunities as they have been offered."



Introduction

Share details you are comfortable with:

- What is your education, training or work experience?
- Were you a LRSD student?
- Why do you think this information is important for them to hear?



- If you sign up to follow the SMART Core curriculum you will enter 9th grade as an Arkansas Scholar. YOU decide if you remain an Arkansas Scholar or not.



What direction will you take after high school?

- Even if you do not make a conscious choice your life will be on one of these life paths.
- Why not choose wisely? Something you like!



Success

- Good choices, personal focus, and dedication in 9th -12th grades can dramatically increase your success.

Requirements **VERY IMPORTANT SLIDE!!!!**

- Review the four requirements that must be completed to graduate as an AR Scholar.
- A transcript is a permanent record of your high school years. Make it as positive as possible.
- If you graduate as an AR Scholar you will have a seal on your transcript that will indicate to employers, colleges, and trade schools you are likely to be dependable and hard working.

Arkansas Scholar Requirements:

1. Take the Smart Core curriculum throughout high school.
2. Make a SEMESTER grade of "C" or better in all courses.
3. Maintain a 95% attendance rate throughout high school.
4. Complete high school in eight consecutive semesters.

→ Your transcript will be a record of all you do!

GOOD CHOICES have real life impact now!

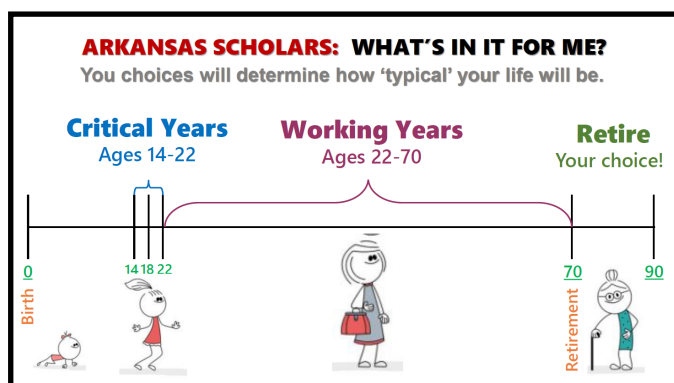
Students need a "C" average (2.0 GPA) or above to take the Arkansas driving test.

Good grades can qualify students for BIG savings on auto insurance.

Social Media posts never go away. Employers can research you for years to come. Keep it clean. Keep it positive.

Real-life Impacts to consider NOW!!

- AR law requires teens to have a 2.0 GPA to take the driving test.
- Good grades will save money on auto insurance.
- Social media posts never disappear. How do you want to be viewed now? In 10 years? In 20 years?



Life Span-the next four years are important

- Ages 14-18 are a critical period.
- Look at the years you spend learning to determine what you will be earning!
- Positive decisions made during the next 4-8 years can greatly improve the quality of life for the remaining 40+ years.



Be Prepared

- MANY of the fastest growing jobs require additional training or education beyond high school.
- It is important to position yourself to have good options available to you.



No time like the present

- Decisions that impact your adult years starts NOW.
- YOU have control over your future. Set goals and work towards them.

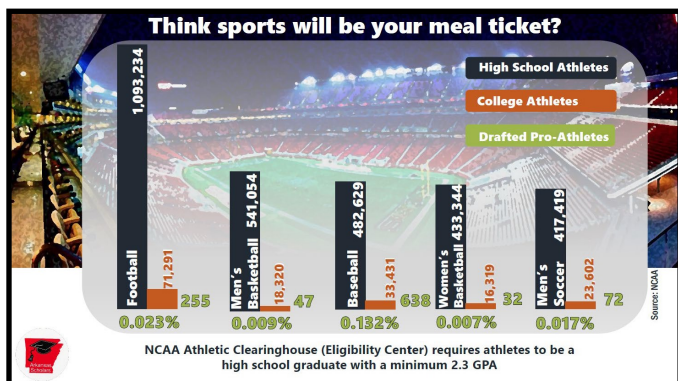
What would YOU like to do when you get out of high school?

It is not unusual for students to say something about sports, video game play/design, or acting. Many do not realize how slim their chances are in those fields.



Being Famous

- Do you know a successful YouTube vloggers?
- Do you know a famous actor from Arkansas?
- What about sports figures? There aren't many!
- Fame is not a realistic idea for most of us.



Professional Athletics

Did you know that ALL high school athletes must apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse - when headed off to play sports in college - which requires a 2.3 high school GPA!

Only 1.7% of college football players and 0.08% of high school players become pros.

FAST MONEY

Over 68% of the incarcerated population are high school dropouts

Hear about making fast money- But what does that mean??

