



RUMSEY HALL SCHOOL

February 9, 2024

Dear VIth Form Parents, Guardians, and Consultants,

Now that all transcripts and recommendations have been submitted to secondary schools on behalf of our Seniors, and conversations have begun with admission offices around the country, I take a moment to begin a dialogue with VIth Form families about Rumsey's secondary school counseling process.

As many of you know, Rumsey Hall is one of ten (10) member schools of the Junior Boarding School Association. [Junior Boarding School Association Home](#). All of these schools are located in New England and New York and culminate with the 9th grade year. We are committed to the education of young and early adolescent children. [Value of a Ninth Grade Year](#)

While the VIth Form year is a dramatic time of transition for students, the overall VIIth Form (Senior) experience (academic, social, artistic, athletic, etc.) is designed to most fully prepare Rumsey students for the challenging transition to secondary school. Rumsey's long-standing relationships with prep schools are based on years of successful placement of our graduates. This fall, we welcomed admission folks from over 55 schools who visited our Seniors in our Senior Seminar (4S) class. They enjoy coming to meet and interact with these small groups of students. These meetings go a long way in getting students more comfortable with admissions folks and what to expect during visits, interviews, tours, and the application process in general. [Class of 2024 - Schools Where They Applied.pdf](#)

Rumsey's history of retention for matriculates in 10th grade is much stronger than in 9th, as the social fabric of secondary schools can be difficult to navigate. The structure, safety and effectiveness of our VIIth Form program allows each student to continue to develop good decision-making and leadership skills. The Senior year invariably provides students with the best range of options. [Acceptance and Matriculation Lists](#)

You may have read recently that Dartmouth College president, Sian Beilock, made the decision to return to requiring the SAT or ACT for next year's admission cycle at the college. She cited extensive research and data that indicated that the scores were more predictive of success at Dartmouth than high school grades. I mention this here for two reasons. The first is that the experience of taking a three hour standardized test is a good exercise for those applying to secondary school. The second is that as colleges and universities go, secondary schools will likely follow. We have seen an increase of SSAT requirements over the past three years. The first year out of the pandemic saw 3 schools require submitting a score, then 6 and this year 11 required an SSAT score. It stands to reason that this trend will continue. With this in mind, our VIth Form will sit for the SSAT on **April 20, 2024**. We ask that you **DO NOT** try to register your child for this test, as we do this through our Office; it is a closed registration for Rumsey. ***Please be on the lookout for an email from Julie Fredlund on Friday, February 23 which will provide more information about the test.***



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The placement counseling process at Rumsey Hall is a comprehensive, step-by-step procedure that spans almost fourteen months. The current secondary school admissions climate is quite complex. Open, plentiful communication and strong partnerships between the School and families yield the best and most appropriate results for each child. As the year progresses, and we turn our attention to the uncharted waters of the secondary school search, I will look forward to forging a strong partnership with you.

*Beginning Friday, March 1, you will be receiving **Monthly Secondary School Counseling Newsletters** from me (via our Communications Department). **These Newsletters are sent to you each and every first Friday of the month throughout the year.** It is important that you take the time to read what is sent as this is the main form of communication from the Secondary School Counseling Office to VIIth Form families.*

Additionally, there will be a parent meeting for the Class of 2025 on Spring Parents' Day, Saturday, May 4 at 12:30 in The MAX.

Please do not hesitate to contact me *after April 10* if you have any questions or concerns or would like to have a conversation about the benefits of our VIIth Form program and the secondary school counseling process.

Regards,

Clayton Ketchum
Director of Secondary School Counseling