

From the COUNSELOR'S CORNER

May 2021

May is Mental Health Awareness Month



Recovery & Resilience: How to Think About Your Child's Mental Health Virtual event, Wednesday, 5/26 @ 7pm Join Here.



DECISION DAY 2021

Traditionally, May 1 of each year (Covid has bumped that a bit this year) is National College Decision Day, the date by which college bound Seniors must decide where they intend to attend in the fall. We celebrated with our Seniors at Tahanto on Monday, May 3rd. Students showed off their intended college pride and staff joined in wearing college gear as well. Teachers had conversations with students at all levels and in all grades about their personal path to post-secondary education. In the words of Decision Day advocate Michelle Obama, it is a way to "recognize graduating seniors, showcase student leaders, and inspire more young people to take the first steps on their journey to higher education".



COURSE SCHEDULING FOR 2021-2022

Course scheduling for next year is well underway. Recordings of the presentations made to all students are available on the Tahanto website. You will also find sample course selection sheets by grade, the Program of Studies for course descriptions, graduation requirements, and more there. Any requests, as well as overrides were due last month. The hope is to have students leave for the year knowing their schedule for next year. This is an extensive process however, therefore schedules may be delayed for release over the summer.



SUMMER SCHOOL

Students who earn a final grade of 50-64 (65 is Passing) are eligible for credit recovery during the summer. This year, Tahanto has partnered with Educere, an online curriculum provider, for abbreviated core subject classes. Most of these online courses are being offered at a discounted rate of \$99.50. Registration runs from June 21-July 1. See <u>this link</u> for more information. Feel free to reach out to the Counseling Office with additional questions.

College Guidance Network

ARCHIVED WEBINARS ON COLLEGE PROCESS

The College Guidance Network demystifies the college application process, especially in this time of COVID, helping students and those who support them with a free webinar series featuring nationally recognized experts and experienced admissions officers who offer insights on essential topics like how to develop a school list, write an effective essay, and maximize financial aid. <u>Check</u> <u>out this wonderful resource here.</u>



FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

Sallie Mae offers information on demystifying the admissions process. Gain valuable insights directly from admissions and financial aid professionals discussing topics including high school academic choices, testing, applications, essay writing, letters of recommendation and more. <u>See here</u> for an entire webinar series on paying for college.



VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS AND TOURS

A silver lining of the stay-at-home lifestyle of the pandemic is that colleges and universities have really increased their online presence. Information sessions, meet-and-greets with students, virtual tours, and more, can all be found with the click of a keyboard. Summer provides an ideal time to gather information from schools, even if you aren't doing any traveling. Research, register, and learn!



Ms. Rodman recently attended a program with all of the public MA State University Admissions Representatives. Reflections on the just completed unique admissions cycle were shared, as well as many updates to their holistic review process. More schools are going to continue to be test optional next year and more have joined the Common Application. For additional details, see the Tahanto Counseling website for the slidedeck from the School Counselor Panel and reach out to Ms. Rodman with any questions.



EARN (NON-AP) COLLEGE CREDIT IN HS

Is your rising senior interested in simultaneously finishing high school while earning credit for a year of college? Eligible students may choose to participate in QCC's Attend College Early (ACE) program, commonly referred to as Dual Enrollment. This month, a representative from QCC virtually met with Tahanto students for an info session with a Q&A about the program. Students have already begun applying for this exciting opportunity. The deadline for the fall is July 1. If you would like to learn more, reach out to Ms. Rodman and read more <u>ACE</u> <u>information here</u>.



SENIOR COLLEGE DECISIONS

Seniors MUST update Naviance indicating their college selection. All schools will be looking for a final transcript indicating proof of graduation. These will automatically be sent later in June, but we need to know where to send them. Additionally, please help us keep Naviance relevant for future Tahanto students. Update ALL college decisions, regardless of outcome. This data is extremely important to have. Note that your name is NOT attached to the scattergrams and results for others to view.



STANDARDIZED TESTING

Summer may provide the perfect opportunity to take an ACT or SAT. Early dates allow for you to test while information is still fresh in your mind. Later dates give you time to do some studying and prepare to do your best. Either way, be sure to register for a June or July <u>ACT</u> or a June or August <u>SAT</u>. While several schools offer test optional applications, having a score to consider sending puts you in control of your profile. See <u>FairTest</u> for the many colleges that do not require testing for admission. This list is growing, especially in light of the pandemic.

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AP EXAMS

We are right in the midst of AP Exam Administration for 13 different Advanced Placement subjects. AP exams provide students with the opportunity to earn college credit and/or placement out of entry level courses based upon test results, which students receive over the summer. AP coursework provides colleges with insight into a student's intellectual curiosity and ability to handle academic rigor.



SUMMER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES

There are countless opportunities to enrich your summer. Visit <u>SummerStudyintheUSA.org</u>, where you can search participating programs by student grade level, financial aid, academic interests, and more. Look up programs by area of interest or simply Google "summer programs for high school students".