

COLLEGE COUNSELING PROGRAM

College Counseling Support
Standardized Testing
Academic Records
Athletes
Visual & Performing Artists
Financial Aid and Scholarships

2018-19



CHADWICK
S C H O O L

THINK. DO. LEAD.



Core Values & Core Competencies

Chadwick's College Counseling Program builds from and upon the intentions of the School and the ambition for students to **Think. Do. Lead.** The advising that begins with the Chadwick admission program carries through the Village, Middle and Upper Schools through the efforts of the College Counseling Office.

The college counseling program naturally builds upon our mission: we are dedicated to academic excellence and to the development of self-confident individuals of exemplary character.

Chadwick's Core Values of honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, and compassion, are fostered and modeled in classrooms and co-curricular activities and in our work in college advising.

Fundamentally, we build upon and from the **Chadwick Core Competencies in** working with students and their families to bring those qualities of mind and person to the identification of colleges that reflect student learning styles and their community and campus interests. In our explorations with students and families, counselors advocate for students and will encourage them to draw upon those Core Competencies, using **critical and creative thinking** and problem solving skills, analytically approaching what is possible and what is intellectually, socially and personally valuable.

We encourage students through their investigation of colleges to represent themselves and their ideas reflecting real **courage and character**, testing themselves, with integrity. We move them to explore and understand their adaptability, initiative and risk taking in looking at colleges and ultimately in presenting themselves to colleges, revealing in that process well-developed skills in effective **communication**. In demonstrating in their activities and inclinations, they will show valuable capacities in **collaboration**, cultivating both leadership and teamwork. Counselors strive to encourage students to represent their ability to see a larger world, showing in their investigation of colleges and in their representations to colleges their ability to move through ideas, exploration, reading and experience with a developed capacity to bring **cultural competence** to next steps.

Context Matters

The College Counseling Program

A natural aim is for Chadwick to find the right collegiate home for our graduates and to make the college exploration another powerful learning experience, developing lasting and transferrable skills for our graduates to identify and discern opportunity and cultivate self-presentation skills that may help advance careers. Counselors engage students frequently in both scheduled and unscheduled individual conversations designed to help students reach a greater awareness of who they are and to focus on ideal learning environments. Parents engage in group programs and in individual and family meetings with counselors.

When equipped with a well-articulated sense of self, students are prepared to find colleges that are good matches. Our approach is student-centered, and we believe that satisfaction with their college choices is enhanced when students are empowered to own the process and decisions. Central to support and success is open and good communication among students, parents and college counselors. Outcomes are important, yet it is the process of self-discovery leading to college-discovery that drives our program and addresses and enhances the core competencies of Chadwick.

College Counseling Philosophy

Chadwick School's college counseling office guides students and families through the college admissions process, helping the students select and gain admission to colleges and universities appropriate to their interests and demonstrated abilities. Chadwick's curriculum is designed to meet or exceed the entrance requirements for the University of California and, by extension, any undergraduate liberal arts college or university in the United States. The curriculum prepares the conscientious student for study at the collegiate level while allowing those with special gifts and/or interests to take advanced level courses in all disciplines. The success of the college-preparatory academic program and the college counseling program is not measured by the number of students who gain admission to a particular college or list of colleges, but by the appropriateness of each placement and the high quality of the work of our students once they are in college.

College Counseling Program

The college counseling office offers a number of programs for Chadwick families. The first formal contact with the college counseling center occurs in Middle School with parent information sessions geared to that level with a look ahead. Throughout each year, the college counseling program offers grade appropriate presentations and workshops. A variety of meetings are held for each Upper School grade level about the college admission process, and speakers are invited to address topics such as financial planning for college and understanding the admission process at competitive and highly selective colleges and universities. Individual meetings with sophomores and their families begin during the sophomore year.

At orientation meetings, juniors and their parents are provided a timeline and overview for the process. A comprehensive college counseling handbook is available on the school portal and is available in print. Full of details about process, calendar and step-by-step guidance, it is available to all Chadwick families, from grades K-12.

Following small sessions for parents and students in the sophomore year, the more intensive individual phase of the college counseling program begins midway through the fall semester of the junior year. With three full-time counselors responsible for approximately 30 students each, every student has their counselor's focused attention in a highly individualized college search process. Because of the flexibility afforded by Chadwick's size, all of the college counselors become acquainted with the entire class and students and their families may feel comfortable approaching any counselor.

