



## START WITH A DREAM...*FINISH WITH A FUTURE*

GRADE 11

May 2021

### From School Counselors:

This school year has been challenging on so many levels, and we recognize how deeply COVID-19 has impacted our community. We remain focused on supporting our students and families through this tough time, while keeping our eye on helping students think ahead towards their future. We have all learned to be flexible and to focus on the positive and believe that we will come out of this year stronger than before. We appreciate your flexibility and dedication to your student and recognize how your hard work has helped your student succeed.

Check out this podcast on Parenting Teens, [edgerety.com/education/podcast/](https://edgerety.com/education/podcast/), and keep a lookout for summer opportunities to help students thrive and stay on track. A big heartfelt thanks from the counseling team,

*Ry Hoffman*, Head of School Counseling

### Conversations at Home

Paying for college or training programs can feel overwhelming. It is important to have honest conversations with your student about how your student and/or family will pay for postsecondary education. Here are some tips that may help with those conversations:

- Explore together what the family can realistically contribute towards postsecondary education expenses by looking at the real monthly costs. (tuition, room and board, books and supplies, student fees, transportation, and spending money).
- Talk with your student about including affordable schools/training programs on their list.
- Investigate student loans together and show your student different monthly payments for different total balances.
- Visit Jumpstart's Reality Check with your student to start conversations around how to prepare financially for life after high school. [tinyurl.com/4pbfvkk](https://tinyurl.com/4pbfvkk)
- Talk with your student about credit and the responsibilities that come with it. Support your student in opening their own bank account and using their debit card responsibly.

Source: Careervision.org

### Events & Announcements

The School Counseling/Guidance Office has drop-in time available after class for any student. If students would like more of a mental health check-in/support, please reach out to Haleigh, to schedule an appointment at [hwestshs@buusd.org](mailto:hwestshs@buusd.org). Your student should also feel free to set up individual appointments through Calendly with their counselor as well. Students should be receiving their 21-22' schedule soon and should reach out to counselors with any questions.

If you were unable to attend the Junior Night, here is a link to the slideshow with valuable information:  
[tinyurl.com/47bzb8](https://tinyurl.com/47bzb8)

## Net Price of College and Training Programs

"Your net price is a college's sticker price for tuition and fees minus the grants, scholarships, and education tax benefits you receive." Your student's net price will be different from another student's net price going to the same school because they will have different personal circumstances. Sometimes the colleges that seem out of reach are actually more affordable than you once thought.



The net price is found when you take the sticker price and subtract all the financial aid and tax benefits. Net price calculators can be helpful to see what you will actually pay for college and can help your student compare colleges easier. Here are a number of calculators that can help you and your student better plan for paying for college or a training program:

[tinyurl.com/r9239kv4](https://tinyurl.com/r9239kv4)

Source: Collegeboard

## Summer Break

Summer break is a great time to relax, gain experience, and learn new skills. Whether your student is planning to go to college or not, summer is a great time to **visit colleges**. Check out this webpage to help you and your student make the most out of these visits: [tinyurl.com/3n5jfufz](https://tinyurl.com/3n5jfufz)

Summer could also be a great time for students to use one of their dual enrollment vouchers to **enroll in a summer course** at a local college. And if your student is interested in Early College for next year, they will need to apply for that no later than August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The class of 2022 needs to complete 20 hours of community service and the summer can be a great time to **volunteer** one's time. If you would like more information about community service hours, check out the Community Service Handbook here: [tinyurl.com/ymjrnej](https://tinyurl.com/ymjrnej)

Another great option for summer is summer camps and Norwich University and Vermont Tech has a lot to offer:

**Norwich Summer Camps:** [tinyurl.com/ysy83bzu](https://tinyurl.com/ysy83bzu)

**Vermont Tech Summer Camps:** [tinyurl.com/t5skuh2y](https://tinyurl.com/t5skuh2y)

Check out the **list of great summer opportunities** that will also be up in the hall near the guidance office here: [tinyurl.com/2a4448md](https://tinyurl.com/2a4448md)

Start with a **dream**. Finish with a **future**.

