

Junior Parent Night



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Presenters



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Class of 2016

Class of 2016

Keep in mind that this generation has grown up in a digital age where technology is always “too slow”.

We are living in expedient times and everything is changing quickly; college counseling has changed dramatically as well.

Mindset List for the Class of 2016

- They have always lived in cyberspace
- Bill Clinton is a Senior Statesman of whose presidency they have little knowledge of
- While still fans of music on the radio, they often listen on their laptops or download on to MP3s or iPod
- They have lived in an era of instant stardom & self-proclaimed celebrities, famous for being famous
- They have digital yearbooks and photo albums
- They can't picture people actually carrying their luggage through airports instead of rolling it



Meets every Tuesday,
Wednesday, or Thursday

Upcoming Events:

March 25th College Visit-
Colleges of the Fenway

April 10th College Fair –
Boston



Junior Seminar

Exit Standards and Graduation Requirements



- Pass Core Classes
- Pass Workshop
- Pass MCAS (ELA, Math, Science)
- Pass 2 College Courses (3 credits each) with a 75/C
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- College Acceptance Letter
- Senior Debate
- Community Service – 135 hours total
- Senior Project

The College Process

- Put everything on the table: size, location, type of school, finances
- Organize all your college materials, usernames, log-in information
- Communication between student, parent, and counselor is key
- Develop a plan
- Be aware of important dates & deadlines
- **Student** drives the application process



Factors to Consider When Selecting Colleges

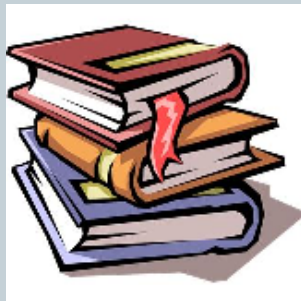


- Location
- Size
- **Cost**
- Admission Standards
- Academic Programs
- Extracurricular Activities
- Personal Services (Academic Support Center)
- Career Development Services

Recommended College Guides

Books

- The Fiske Guide
- US World & News Report Ratings
- Rugg's Recommendations for College
- Princeton Review



Websites

www.collegeboard.com

www.petersons.com

www.princetonreview.com

<http://www.collegemajors101.com/>

[College Navigator](http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/)

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

Project Student Debt

<http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org/>

Harvard Admission Institute: What Colleges look for...



The most important factors in Admission to college are:

- ✦ GPA
- ✦ SAT/ACT scores
- ✦ College Essay
- ✦ Activities Resume
- ✦ Counselor Recommendation*

**Especially in more selective colleges and universities*





GPA

How does a college look at my GPA ?

GPA (Grade Point Average) is a summary of your academic history in high school.

Colleges recalculate GPAs according to their own criteria

What is included in your SSCPS GPA ?

Core Classes (English, Math, Science, Social Science, Spanish, and Workshop)

MA State Colleges/Universities count college courses as AP classes



SAT or ACT

Standardized testing is only a part of the admissions decision –

Test scores do not tell the whole story about your abilities, however in more competitive schools, they are looked at more critically

- Understand the difference between the 2 exams
- Test Preparation
- Opt for a school that is SAT Optional

<http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

SAT & ACT Test Registration Dates



SAT

www.collegeboard.com

CEEB Code 221092

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Register by</u>
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May 2	Apr 6
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June 6	May 8
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\$51.00, includes 4 score reports

ACT

www.actstudent.org

School Code 221092

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Register by</u>
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April 18	March 8
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June 13	May 6
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\$36.50 (No writing), includes 4 score reports

\$52.00 (Writing), includes 4 score reports

New SAT ID Policy



- Students now need to have a picture ID to take the SATs
- SAT Admission tickets now have a picture on them
- Examples of acceptable ID:
 - ✦ Drivers license
 - ✦ Current school ID with photo
 - ✦ Passport
 - ✦ College Board ID form

All documents must be current

Photocopies are not acceptable

SAT Subject Tests



SAT Subject Tests are one hour long content-based tests that give students an opportunity to highlight their academic background and interest in a specific subject area.

Subject Areas include: Literature, Biology, Math 1 & 2, US History, World History, and Spanish.

Dates: Same as SATs, May 4 and June 1

Cost: \$24.50 for registration, \$13.00 per exam

Register on www.collegeboard.com

It's hard to write about yourself

You need to start writing your essay NOW-

Make drafts, ask for help

There is help!

Teachers

Administrator

Mentors

Guidance

Mandatory FIT period
Quarter 1 of Senior Year



College Essay, “Tell me about yourself, in 650 words or less...”



Activities Resume

List of
Accomplishments

Organize
information

Supported during
Junior Seminar

- List Everything from grade 9 to present
- Sports, community service, work experience, courses, volunteer work
- Workshop Highlights
- Ask others for reminders of what you have done



Questionnaires and forms are VERY important

Be honest - what you want and what you do not want in the recommendation letter

To Waive or Not to Waive

Opt not to write a letter – why?!?



Counselor Recommendations: You as a whole person

Admission Types



Rolling Admission: No deadline and you receive an admission decision relatively soon after you apply (4-6 weeks)

Regular Admission: There is a stated deadline, typically between January 1st and March 1st. Check website for exact dates. All students are informed of their status at the same time, typically the middle to end of March.

Early Action: Non-Binding. Apply early, typically Nov 1 or Nov 15, or Dec 1 or Dec 15. Students receive an admission decision by January. You can apply Early Action to more than one school (usually). Read the fine print on the college website.

Early Decision: Binding – you are obligated to attend if they admit you, unless you can show that their financial aid offer is not affordable to you. You can apply to only one school using

How do I apply?



Common Application

www.commonapp.org

- Create an account
- One application for many schools
- Check for supplements
- Application fee
- Problems w/the website

Individual Application

- Look on college website
- Most colleges only accept on-line applications
- Application fee



Application Timeline & Tips

The list your son/daughter of colleges they have in Junior year will look different in the Fall and that's OK! Just stay organized and communicate with guidance.

- Have all applications complete by Dec 1st (This may make you eligible for merit money)
- Make a spreadsheet of all application deadlines for your colleges
- Common Application – one app for many colleges www.commonapp.org
- Applications cost between \$25.00 to \$95.00 so plan accordingly
- Write one or two really good essays and reuse them, rather than writing several mediocre essays.

Ways to Strengthen Your Application



- Take the most rigorous classes you are capable of
- Get good grades/improve grades
- Prepare for admission exams (SAT/ACT/SAT Subject)
- Participate in a summer program, volunteer, take a class, enroll in a pre-college program
- Visit campuses and participate in tours. Follow up with any questions to Admissions and if you like a school, go back during Open House (Admissions tracks visits)

Financial Aid



- There will be a Financial Aid Night in the Fall 2015
- FAFSA Night (January 2016)
- CSS Profile (October 2015)
- Scholarships – check with local clubs, organizations, businesses, district school guidance website



Next steps...

The student should be the driving force behind the application process since they are the main benefactor .

The college search process is the beginning of the student's transition into adulthood and becoming more independent.

- Research colleges
- Visit colleges over April vacation
- Attend college fairs
- Make sure you know what admission tests and requirements you need
- Read “ The Short Guide to a Happy College Search”

Final thoughts



“To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the 'C' students, I say you too may one day be President of the United States.”

George W. Bush, US President

Keep a sense of humor about yourself – it will help you keep perspective.