



Work with Seattle Academy College Advising begins in earnest during the winter of 11th grade. From then on, College Advising spends a great deal of time learning about students' interests and talents, developing balanced college lists that include a range of likely, target and reach options, guiding students through the process of developing compelling college essays, and then strategizing and advising them on the submission of all of their applications. Before this process begins at SAAS, we urge students to focus mostly on being students. We recognize that every student (and family) is on a continuum in the college search, as they are in life. A proven record of College Advising history, structure, expertise and success informs your student's process and we will not let them fall behind.

How families can support their student

1. Encourage a positive academic close to 10th and start in 11th. The high school transcript is the most important document in a college application. It is reviewed, however, relative to the student's story.
2. Encourage the pursuit of genuine interests and curiosities. Students who engage authentically may stand out more than those who are more groomed or who simply do what they are "supposed" to do.
3. Encourage them to engage/continue to engage outside of class with their SAAS and local communities.
4. Ask questions about why they like certain things or what they believe about the world. Colleges will ask these sorts of questions and it's helpful for students to start to get comfortable with them now.
5. Trust the process. Seattle Academy has a well-organized and successful College Advising program, and you have already started by attending the school.
6. Help them understand that their value is not rooted in where they go to college.

Important events

1. Approximately 130 colleges and universities visit SAAS every fall, and 11th graders may attend.
2. September: We host an overview of the digital PSAT primarily for 11th graders/families. See calendar.
3. October: Tenth and eleventh graders make take a practice standardized test. Details about it link from the 10th and 11th grade pages of the SAAS College Advising homepage.
4. October: We host an overview for 11th grade students and families which all interested upper school families are welcome to attend as well as a Guide to College Financing open to all families.
5. November: AP exam registration. SAAS does not offer AP courses, and while few SAAS students choose or need to do so, students may choose to take the exams. This is not required and each year students who have not taken them are admitted to the most selective colleges in the country. Details are available in the FAQ of the SAAS College Advising homepage.
6. November: We host a Guide to Standardized Testing open to all families.
7. December: Official college "kick off." Just before winter break, we introduce 11th graders and their families to SAAS College Advising, its web-based platform, and individual meeting scheduling.
8. Spring: We participate in a panel for 10th grade parents and guardians, answering common questions.

Things to be mindful of

1. Too much, too early can backfire. For all kids, burnout on activities is real, and this includes the college admissions process. SAAS draws on years of experience to time this process intentionally and to maximize student development while ensuring they have access to their best fit college options.
2. Don't get fixed on one "thing" – any one type, location or selectivity of school. We will insist the eventual college list is strategically varied.
3. Be careful not to let the media, the neighbor or the for-profit college prep industry make you feel like your student is behind and should have done certain things already. When in doubt, ask us!

Resources

1. College Advising answers questions from students and families anytime. Please email collegeadvising@seattleacademy.org and a dedicated member of the team will answer general college-related questions from 9th and 10th grade families.
2. See the College Advising page at www.seattleacademy.org for an FAQ including book suggestions.