

# Welcome University Prep Families!

## The State of College Admissions During COVID-19

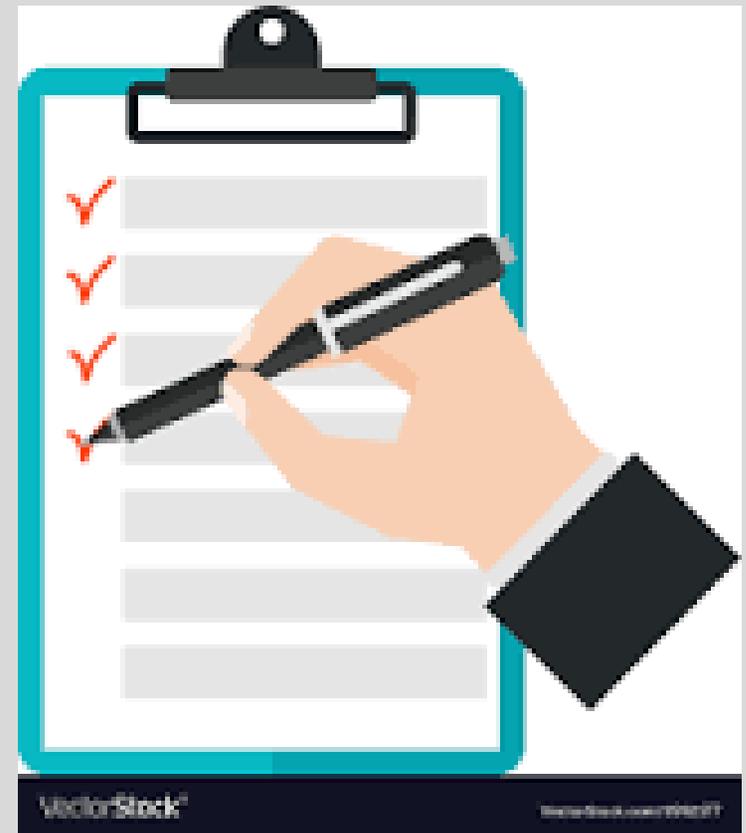
### 5.6.20

- We will begin a few minutes after **9 a.m.**
  - The presentation will run for 60 minutes.
  - To ask a question, click the **chat** icon in the toolbar.
  - Please make sure you have muted yourself.
  - Q&A questions will be monitored by Kelly and Britten. Questions will be either answered live via chat **OR** saved and responded to after the presentation concludes.
- While you are waiting:
  - Visit [www.universityprep.org/academics/college-counseling](http://www.universityprep.org/academics/college-counseling)



# Our Agenda

- Perspective
- Changes To The College Process
- What We Have Control Over & Can Do Right Now
- Q & A



# Standardized Testing

- The SAT and ACT are hoping to have some summer/fall opportunities and they are adding test dates.
- Just under half of the class of 2021 has taken the SAT or ACT this year.
- Potential at home, online.
- Potential for school day testing in October (SAT).
- Many colleges are (temporarily) going test optional, but most of our students *want* to sit for standardized tests because they are ready for them.
- AP Exams at home starting next week
- Subject Test requirements being dropped



# College Visits

- Opportunities to visit colleges are almost exclusively online.
- Puma College Connections Program.
- We are organizing a few college information sessions for our students + college representative + currently enrolled UPrep alumni the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>.



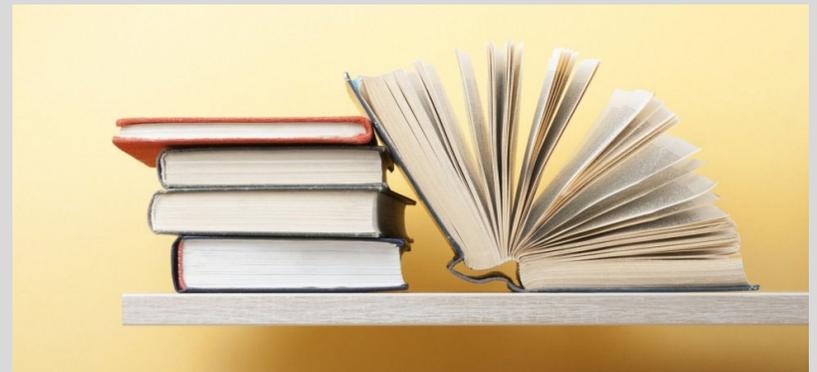
# What *Can* Students Control?

- 1) Finishing this year strong.
- 2) Rigorous curriculum in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- 3) Personal statements and supplemental essays.
- 4) Relaxing and recharging.
- 5) Creative pursuits.



# Extracurricular Activities

- Remember: all students are in the same situation – if your extracurricular activity was canceled, so was everybody else's.
- What does summer look like?
- Screen free activities are important.
- READ. READ. READ and then read some more.



# Why we are continuing to grade students?

- Our classes online are really strong and moving to pass/fail would signal the opposite to colleges.
- We're working hard to keep our community together and our flow as normal as possible. And our students are engaged in online learning.
- If we go to P/F, what does this say about our participation in Global Online Academy?
- Can distance learning be sustainable for our school in other times? If we default to saying grades can't be given now, then can we not do so in the future when on-line classes are required due to weather or a prolonged pandemic?
- We are held to a higher standard than many public schools because we are a well-resourced school.
- We have monitored what other independent schools in our area and around the nation are doing and the vast majority are providing grades.
- Assessment is an integral part of curriculum design. You can't change one part without affecting the others. So, making a major change to grading (such as going P/F for everyone) has consequences for the whole curriculum. If we can grade fairly, we should, to keep the curriculum design intact.
- We are offering P/F on a case by case basis for all students.



# Grades and Curriculum

- End on a high note scholastically.
- We will be articulating in our recommendation letters that UPrep pivoted to online learning early on in the pandemic, and our students were in class daily, completing assignments with high expectations.
- UW and UC schools will NOT see our recommendation letters, so students will be expected to articulate this themselves.
- Courses next year matter, too, and most colleges will see fall semester grades.



# Trends

- We expected more members of the Class of 2020 to stay closer to home, but most are heading out of state.
- Colleges are nervous about what next year means for both enrollment and for recruiting.
- Fall will look different for everybody.
- Subject tests will fade away.
- Online, at-home testing might become the norm.
- More essays.



# What Students Should Be Working On Right Now?

- Ask for letters of recommendation from two teachers.
- Add those teacher names to the “recommendations” tab in SCOIR.
- Complete the YouScience profile in SCOIR.
- Start narrowing down the college list in SCOIR – move schools from the “suggested” column to the “following” column.
- Participate in online college tours and information sessions (many schools are tracking engagement).
- Find offline activities that are meaningful.
- Meeting with Kelly or Britten every three weeks.
- Start working on college applications.



# Upcoming Events for the Class of 2021

- Let's get started on those college applications now! Two (optional) workshops for:
  - Common Application Overview,
  - Coalition Application Overview (UW)
  - Personal Statement Brainstorming:

**Wednesday, May 13**

*and*

**Wednesday, June 10**

**1:00-3:00 p.m.**

- Week of May 18<sup>th</sup> there will be 20 college information sessions virtually just for UPrep students.



## Final Thoughts:

- Our strong educational program continues virtually and colleges will respect this greatly.
- Everyone across the country and around the globe is dealing with the same issues.
- Our students possess the skills to pivot and adapt due to the foundation UPrep provides.
- Colleges are nervous about enrollment, too – it's not just students who are nervous about the application process.
- The college application process is challenging under normal circumstances, but so far everyone has demonstrated flexibility and resilience – thank you!