

The Process Moving Forward:

Helpful Hints to Guide Families

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The Myth of the Perfect Application

Ted Talk Goals

- Understand the process
- Build confidence in decision-making
- Reduce Fear



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Getting Started

Narrow your college choices

- School Location & Size
- Campus Culture
- Academic Program(s)
- Outcomes and Support
- Distance from home
- Campus Diversity
- Access to Faculty
- Cost and Value

Do your research

- College Websites
- Social Media & Student Voices
- Data & Rankings
- Virtual Tours
- Counselors
- College Visits and Fairs

Diversify your college list

- State vs. Private
- Reach vs. Target vs. Safety



Sample Timeline

Junior Year (Now – Summer)

- Compile a list
- Research
- Visit Campuses
- Create Senior Yr Schedule
- Schedule Testing
- Draft Brag Sheets
- Ask for LOR
- Visit Campuses
- Ideate/Outline Essays

Senior Year (Fall – Winter)

- Meet with Counselor
- Remaining Testing (if needed)
- Visit Campuses
- Shorten College List
- Edit & Complete Essay
- Evaluate Application Plans
- Complete Applications
- **Visit Campuses**
- Communicate with Counselor



Application Methods

- **Common Application**
- **Coalition Application**
- **University Application**



*Schools legally cannot favor one application source over another.



Application Plans

- **Early Decision (ED):** 1st Choice, one school, binding
- **Restrictive Early Action (REA):** Early app, one school, non-binding
- **Early Action (EA):** Early app, several schools, non-binding
- **Regular Decision (RD):** Submit an app by the date, several schools.
- **Rolling Decision:** Schools review apps upon completion and notify.



Application Review

- Transcript (GPA, course rigor, & trends)
- Standardized Testing
- Application
- Essay
- Counselor LOR
- Teacher LOR
- Interaction Quotient / Demo Interest
- Interview
- Supplemental Material



The Big Question

∠ AP
“~~To be~~, or not to ~~be~~”

~~-William Shakespeare~~
-Ryan DePuy



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Transcript & GPA

- Strength of schedule
- Continue academic coursework
- Relevant coursework
- Exploration of interests
- Weighted or Unweighted?
- What makes a student stand out?



Testing

- Try your best, forget the rest!
- SAT/ACT – Does it matter?
- Practice makes perfect, except after 3x
- Test-optional & super-score policies
- Best questions to ask!



Application

- Student Information
- Co-curricular Activities
- What is the contribution to campus?
- The character of the student
- Advice



Essay

- Be honest and genuine
- