JUNIOR PARENT COLLEGE NIGHT

Isidore Newman School
College Counseling Office
October 7, 2019
AGENDA

- Keeping the Student At the Center
- Junior Year Timeline
- Getting Started
- Standardized Testing
- Developing a College List
- Completing Applications
- Paying for College
KEEPING THE STUDENT AT THE CENTER
STUDENT-CENTERED PROCESS = SUCCESSFUL PROCESS

- Your student should take the lead, including when to get started
- Your student (and you) have more control than you realize
- There are thousands of outstanding post-secondary education options in the US & around the world
- Tune out the noise—from media, other parents, etc. This is your child’s search, and it will be distinct from others’
- There is a plan!
SOME THINGS HAVE CHANGED . . .

- Testing (SAT re-centered, re-designed; the rise of test-optional)
- Grades and grade inflation
- The business (marketing and big data come to admissions—the predictive modeling industry)
- At private colleges, increased emphasis on Early Decision
- College costs (but not as much as it appears)
OTHERS HAVE STAYED THE SAME . . .

❖ Though the process has moved online, the fundamental logistics and essential timeline remain
❖ The basics of an application (demographics, academic record, activities, etc.)
❖ The goal of the process: to prepare your child for a successful college career and life
❖ The emotional element—on both sides—of a child “leaving the nest”
❖ The parental boundaries and student ownership of the process
SOME RULES OF THUMB (DON’Ts)

❖ set a particular college (or set of colleges) as the goal for your child

❖ use language like “first-tier” or “second-tier” to describe colleges. If your son or daughter attends a so-called “second-tier” school, does that make him or her a second-tier person?

❖ judge the success/failure of your child or your child-rearing by a college admission decision.

❖ fall prey to Groucho Marx syndrome: “I wouldn't want to attend any college that would accept me.”
SOME RULES OF THUMB (DOs)

- listen. And listen. And listen.
- make time for college visits.
- have a frank discussion with your child about the family budget for financing a college education, but don’t let (published) costs drive the search.
- keep an open mind about colleges you may not be aware of.
- remember that life is a marathon, not a sprint.
- remember that they will be our sons and daughters a lot longer than they’ll be high school seniors and college students.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

Love’s purpose is not to shape our beloved’s destiny, but to help them shape their own. It isn’t to show them the way, but to help them find a path for themselves, even if the path they take isn’t one we would choose for ourselves, or even one we would choose for them. [. . .] Loving children doesn’t give them a destination; it gives them sustenance for the journey.

—Dr. Alison Gopnik, Prof. of Psychology, UC-Berkeley

The Gardener and the Carpenter: What the New Science of Child Development Tells Us About the Relationship Between Parents and Children
JUNIOR YEAR TIMELINE
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>School life</strong></td>
<td>Transcript matters most! Do your best in classes that challenge you.</td>
<td>-Choose challenging classes for 12th</td>
<td>-Complete Naviance resume</td>
<td>-Final Exams</td>
<td>-AP Exams</td>
<td>Do something that matters to you this summer</td>
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<td><strong>College Research</strong></td>
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<td>-1st Student meeting</td>
<td>-Parent meeting (after student meeting)</td>
<td>-College Admission Symposium (Jan. 27)</td>
<td>-Research &amp; visit colleges</td>
<td>-Complete Naviance surveys &amp; self-assessments</td>
<td>-Parent meeting (after student meeting)</td>
<td>-Research &amp; visit colleges</td>
<td>-Share college feedback with college counselors</td>
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<td><strong>Testing</strong></td>
<td>-1st College Prep class ends</td>
<td>-2nd College Prep class begins</td>
<td>-ACT Feb 8</td>
<td>-SAT Mar 14</td>
<td>-ACT Apr 4</td>
<td>-SAT May 2</td>
<td>-SAT June 6</td>
<td>-ACT June 13</td>
<td>-ACT July 18</td>
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<td><strong>Applications</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Financial Aid</strong></td>
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GETTING STARTED
ADVICE FROM A COLLEGE PRESIDENT

First, prospective students and families need to start with some self-reflection. Spend less time focused on finding the right college[s], for that is the easier part, and spend more time up front reflecting on your son or daughter and where they are in their own personal development.