Although the college counseling program is necessarily and most intensely focused on juniors and seniors, students and parents at any grade level are welcome to use the resources of the college counseling center and to call or email the college counselors with their questions.

The college counselor will begin by guiding the student in creating a personal inventory of interests and aspirations. The student will be taught how to research colleges and prepare a final list, how to deal with campus visits and interviewing, essay writing, and completing an application. Throughout the process, students and families will use a web-based program, Naviance, to assist them in their exploration and planning. After an initial family meeting with the college counselor, students have a series of individual formal and informal meetings starting in the fall of the junior year and continuing through the college research and application process.

The College Counselors

Alicia V. Akers

Director of College Counseling

Alicia Valencia Akers joined the Chadwick community in Fall 2013 after 9 years of experience working in undergraduate admissions at Scripps College and the University of Southern California. Immediately prior to her time at Chadwick, she worked with graduate business school students first at USC and later as director of Management Leadership for Tomorrow, a national organization which readies students for admission to top business schools in the nation.

Alicia earned her B.A. at the University of California, Berkeley in Sociology, and her M.A. in Educational Policy from Stanford University.

Marian Hersh

Director of College Counseling

Marian Hersh has more than 30 years of experience in the admission and college counseling profession. She came to Chadwick School in 2000 to become the Director of College Counseling after earlier work in college counseling at Milken Community High School.

Marian began her admission career at her alma mater, Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio before becoming the Associate Dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. She earned her B.A. in English from Wittenberg and her master's degree in English from Kent State University in Kent, Ohio.

Zac Hewitt

Associate Director of College Counseling

Zac moved to Chadwick in August 2018 from Palm Valley School where he was Director of College Counseling, lead diversity initiatives and international student recruitment. Previously, at Idyllwild Arts Academy, he served as college counselor, as a dorm parent and worked in admission. Zac was an Assistant Dean of Admissions at Bates College following his graduation from Sarah Lawrence College, where he worked in the admission office as a senior interviewer and intern. Originally from Maine, Zac lived in Connecticut through his high school years. He continues his studies in pursuit of a Master of Science degree in Child, Youth and Family Studies through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Bruce Poch

Dean of Admission &

Executive Director of College Counseling

Bruce brings over 35 years of work in college admission to his work at Chadwick. Prior to Chadwick community, Bruce served Pomona College as Vice President and Dean of Admissions for 24 years. Before Pomona, he was associate dean of admissions at Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Bruce has written for *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *National Public Radio* and appeared on *The Today Show*, NBC and CBS News and NPR. He has been cited in national news outlets on the subject of college admissions, aid and opportunity and contributed a chapter titled, *Sanity Check to College Unranked*, published by Harvard University Press.

Bruce earned his A.B. from Oberlin College in English and Government and his Ed.M. from Harvard University in Social Policy and Planning.



Alicia Akers

Marian Hersh

Zac Hewitt

Bruce Poch

The Process and the Cycles

All students and families have the opportunity to participate in class meetings, college nights, financial aid and special athletic programs. College Counselors meet individually with students and their families multiple times, throughout their high school years, to discuss curriculum, summer opportunities, testing plans and options, to assist in the consideration of college lists and college visits, interview preparation and assistance in developing the applications and follow-up. The College Counseling office hosts more than 100 college representatives each year, works with Chadwick faculty in the preparation of school and instructor recommendations and serves as both sounding board and advocate for the student. By participating in and presenting at conferences, counselors expand professional networks, and work with educators, policy makers and journalists, to reinforce opportunity for students and for expanding the already strong reputation of Chadwick.

Additional coordination with coaches and the director of athletics is brought to work with prospective college athletes in the recruitment process. The partnership brings together the full resources of Chadwick and becomes a key part of the student's learning and skill development.

It should be clear that while students ultimately are assigned an individual college counselor, the counselors work collaboratively to benefit the student as we draw from the collective wisdom and experience of the team.

Freshman and Sophomore Years

Conversations about college, summer opportunities and long term objectives begin early at Chadwick but focus on planning, not specific college choices. The counselors hold an orientation and college information meeting for parents of 9th grade students followed by a meeting with the class. Academic advisors connect regularly with their students to reinforce the importance of program and performance. As a matter of course, college counselors are available to address concerns or questions about the college process that may surface at any time.