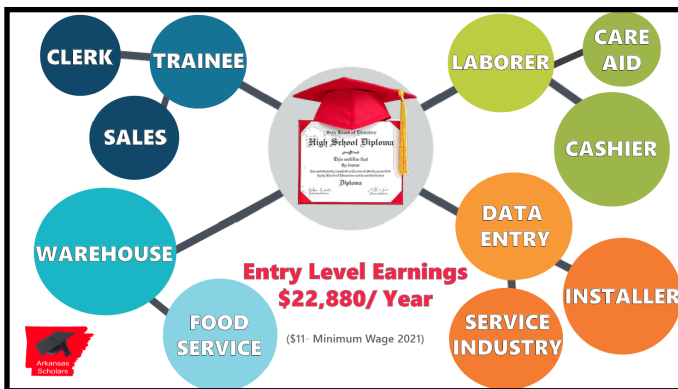
USUALLY ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

YOU JEOPARDIZE:
Your safety
Your reputation
Your rights
Your future

Source: Department of Justice Statistics

Fast Money

- No such thing as 'fast money' without HUGE risk. It is a gamble not worth taking.



Post HS Graduate Job Market

- Respectable work, but minimum pay.
- These positions are not always full time.
- Often slow or no advancement in these jobs.

Minimum Wage Household Budget

Woo-hoo- I got a job and a paycheck!!

TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE	BALANCE
Federal Income Tax	120.00		1780.00
State Income Tax	50.00		1730.00
Social Security/Medicare	145.00		1585.00

\$1,900 per Month Earnings (\$22,880/ Year or \$11.00/ Hour)

Minimum Wage Budget for a MONTH

Based on working 40 hours a week, 4 weeks a month.

- Taxes are taken out first. (What do our taxes go towards?)
- These 3 line items are deducted from your salary before your employer cuts you a check.

Minimum Wage Household Budget

TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE	BALANCE
Federal Income Tax	120.00		1780.00
State Income Tax	50.00		1730.00
Social Security/Medicare	145.00		1585.00
Rent (w/roommate)	450.00		1135.00
Car Payment	300.00		835.00
Car Insurance	100.00		735.00
Gasoline	80.00		655.00
Cell Phone	75.00		580.00
Utilities	150.00		430.00
Groceries	240.00		190.00

\$1,900 per Month Earnings (\$22,880/ Year or \$11.00/ Hour)

< \$200 left for Food out, Fun, and Fashion What? That won't work!!!!

Monthly expenses: Let's look at typical needs -

- If you split rent with a roommate, you might could swing about \$400 for an apartment.
- Car payment would typically run about \$300 - and that is not a Denali or Cadillac!
- Auto insurance is high, particularly for those under 25 years old. . .so we will deduct \$80 per month for that.

Show Me the Money!

Median Annual Incomes in the U.S.

High School Graduate:	\$33,852
Associate's Degree:	\$40,404
Bachelor's Degree:	\$57,616
Master's Degree:	\$69,108
Professional Degree:	\$89,128

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Position Survey (2013)



On average those who complete college earn almost **ONE MILLION DOLLARS** more than high school graduates over the course of a lifetime.

Arkansas Scholar Scholarship Benefits

U of A Pulaski Technical College

Offers up to \$500 per qualifying semester for up to four qualifying semesters

Local employers look for the Arkansas Scholars seal on your transcript.

Requirements:

Take the SMART Core courses, make a semester grade of 'C' or better in all classes, finish high school in 8 consecutive semesters, and maintain a 95% attendance average over the 4 years.



Average Incomes

- Education = greater earning power.
- You can lose a job but no one can take your education, training or skills away from you. That is what makes you employable.

Benefit of a Graduating AR Scholar

(in Pulaski County)

- WOW! If you qualify for the Arkansas Scholars assistance program at Pulaski Tech, you could earn \$2000 applied towards your college coursework.
- \$2000 is a lot of money!!

Being an **ARKANSAS SCHOLAR** could help you earn other opportunities!

You may also qualify for the

Arkansas Challenge (Lottery) Scholarship

Requirements: Graduate from an Arkansas high school and have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or better in Smart Core classes -or- a minimum ACT score of 19



(Be sure to check qualifying requirements annually.)

Other opportunities

- There are many other scholarships and/or grants you MIGHT be eligible for when you graduate as an AR Scholar. Do not assume scholarships and training opportunities are only available for students at the top of the class.
- Be sure to check guidelines annually.

Take time now to plan for your future.
If you don't, who will?



Sometimes a great opportunity is right in front of us. Grab your AR Scholars brochure and enter sweepstakes for prizes!



www.arkansascholars.org

1. Take the Smart Core curriculum during high school.
2. Make a semester grade of "C" or better in all courses.
3. Maintain a 95% attendance rate. Miss no more 5% total - in 4 years.
4. Complete high school in eight consecutive semesters.

This presentation is a product of these local partners:



Volunteers in Public Schools
www.vipslrdsd.org



LITTLE ROCK
www.lrsd.org

Summation

- Discuss the importance of their choices.
- Mention QR code on brochure to enter sweepstakes ★★ NEW FOR 2022!!

Recap of AR Scholars requirements

- Review ALL points again, and again!!