-- Adam Weinberg, President, Denison University
1. Student-only meeting with college counselor—by end of March 2020

2. Student & parent each complete College Counseling Survey in Naviance – by end of May 2020

3. Parent meeting with college counselor – by end of May 2020

4. Student meeting with college counselor – by end of Sept. 2020
STANDARDIZED TESTING
THOUGHTS ON TESTING

- Transcript (grades/trends in grades/course rigor) will always be most important
- Testing is not as important as you think, but more important than colleges acknowledge
- Focus on either ACT or SAT, not both
- Strongest growth from 1st to 2nd testing, some improvement at 3rd, results tend to stay somewhat flat after that
- Students CAN overdo it, which isn’t good
## TYPES OF STANDARDIZED TESTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PSAT/Pre-ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Subject Tests</th>
<th>AP Tests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Used in college admissions</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Maybe. Under 12 colleges require or suggest</td>
<td>Not formally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th grade</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Probably not</td>
<td>Probably not</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th grade</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th grade</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Fall, maybe</td>
<td>Maybe</td>
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# 2020 TEST DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT Dates</th>
<th>SAT/Subject Test Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>March 14*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>May 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>June 6</td>
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<td>July 18</td>
<td>August 29</td>
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<td>September 12</td>
<td>October 3</td>
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<td>October 24</td>
<td>November 7</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>December 5</td>
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*Subject Tests not offered on March test date
STEPS IN DEVELOPING A COLLEGE LIST

- Identify student needs, likes, dislikes, anticipated path...knowing that all of this can & will change over the next two years
- Research a range of colleges
- Share feedback with college counselor
- Continue researching/visiting/feedback as list expands and narrows
- Assess academic, personal & financial fit for each college on list
- Identify 3 foundation schools with input from college counselor
QUESTIONS TO PONDER FIRST

- What sources do I trust when researching?
- What do I enjoy thinking about?
- How do I like learning?
- What new activities do I hope to try in the future?
- Where do I enjoy spending time? Inside, outside, city, nature…
- Am I open to living in a different part of the state? Region? Country? Outside of the US?
- What aspects of school life interest me the most? The least?
PLANNING COLLEGE VISITS

- See several types of colleges: small, large, public, private, faith-based, rural, urban
- Visit info & registration is found on a college’s admissions website
- If possible, split up the family for the tour — expand your knowledge base/perspective
- Take pictures during the visit & notes as soon as the visit is over; these impressions are important later!
- If an interview is offered . . .
“FIT”: HOW A COLLEGE MEETS A STUDENT’S NEEDS IN THESE THREE ASPECTS

Personal Fit
Academic Fit
Financial Fit
FINAL COLLEGE LIST

- Due to College Counseling (via Naviance) by 10/1
- STRONGLY recommend no more than 10 colleges
- Every college should be a “first choice”
- Three foundation schools that meet academic, personal, & financial needs
COMPLETING APPLICATIONS
WE HELP STUDENTS WITH...

- College list & app strategy
- Selecting teacher recommenders
- Choosing test scores
- Completing applications
- Essay brainstorming & review
- Organizing workload
- Practice interviews
- Assisting with need-based financial aid
- Researching scholarships
- Any other part of the process!
SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Essay Workshops**: Week-long programs in the summer

- **App-a-polooza (October)**: Work on apps as College Counseling stays open until 8:30 pm

- **Open Office Hours**: College counselors available for drop-in questions, no appointments needed
APPLICATIONS, DEADLINES, STRATEGY

Applications: Common App, state-specific, college-specific, Coalition Application

Deadlines:
Rolling Decision (Aug-Feb)
Early Action (Nov)
Restrictive Early Action (Nov)
Early Decision (Nov)
Early Decision II (Jan-Feb)
Regular Decision (Jan-Apr)

Strategy: Individual by student & college
PAYING FOR COLLEGE
TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE

- Tuition
- Room
- Board
- Books
- Fees
- Travel
- Clothing
- Social life
- Greek life fees
TYPES OF AID

- Need-based
- Tuition discounting
- Merit-based aid
RESOURCES

- Net Price Calculators (each college’s website)
- finaid.org
- FastWeb.com
- FAFSA.gov
- osfa.la.gov/landing/TOPSindex.htm
- Colleges’ financial aid websites & offices
STEPS TO APPLYING FOR NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Step 1: Complete FAFSA
• Opens 10/1
• Tied to IRS Data Retrieval, streamlined forms
• Send to each college on student’s list with attention to deadlines
• Be sure to include TOPS

Step 2: Research any other needed financial aid forms by college
• Private colleges often require the CSS Profile (CollegeBoard.org)
• Some have their own form, so be sure to check

Step 3: Provide additional info to colleges if necessary
• Appropriate if you feel like the forms do not tell your family’s complete financial story
FINDING OTHER FUNDING OPTIONS

- finaid.org
- FastWeb.com
- TOPS (osfa.la.gov/landing/TOPSindex.htm)
- Colleges’ financial aid websites & offices
QUESTIONS?