



**KEEPING STUDENTS ENGAGED WITH REMOTE LEARNING**

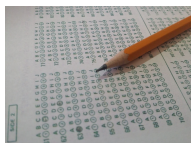
We are halfway through a long and challenging school year. Do you wish everything was back to “normal”? Do you need some tips for coping with the continuing challenges of remote learning? Read this [article from Child Mind Institute](#). Looking for even more specific guidance for your high schooler? Here are some ways to [support your teen learning at home](#).



**PANEL OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS OFFICERS**

Right at the start of Second Semester, Tahanto will be hosting a panel of college admissions representatives, who will discuss the college search and application processes. We have confirmation of attendance from Assumption, Boston College, Fitchburg State, UMA Amherst, Merrimack, Plymouth State, QCC, and WPI. General information on topics such as school visits, the admissions process, senior year course selection, standardized testing, essays, letters of recommendation, and more will be addressed.

The [Zoom link](#) for this event will become active on Tuesday, February 2 around 12:30. It may take some time to allow the large number of viewers in from the waiting room. All Juniors should be logged on to view it in their cycle 8 block. Their families are invited and encouraged to attend. Should you have a specific question you would like addressed during the program, please send it ahead of time to [irodman@bbrs.org](mailto:irodman@bbrs.org). I will be moderating the panel program and will include those topics about which most people indicate an interest.



### **STANDARDIZED TESTS**

Due to the pandemic, many colleges and universities have allowed students to apply as test-optional this year, not requiring SAT or ACT scores as part of their application process. Most schools have not yet made their decisions for the Classes of 2022 and 2023. The University of Delaware is offering this free [ACT-SAT online strategy session](#) introducing students to the basics of both exams, guiding them through sample questions and teaching them a few strategies. Some Tahanto students take a prep class through Shrewsbury High School. They have opened up their program to our students again this spring. Information and registration forms can be found [here](#). Don't forget that we have resources in the Counseling Office, including paper copies of Student Guides and Practice Exams.



### **BIG CHANGES FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD**

In an effort to “simplify [their] work and reduce demands on students”, College Board announced some big changes just this week. The SAT Subject Tests have been discontinued, effective immediately. Additionally, as of the June 2021 administration, the SAT Optional Essay will be discontinued. Member colleges have been notified of these changes. College Board is also exploring ways to make the SAT a “more flexible...streamlined, digitally delivered exam”. Updates will be provided later this spring as they are received.



### **EVENTS AT THE CAPITOL**

Wondering how to address the events of 1/6/21 at the Capitol? Child Mind Institute provides these [tips for talking with kids](#). Some more resources have been provided with [this article from NEA](#). This piece from the NEA reminds us that ['Our Students are Watching'](#).



## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

As Seniors receive their acceptance letters, (Don't forget to update Naviance with any results!) questions about how to pay for college loom. Remember to regularly check on Naviance for active Scholarships, many which are local and often reduce competition, increasing one's chances of being awarded free money! One example is the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, which serves as an umbrella for a number of scholarships. [Apply HERE!](#) Other places close to home for scholarship searches include employers, unions, local libraries, cultural groups, and religious organizations. For safe and reliable online search engines, [Fastweb](#) and [College Board](#) are great places to start.



## **NATIONAL VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS**

More than 500 institutions will be participating in a National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) virtual college fair series hosted throughout the spring. Events will be offered on January 31, February 28, March 21 and May 7 from 1 - 7 p.m. EST. For more information or to register for the event, students may visit [virtualcollegefairs.org/events](https://virtualcollegefairs.org/events).

The College Board is also hosting virtual college fairs this spring, called BigFuture™ Days. Connect directly with college admissions representatives and current college students. Explore colleges in a way that's not overwhelming. Ask questions and take action on key college planning steps. Register at [cb.org/bigfuturedays](https://cb.org/bigfuturedays).



## **SUMMER PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES**

The Association for Pre-College Program Directors is proud to present the 2021 Summer Pre-College Program Fairs, a series of virtual events that provide

students, families, and education professionals the opportunity to learn about academic summer programs at top US colleges and universities.

At each fair, attendees may:

- Visit virtual booths, where you can ask questions via text or video chat with summer program representatives.
- View helpful webinars on how to choose a summer program and how to make the most out of a summer program experience.

Registration is **FREE** to attendees. You are invited to visit the Virtual Fairs website at <https://www.summerstudyintheusa.org/virtualstudentfairs> for complete information on dates, times, and which institutions will be represented at each event. Virtual Fairs will be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00pm Eastern
- Saturday, February 20, 2021, 11:00am – 1:00pm Eastern
- Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00pm Eastern
- Saturday, April 10, 2021, 11:00am – 1:00pm Eastern

You are also encouraged to visit [SummerStudyintheUSA.org](https://www.summerstudyintheusa.org), where you can search participating programs by student grade level, financial aid, academic interests, and more.

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