Parents of Grade 10 students participate in another orientation program led by a director of college counseling in addition to small group "coffees" to describe the next steps in the college counseling program, the calendar for planning and to introduce more fully the resources of the School. Families are briefed on the uptick in college related activity, including PSAT and PLAN tests. There are grade level meetings held with the students, including opportunities in small group meetings. Academic advisors and college counselors work with students to place in context the importance of balancing programs, extracurricular involvements and the possibilities for summer plans. During the winter months, students may meet with members of the college counseling team to review transcripts and activities.

The directors of college counseling will schedule individual family meetings so that we may engage in thinking together that will help move a student to support their interests and talents. This commitment is deep and involves several hours of meetings with families and their student during the year, and involves our full consideration of aspirations, student records and faculty insights.

Junior Year

College counseling shifts into a higher gear during the junior year, including several scheduled mandatory and individual meetings with students and their families. A fall meeting is held for parents and there are introductions and orientations provided for students and parents to Family Connection/ Naviance, a college research database and records system. Parents and students are expected to open separate but linked accounts to help them manage their part of the college process.

The junior year also moves students to invest time in self-assessment questionnaires and conversations. Parents contribute significantly to the counseling process by providing information on questionnaires and through meetings with the counselors. The aim is to address student learning styles, academic preferences, interests and to develop a preliminary college list that will reflect performance and special talents. We also work to suggest ways to use and plan for college visits during the spring break and summer that may help refine thinking about college possibilities.

Junior year ...continues next page...



Support for Students with Collegiate Athletics Interests

Athletics are an important part of Chadwick's culture, so it's no surprise that a large percentage of our graduates choose to participate in collegiate athletics. Many play intramural or club sports and approximately 20% play on the varsity level in college – an extraordinarily high number for a school of our size.

To help students consider how college athletics may fit into their college planning, coaches, the director of athletics and the college counselors work as a team to best support our prospective student athletes and to communicate with appropriate college and university coaches and admission staff. Our common goal is to represent our student -athletes' talents as fully as possible.

We work with families to navigate the athletic recruiting process, offer workshops about athletic recruitment opportunities and pitfalls, suggest presentation of athletic resumes and, where appropriate, video and, work to inform families about NCAA regulations, registration requirements and to discern the differences between Division I, II and III programs. The College Counseling Handbook and the websites for both Chadwick Athletics and the College Counseling Program outline the processes and timetables.



Junior year, continued....

Junior year inevitably involves students taking appropriate SAT, SAT Subject Tests, the ACT and Advanced Placement tests that are scattered throughout the year. College counselors help students consider options that may ultimately best represent them, mindful that different colleges require different (or no) standardized testing as part of their admission processes, with an eye toward keeping as many options open as may be possible.

During the second semester of the junior year, students are encouraged to contact college admission offices, visit as appropriate, contact college coaches where there is interest in collegiate athletics participation, and plan for the senior year college process and course selections. Before the summer break, college counselors work with advisees to identify faculty who may serve as recommenders.

The Senior Year

During the summer prior to and through the senior year, college counselors coordinate the Chadwick faculty who serve to review and author the college recommendation letter on behalf of the School. Typically, application writing workshops are held during August, before school begins.

Then, the home stretch: The senior year does correctly suggest that students, their families and Chadwick's college counselors, faculty, staff and coaches are fully engaged as partners in the college process. Students and their families have the availability of unlimited meetings with college counselors to carefully develop college lists, early decision or early action plans, if any, and may assist in reviewing college essays, Common Application supplements and applications. Counselors offer mock interviews for training and assist students as they refine their college lists while the fall progresses. There are multiple opportunities for students to get substantial feedback on essays from a team with experience as admission officers at highly selective colleges. Throughout the season, college representatives visit the campus specifically to meet with Chadwick students and counselors.

The Registrar teams with college counselors to convey the transcripts, and counselors coordinate and transmit secondary school reports, evaluations and teacher letters to colleges. The college counselors coordinate very closely and routinely with coaches to be sure everyone is informed about particular interests shown in student athletes by colleges.

Counselors assist students in their consideration of ultimate admission results and communicate throughout the process with the colleges admission offices.

Special Talents ...in the Creative Arts

College counselors work closely with faculty whose experience with students in the creative and performing arts, including music, visual art, creative writing, theater and dance, may assist us in building appropriate portfolios and resumes for academic program. College counselors and faculty in the visual and performing arts will also guide students whose interests may suggest the benefits of developing a portfolio, resume or video presentation of their work that may support their candidacies at a variety of colleges, whether or not they may pursue that field as an academic major.

... in the Sciences

Chadwick provides enormous opportunities for budding scientists through both courses and collaborative projects. Integrated science and AP courses reflect the approach taken by top colleges and universities, and Chadwick provides extraordinary mathematics offerings for the most advanced students. Students' work in robotics leads to regular engagement in international competitions, deepening the reputation of the program and of our students. Small classes and labs open faculty to identify unusual science interest and talent in our students. Important mentoring in those small classes and labs results ultimately in powerful advocacy on the student's behalf.

Summer Programs and Planning

College Counselors may also help our students think about summer internship possibilities, summer jobs, and summer programs on college campuses or through boarding schools, as well as other program opportunities. Representatives from programs regularly communicate their offerings to college counselors and occasionally make visits to Chadwick to meet directly with our students. Notices are routinely sent by the college counselors about special opportunities.



College Counseling Program Four-Year Overview

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	
September	Orientation and College Information Program for Parents	Orientation and College Information Program for Parents	Orientation and College Information Program for Parents	Senior College Workshop College Program for Parents ACT Test Individual meetings with college counselor Financial Aid Workshop (Part II)	
October		PSAT Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test	PSAT / NMSQT	SAT Reasoning Test SAT Subject Test ACT Test	
November	Group meeting with college counselors	Group meeting with college counselors	Group meeting with college counselors Juniors introduced to Naviance Family Connection	Early Decision/Action applications due SAT Tests (to repeat if necessary) UC and CSU apps due Nov. 30 Finalize college list	
December	All Year: Academic advisors and college counselors talk with students about the importance of grades, challenging programs, extracurricular involvement, reading and summer activity	Practice ACT Testing All Year: Academic advisors and college counselors talk with students about the importance of grades, challenging programs, extracurricular involvement, reading and summer activity	Practice ACT Testing	Financial Aid Workshop (Part II) Complete all college applications	
January			College Information Program for Parents and Students	Regular decision applications due (January - March) Financial Aid forms due	
February		Summer Programs Applications Open	Individual Meetings with College Counselors Begin Family college meetings begin, following individual student meetings		
March		Students meet with members of the college counseling team to review transcripts, and appropriate extracurricular involvement including summer	March/April: ACT or SAT Reasoning Test Family college meetings continue	March/April: Notifications from colleges (including possible waiting list decisions)	
April		Family Meetings begin following individual student meetings	April - June: Second individual college counseling meetings	Seniors/Parents Transition to College Programs	
May		Advanced Placement Exams, if appropriate Individual Student and Family Meetings continue	Financial Aid Workshop Part I Advanced Placement Exams May & June: ACT or SAT Subject Tests: Math II, Foreign Language, U.S. History, Biology, Literature	College deposit deadline (May 1) Advanced Placement Exams SENIOR OUTDOOR ED TRIP	
June		SAT Subject Tests- Chemistry and/or Math II if appropriate			
July-August		Take advantage of academic and non-academic programs Read, read, read	Take advantage of academic and non-academic programs Read, read, read	Academic / non-academic program / job Write colleges for information Visit / interview Work on college applications and essays SAT or ACT Review Class (if necessary) Read, read, read August Chadwick Essay & Application Workshops	Graduation!! Final High School Transcripts sent to colleges/universities



Chadwick School

College Counseling

Quick Reference Guide and Contact information:

Chadwick Main Office

310.377.1543

email contacts

College Counseling

Alicia Akers
Marian Hersh
Zac Hewitt
Bruce Poch
Jennifer Pollick

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College Board & ACT Code: # 052680

Resources:

Chadwick College Counseling <http://reqy.qur.ai> (scan QR code)
(Login required for College Counseling Handbook)

Naviance <http://www.naviance.com/students/>
The Common Application <http://www.commonapp.org>

Standardized Testing:

The College Board www.collegeboard.org
ACT www.act.org

Athlete Information

NCAA Student Registration <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal>

Financial Aid Resources

FastWeb (financial aid/scholarships) www.fastweb.com
FinancialAid.org www.finaid.org

College Scholarship Service Profile

Registration <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>



Chadwick School
College Counseling

Grade Level College Planning Evening Programs
Individual Counseling for Students & Families
Application Planning and Support
Standardized Testing Administration
Financial Aid Workshops
Registrar Services
Guidance for Athletes
Visual & Performing Arts Talent Support
Summer Programs
Visits to Colleges
Meetings with College Representatives

