



From the COUNSELOR'S CORNER

October 2021

Remember that we are here for you via phone, email, and now for in person appointments, so don't hesitate to reach out to us. Visit our [Tahanto School Counseling website](#) for more information on available supports and resources.



PSATs UPDATE

On October 13, 2021, eighty-eight Sophomores and Juniors participated in the successful administration of the PSAT. This was the first time that many students have had to sit for hours for testing; great job to all of the participants! Scores will be released electronically and test booklets will be returned in person during the second week of December.

The NMSQT of this exam stands for National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Eligible Juniors can earn this award based upon their test scores. We were recently notified by the College Board that three of our seniors qualified as Commended Scholars due to their success on last year's PSAT/NMSQT. Congratulations to Julian Baldwin, Jack Campbell, and Joshua Cranford! We are so proud of you.



FREE VIRTUAL COLLEGE AND CAREER PLANNING EVENT

Do you know everything you need to know about the college and career planning process? ACT is hosting a free virtual event on October 30 to answer your questions about planning for and transitioning to college and career. Sign up to receive more information as details develop. [Sign Up to Learn More](#)



COLLEGE VISITS

Saint Joseph's College of Maine , Western New England University, University of New Haven, University of Maine, Franklin Pierce University, and UNH are just some of the dozens of colleges that have recently come to Tahanto to meet with our students. See who is meeting with Tahanto students in the coming weeks. The list of all scheduled visits and registration links can be found on Naviance under the Colleges tab.

Anna Maria College	Friday October 22, 2021	11:00 AM
Post University	Friday, October 22, 2021	12:00 PM
Champlain College	Monday, October 25, 2021	11:00 AM
Springfield College	Monday, October 25, 2021	12:00 PM
Bryant University	Thursday, October 28, 2021	11:00 AM
Iona College	Friday, October 29, 2021	12:00 PM
Rivier University	Wednesday, November 3, 2021	11:00 AM
Keene State College	Wednesday, November 3, 2021	12:00 PM
Worcester State University	Thursday, November 4, 2021	11:00 AM



COLLEGE ESSAY WRITING PROGRAMS

Many seniors are busy developing and editing their college application essays. Over the last few weeks, the Counseling Department has hosted programs to help guide students through this process. On Friday, October 1, 2021, an admission representative from Boston University spoke to our seniors to share insights about how students can improve their essays. The group reviewed sample essays together and discussed where strengths and weaknesses in the writing could be found. The presentation provided students with tips for reviewing their own writing with a more critical eye.

Last Friday, October 15, 2021, thirty seniors participated in an Essay Critique Workshop. Admissions Representatives from five different colleges met one-on-one with students willing to share their personal essays. Students received valuable feedback from these professionals. Seniors reported learning how to tweak their writing and feel more confident about their application submissions.



COLLEGE FAIR

The Rhode Island Association of Admission Officers (RIAAO) is sponsoring the *44th Annual Regional College Fair*. The event will be hosted by Bryant University-Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC) in Chace Athletic Center, 1150 Douglas Pike, Smithfield, RI 02917. The fair is scheduled in person from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on Sunday, October 24, 2021. It is free to attend and free parking is available. Meet with a wide variety of colleges/universities from across the United States.



START HERE
GO FURTHER
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

FAFSA and CSS PROFILE NOW OPEN

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) is now open for seniors and their families. ([Official Form Link Here](#)) This form is required for anyone looking to receive federal financial aid for postsecondary education. College Board has partnered with Benefits Data Trust—a national nonprofit—to connect Opportunity Scholarship participants with WyattSM, a free FAFSA-assistance chatbot that answers questions via text message. Your students can receive around-the-clock help from Wyatt to ensure that frequently asked questions get answered quickly. All seniors can now sign up for Wyatt using the link at the top of the [Opportunity Scholarships homepage](#).

The [CSS Profile](#) also opened on October 1 and is required by some (mostly private) colleges and universities. Schools may additionally have their own institutional financial aid forms. Be organized. Be thorough. Watch your deadlines. The earlier students submit their forms, the more money there may be available to be rewarded.

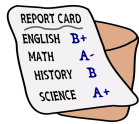
Need help? Attend a free virtual presentation from MEFA: Daily College Financing Webinars for Families. Now through Thursday, November 5th, MEFA will host a live College Financing webinar daily every Monday through Thursday, with daytime and evening hours. All webinars will be recorded and available online for families who are unable to attend a live event. The webinar will provide a comprehensive overview of the full financial aid application process. Presenters will include MEFA staff members as well as guests from financial aid offices across the Commonwealth, providing families the opportunity to hear from many of the most knowledgeable financial aid leaders in the industry. Register at mefa.org/events for a live webinar. If you have any questions concerning the FAFSA please reach out to MEFA at (800) 449-MEFA (6332) or collegeplanning@mefa.org.



SENIOR CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

Last month, Ms. Rodman spent two to three periods with each senior English class to go over postsecondary planning. We discussed options, available resources, procedures, and the nuts and bolts of planning for life after Tahanto. Organization is often a large part of this process and being aware of deadlines can mean the difference between an acceptance or a denial, a scholarship award or nothing.

All seniors will also have one-on-one meetings with Ms. Rodman. For college-bound students, these should be scheduled one month prior to a student's first deadline. Transcripts must be requested ten school days ahead of their submission deadline. Remember that there are a lot of helpful videos and links on the [Tahanto High School Counseling web page](#).



END OF QUARTER ONE

Over the next month, first quarter grades will close and report cards will be issued. Returning to school for five full days has been a transition for many students. Be sure that they take ownership of their progress. PowerSchool provides information about grades, assignments, and missing work. Many teachers also have detailed information on individual Google Classroom pages. Check in with teachers. Make up missed work. Get extra help when necessary. Ensure that there are no surprises. Reach out for any additional assistance.

*Ms. Ilene Rodman, EdM
High School Counselor
irodman@bbrsd.org
508-869-2333 x2317*

