

College Night Presentation

for Juniors and their Parents

Agenda

- Words of Wisdom
- Preparing for a College Search
- Scholarships
- Parent Tips
- Next Steps for Juniors

Words of Wisdom

Relax...

You will get in.

70% of colleges accept an average of 70% of their applicants.



Words of Wisdom

You don't need to go far away.

88% of high school students go to college in their home state.



Words of Wisdom

If you don't have a major,
it's OK.

More than half of new
college students say a very
important reason for going
to college is “to find my
purpose in life.”





Preparing for a College Search

Know Yourself

- Values
- Ambitions
- Achievements
- Academic Strengths
- Interests
- Your Standout Talents



Types of Colleges

Type	Description	Tuition	Admission Requirements
Four year	<p>Degrees offered: Bachelors and beyond</p> <p>Provides: A well-rounded college experience that includes an academic area of study.</p>	<p>State: Typically under \$15,000/year</p> <p>Private: Typically more than \$20,000/year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAT or ACT• GPA• Class rank• Essay• Extracurricular activities• Letters of recommendation• Transcripts

Types of Colleges

Type	Description	Tuition	Admission Requirements
Two year	<p>Degrees offered: Associates</p> <p>Provides: A way to ease into college / take general college classes for credit. Typically have agreements with four year colleges to transfer credits.</p>	Typically around \$4,000/year	Open-door admission policy

Choosing Your College Priorities

What is important to you?

- Location
- Academics
- Size
- Campus Appeal
- Social Life
- Total Cost – Including aid



About College Admission Tests

- **ACT**

- Predominantly used by schools in middle-U.S. states
- Consists of four tests: English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing
- Writing component is optional
- Top composite score is 36

- **SAT**

- Predominantly used by east and west coast schools
- Consists of three tests: Verbal, Math, Writing
- Each test is scored on a scale of 200-800

What information do college admission officers review?

- Grades / Overall GPA
- Strength of high school course selections
- Admission Test Score
- Essay
- Teacher and counselor recommendations
- Class rank
- Student's demonstrated interest
- Personal accomplishments
- Personality characteristics
- Courses in progress Junior and Senior year

Collecting College Information – Where to go

- **Cappex.com** - College search made simple. Your first stop to kick-start your college and scholarship search
- **nacacnet.org** - National Association for College Admission Counseling. Offers national college fair information and articles about the college process
- **collegeboard.com** - Information about the SAT
- **act.org** - Information about the ACT test



Scholarships

Merit Scholarship Tips

Merit scholarships are where the money is.

- There is more than \$11 billion in merit scholarships available to students from colleges
- Not just for “A” students
- Many awards emphasize leadership or school involvement
- Nearly all colleges offer merit aid scholarships
- The average merit scholarship is \$5,000
- Many awards can be renewed year after year

Scholarship Resources

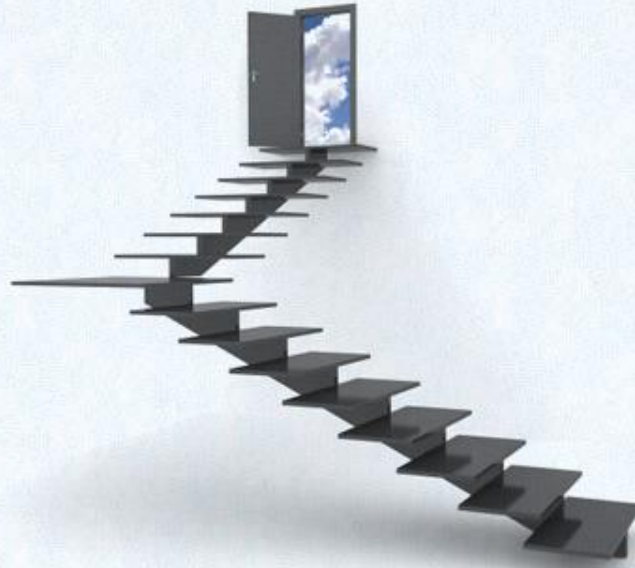
- **Fastweb.com** - Private scholarships
- **fafsa.ed.gov** - Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- **Studentaid.ed.gov** - The federal government's website about paying for college
- **MeritAid.com** - \$11 billion in merit scholarships
- **Cappex.com** - Scholarship matching
- **finaid.org** - Free student resource for learning about all types of financial aid



Are You a Helicopter Parent?

10 Tips for would-be Helicopter Parents

1. Help your student understand the college search process
2. Be realistic and non-judgmental
3. Be in the "back seat" - and not the driver - of the college search process
4. Be open to dialogue and responsive to questions
5. Be aware of deadlines and fees due
6. Know that things have changed since your college days
7. Don't overemphasize your own alma maters
8. Don't compare your student with others
9. Don't dwell on disappointments, like a rejection letter
10. Celebrate successes!



Next Steps

Next Steps for Juniors

In School

- ✓ Stay focused on academics
- ✓ Do not lighten your academic load for senior year
- ✓ Meet with your school counselor
- ✓ Stay involved in school activities

Standardized Testing

- ✓ Prepare for and register for ACT / SAT tests
- ✓ Register for AP tests as appropriate

College Exploration

- ✓ Explore colleges on the Web
- ✓ Visit colleges if you can
- ✓ Meet with college representatives
- ✓ Attend college fairs

Our High School's Timeline

- (Counselor: Add your content here.)

Our High School's Requirements for Juniors

- (Counselor: Add your content here.)