

When The Decisions Come In

“Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light.” -Brene Brown

As we turn the corner toward spring, many of us are going forward hopeful, but still stuck with one foot in the darkness that has consumed the past year of our lives. Between COVID-19, the fight for social justice, and political strife, we have all endured a lot.

In this context, many in the Staples Class of 2021 are awaiting decisions from the colleges to which they applied. On the [Georgia Institute of Technology Blog](#) (arguably the best in the business...), Rick Clark encourages seniors to pour themselves into their last semester of high school rather than spending March and April obsessing over acceptances and denials. He notes that seniors will be best served by supporting their friends when the decisions come out, worrying less about what others think, breaking out of unhealthy cliques and relationships, and expressing gratitude for those who have helped them along the way.

Another veteran of the college admissions process, Frank Bruni, in a now [famous column on how to survive the college admissions process](#), reminds us that rejections are a difficult but unavoidable part of life. As Bruni notes, parents can best support their child by not allowing a flawed and unpredictable process like college admissions to judge their worth. Parents foster resilience by encouraging students to make the most of and celebrate the options available.

While the pandemic has tested all of us, we have also developed richer perspective and an appreciation for what truly matters. For seniors, decisions around next fall’s plans reign supreme; for us as educators and as parents, we understand that in the long-term it is what our children bring to their experiences, rather the location, that is ultimately most important.

The Staples Resilience Project is an ongoing endeavor by the Staples Guidance Department aimed to promote the well-being of our students and foster a positive, inclusive school community.

<https://shs.westportps.org/departments/guidance/staples-resilience-project>