

**November
2020**

**Save the
Date**

**Alumni Panel for
Juniors and Seniors**

January 4
12:30-1:20 p.m.
Performing Arts Center

**Virtual
Sophomore
College Night**

January 4
6:30 p.m.
Teams link forthcoming

**Virtual Cup of
College**

January 7
8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
All Upper School
Parents Welcome
Teams link forthcoming

**Virtual
Freshman
College Night**

January 11
6:30 p.m.
Teams link forthcoming

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Making Virtual Visits (Almost) as Good as the Real Thing
By Stephanie Kennedy, CollegiateParent, November 9, 2020

Visiting colleges has been a rite of passage for high school students. Campus tours give students and their families a way to see if schools really reflect those glossy brochures that landed in their mailboxes.

With COVID-19, that's all changed.

Now students have to do all their information-gathering [without leaving their homes](#). Still, there are ways students can leverage their virtual visits to make them almost as good as the real thing. And with virtual tours, you and your student aren't limited by time or budget. You can tour as many campuses as you like! This is a great way for your sophomore or junior to begin the college search process, and for your senior to narrow down their final list.

Make the Most of Virtual Tours

A prerecorded virtual tour will give you a sense of what a campus looks and feels like, but don't stop there. Some schools are offering live virtual information sessions, student panels and tours.

Live experiences provide a chance to ask questions in real time. Encourage your student to sit down for a session with questions ready or jot down a question or two while they're watching a presentation and then ask those questions when there's an opportunity for discussion.

Connect with Your Admissions Officer

Just because you can't meet in person doesn't mean you can't connect. Your student can check the college's website for the name and email address of the admission officer, counselor or representative who recruits for their high school area and then send that person a question or two.

They should be authentic rather than asking a question just for the sake of asking a question. Maybe they want to know how to find out more about the school's computer science program, or they're wondering if a high school statistics or calculus class is a better choice for the major they'd like to pursue in college. Or they could ask if there's a current student from your area or in a specific major or who shares an interest who they might talk to.

Your student should scour the school's website first so they can *Continued on page 3*

SVSM is a competitive summer residential program for high-achieving science and math students who are interested in pursuing opportunities not offered in standard high school courses.

Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics



What is Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics (SVSM)?

SVSM is a cost-free, state-funded program that takes students beyond the traditional boundaries of high school science and math courses.

Students learn experimental design, laboratory skills, instrumentation, mathematical modeling, strategies in mathematical problem solving and more. Moreover, students learn these skills while engaged in specific scientific and mathematical topics of interest to them.

At the end of the four-week residential program, students present a comprehensive research project on a current topic in a STEM field of study.

When and where does SVSM take place?

Program dates vary based on location. There are several locations across the state. Finalists are assigned to specific institute sites based primarily on academic program preferences.

This program is open to NC students in their second or third year of high school. Program coordinators suggest students keep their schedules free from mid-June through early August.

Who can apply?

- Rising high school juniors or seniors who have not participated in SVSM
- Students whose custodial parent or guardian lives in North Carolina
- Students with proven academic ability, motivation in STEM fields of study, and emotional maturity

Please note that students must choose either Summer

Ventures or Governor's School if accepted to both programs, and students must choose either Summer Ventures or the NC School of Science and Mathematics residential program if accepted to both programs.

How do I apply?

Applications must be completed online and can be accessed on the SVSM website at:

<https://www2.cfnc.org/exclusive.html#/applicationlogin/NCSSM/HighSchool/HighSchoolApplication>

Each applicant must supply confidential teacher and counselor evaluations as well as evidence of academic performance submitted by a school counselor.

The student portion of the application is due on or before January 15, 2021.

Students are notified of admissions decisions around April 1, 2021.

Next Virtual Cup of College - Thursday, January 14, 8:00 a.m.



One morning each month Upper School parents convene via Teams about college admissions, eager to learn how best to help their children through the college application and selection process. Danna Markoff, Director of College Counseling, Jamie Martin, Assistant Director of College Counseling, and Helen Keegan, Academic Counselor, invite Upper School parents to bring topics and questions to the meeting. Rather than setting an agenda, they meet open-house style, with parents coming and going throughout the hour as their schedules allow. Please join us and bring your questions! Teams links are posted each month in the news feed on the parent and student portals.

Cup of College Schedule

Thurs., Jan. 14, 8:00 a.m.

Thurs., Feb. 4, 8:00 a.m.

