

From the COUNSELOR'S CORNER

September 2020



Welcome Back!

It was so wonderful to see students back in the building this week! Welcome back to all of our students, whether they are learning from home or are in the building with us regularly. It has been a long and unique break for sure and there is so much to share for the 2020-2021 school year. Please know that all of our counseling staff is back full-time and available to students and families to assist with this transition to a new routine and all of the adjustments that go along with it. We are here virtually and in person, via phone, Zoom, Google Meet, and email so don't hesitate to reach out. Visit our [Tahanto School Counseling website](#) for more information on available supports and resources.



Financial Aid

Annually, we bring in a MEFA Representative to meet with parents about Financial Aid. This year, MEFA will go to you via their **MEFA: Daily College Financing Webinars for Families**. Beginning Monday, September 28th 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 please reach out to MEFA at (800) 449-MEFA (6332) or collegeplanning@mefa.org.



PSATs on Wednesday 10/14

Students are invited to take the PSATs at Tahanto on Wednesday morning, October 14, 2020. Due to space limitations, Juniors will be given priority. If seating is available, registered sophomores may be allowed to test. The sign up form was hand delivered to all students in Grades 10 & 11 homerooms during their cycle 8 this week. [PSAT Registration Form](#) The \$20 registration fee and form are due to the Counseling Office next Friday, September 25.

Test takers must provide their own transportation to and from the test. Arrival should be by 7:30am with students finishing around 11:30am. They will be required to wear masks throughout the test and no food or drink will be allowed in the testing gym.



Standardized College Admissions Tests

I am aware that many of you have had one, two,...up to five(!) test dates cancelled on you due to the pandemic. You are not alone. Remember that this is an international issue and millions of students have been unable to take these standardized tests. COVID restrictions unfortunately limit our ability to offer these tests to you. This is why hundreds of colleges have signed on to an agreement that no student will be penalized for failure to submit scores as part of their application process. Colleges have waived this requirement, have a moratorium on it for the next several years, and many have done away with them altogether. [See the list of schools here.](#) Check your individual school for frequently changing policies.



College Visits

Admission Representatives still will be visiting with interested Tahanto students, but will be doing so virtually this fall. This change has actually allowed even more colleges to have the time to visit with our students. The list of over 50 scheduled visits already can be found on Naviance under the College tab. Students will need to register on Naviance in order to receive the Zoom link from the school. Because of limited space and facetime in front of teachers, **students are encouraged only to sign up for visits taking place during asynchronous learning time**. If you have a Study, you will need to supply your own earbuds to listen from that classroom.

See the list of 15 Colleges Visiting just next week!

College	Representative	Date	Time	Registrations	Registration Status	
University of Connecticut	Nathan Sanders	Mon September 21, 2020	9:00 AM	2	Open	view
Emmanuel College - Boston	Ryan Clark	Mon September 21, 2020	10:00 AM		Open	view
Lasell University	Skylar Beckerman	Mon September 21, 2020	12:00 PM		Open	view
University of Southern Maine	Erik Hanson	Tue September 22, 2020	9:00 AM		Open	view
University of Massachusetts Boston	Brian Gallagher	Tue September 22, 2020	10:00 AM		Open	view
Boston University	Griffin Monahan	Tue September 22, 2020	11:00 AM	1	Open	view
University of Limerick	Niamh Kavanagh	Wed September 23, 2020	8:00 AM		Open	view
University of New Haven	Taylor Riley	Wed September 23, 2020	10:00 AM		Open	view

Bryant University	Aimee O'Connell	Wed September 23, 2020	11:0 0 AM	Open	vie w
Dean College	Myra Traylor	Thu September 24, 2020	10:0 0 AM	Open	vie w
Westfield State University	Juan Gonzalez	Thu September 24, 2020	11:0 0 AM	Open	vie w
Landmark College	Ferne Bork	Thu September 24, 2020	12:0 0 PM	Open	vie w
University of Maine	Silvestre Guzman	Fri September 25, 2020	8:00 AM	Open	vie w
Boston University	Griffin Monahan	Fri September 25, 2020	9:00 AM	Open	vie w
Stonehill College	George Gomes	Fri September 25, 2020	10:0 0 AM	Open	vie w

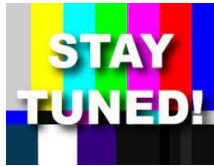


Fee Waivers

Life presents us with many challenges. This pandemic has presented us with even more, especially in the financial sphere for many. Due to recent circumstances,

your child may be eligible for free or reduced lunch. [Lunch Menu / Free and Reduced Eligibility Requirements](#)

If they are on that list, they qualify for fee waivers for PSATs, SATs, ACTs, College Applications, and more. This can be an expensive process without that support. Touch base with Mrs. Rodman, if you need assistance.



More Information to Come!

Throughout the year, I will be sharing important information. This year, it may come in different forms - from newsletters to videos. Stay tuned as many key topics will be covered and I will be communicating in many ways. Always feel free to share with me any suggestions or recommendations for topics to cover and ways to disseminate information.



Thank you for your patience!

As we prepared for the return of our students and as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times, I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know you and your students. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through many new processes. We may not have all of the answers, or respond in your desired time, but we value your partnership and will do our best to service all who are in need. Wishing you a healthy and productive school year!

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