

Scottsdale Preparatory Academy Junior Parent Night



Thursday, September 6, 2018

Mrs. Sterner and Mrs. Fletcher

SPA College Counseling

Tonight's Topics

- What do colleges look for?
- A closer look at the GPA
- Types of applications
- Applying for financial aid
- Timeline for juniors
- College Admissions 101
- Testing
- Parent's role
- Next Steps



What do colleges look for?

- Academic Rigor (Course Selection)
- Academic Record (GPA)
- Standardized Testing (SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Test)

- Extracurricular Involvement (sports, clubs, interests)
- Volunteer Experience (depth not breadth)
- Demonstrated Interest (sometimes)
- Recommendations (teacher & counselor)
- Alumni Connections (sometimes)
- Student Contribution, Compatibility

The GPA

1) Weighted

2) Unweighted

3) Recalculated

- English - 4 years
- Math - 4 years
- Laboratory Science - 3 years
- Social Science - 2 years
- Foreign Language - 2 (same language)
- Fine Arts - 1 year



Applications

Early Decision- binding

Early Action- non binding

Restrictive Early Action-varies by school

Regular Decision- last deadline

Rolling Admissions-reviewed as received

Applying for Financial Aid

- Types of Aid- Institutional & External Scholarships, Grants, Loans
- College Depot through Phoenix Public Library
- Financial Aid Calculator on College Website
- FAFSA & CSS Profile



Timelines for Juniors and Seniors

- **Junior Year - Exploration**
 - Utilize PSAT (Oct. 24) to prepare for SAT (April 9)
 - Symposium October 20
 - Browse books and the internet
 - College tests SAT/ACT/Subject Tests
 - Visit schools
 - Develop College List
 - Naviance/CollegeBoard Big Future
 - Summer Programs/Tours

- **Senior Year – Application**

July to October

- Study instructions
- Work on essays
- Get recommendations
- File applications

- **Senior Year – Finances**

October to March

- FAFSA & CSS Profile in October
- Search for scholarships
- Know your deadlines!
- **Senior Year – Wrap-Up**

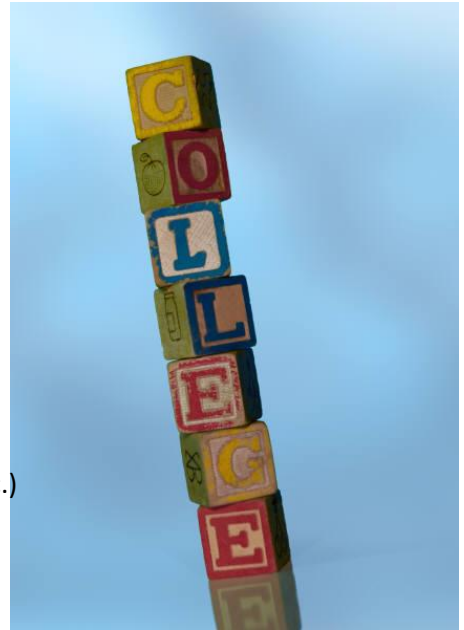
April & May

- Select college
- Notify (by May 1st)
- Fill out college paperwork

The Junior Year Curriculum

- College Admissions 101

- 6-8 classes during the school day
- Broad overview of College Admissions 101
 - Naviance
 - Resumes
 - Personal Statements
 - Testing
 - Khan Academy
 - Common Application
 - Admissions procedures (Timelines, Essays, etc.)
 - Paying for college
 - Interviews/College Visits



NAVIANCE

- Our college counseling site is [NAVIANCE](#)
- Students will complete:
 - Junior Planning Survey
 - Prospective College List
 - Resume
- Use your parent account to see what your student is doing. *Username is your email & temporary passwords were sent today!*

Standardized Testing

- Students need to study
 - Prep Courses (in-person, online, Khan Academy)
 - Prep Books
- Take the PSAT on 10/24 - Pay on Configio
- Take the ACT and the *SAT in the spring
 - (can re-take preferred test again if needed)
- *SAT School Day - SPA will administer a SAT on our campus Tues, 4/9 *No registration or fee required.*
- While researching schools, see which require/recommend SAT Subject Tests (SAT II)



- Test Optional Colleges- www.fairtest.org
- SPA CEEB Code: 030-661

Parent's Role

- Support your student. Attend evening programs
- Speak to them NOW about all restrictions
- Communicate with the college counselor
- Encourage your student to take the lead in all meetings, phone calls, and emails to colleges
- Don't become "that" parent in the admissions office
- Keep asking questions for clarification

Next Steps

1. Define 6-8 target schools that are a fit.
2. Be realistic about the student profile.
3. Research colleges (visit some if possible)
4. Register and take SAT/ACT; *possibly* Subject Tests
5. Family discussions about qualities in a school
6. Go to college fairs, evening meetings, etc.
7. Student starts making personal contact with colleges
8. Utilize Naviance!