Thurs., Mar. 11, 8:00 a.m.

Thurs., Apr. 8, 8:00 a.m.

Making Virtual Visits (almost) as Good as the Real Thing

can demonstrate that their questions go beyond what can be found online. In addition to getting their questions answered, reaching out in this way has another advantage — it shows your student's interest in the school. While not all schools use demonstrated interest as a criteria for admission, knowing who checked in personally helps admissions staff predict who's likely to accept their offers of admission.

Look to Outside Sources

There all kinds of sites where people post opinions about particular schools. Your student should search those out but remember they don't represent the whole student body and may run either overly negative or overly positive. Instead, your student should use these posts as a starting point for crafting questions to ask when they get the chance.

Focus on the Positives

Instead of lamenting about not being able to visit colleges, focus on what you and your student *can* do. You can research schools without having all the variables that might taint an in-person visit — you visited on a holiday weekend when students were out of town, making the campus seem quieter than usual; you toured during a snowstorm and were too busy thinking about how wet and cold you were to take everything in; or your student was simply in a cranky mood that day and just wasn't going to like anything.

With virtual visits, you can review information more objectively. And if you're not in a great mood, you can check out the school on a day when you're better able to focus. Remember, just stepping on campus and "feeling like you belong" isn't always the best way of assessing whether a school is right for you. Your student needs to weigh a whole list of more tangible considerations, like course offerings, extracurricular opportunities and cost. All of that is easier to look at objectively if your student isn't floating on an emotional cloud.

Know that people have gone to unfamiliar schools and thrived.

In a perfect world, an in-person campus visit is a great tool in helping select a college — but it is far from the only tool. There are plenty of reasons prospective students may never visit a college before moving in freshman year. If the school is at a distance, many families can't afford the expense of a trip. For many foreign students, college visits just aren't part of the process. And many, many of these students go on to have great experiences at their colleges.

Think of it this way. A student planning to study abroad doesn't fly to all the possible destinations to figure which place is best. Instead, they do their due diligence, take a leap of faith and then set off on a big adventure.



LANDS' END SCHOOL
STARBOARD
Scholarship

Scholarship Highlight

The Lands' End School Starboard Scholarship acknowledges and rewards students who display exceptional leadership skills. Up to seven scholarships will be awarded to students in grades 8-12. Applications accepted through December 15, 2020 or until 1,000 applications are submitted.

To apply, please visit:

[Landsend.com/starboard-scholarship](https://landsend.com/starboard-scholarship)

PB & J Scholarship

The PB & J Scholarship is for students who have experienced personal challenges.

Award amounts vary from \$500-\$1,000.

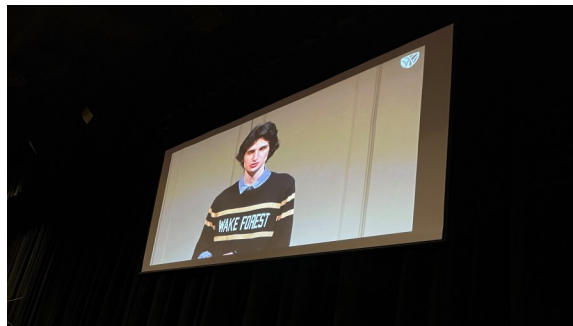
To apply, please visit
bit.ly/pbj scholarship 2021

Deadline: May 31, 2021

Freshmen Class Takes Virtual College Tour

Wednesday, November 4, the St. David's Class of 2024 took virtual tours of Wake Forest University and the University of Alabama. Students convened (socially distanced of course) in the Performing Arts Center to view the WFU information session and aerial tour of campus. Cameron Smith '17 and Parker York '17 joined students via Microsoft Teams® for a chat. After introducing themselves, the two alumni talked about what activities they were involved in at Wake Forest, shared stories about their experiences abroad, told students how they knew Wake Forest was the right school for them, and concluded with advice they wished they knew as a freshman in high school.

Freshmen students enjoyed a catered lunch from Panera Bread®, sponsored by the ninth grade mom committee (thank you Mrs. Wallace!) and spent time enjoying each other's company over outdoor games. After lunch, students received access to SCOIR®, St. David's college counseling software, and viewed a tour of the University of Alabama. The day concluded with an ice cream social with the St. David's Class of 2025. While different from tours of year's past, the students embraced this opportunity with great attitudes and even had some fun.



ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL

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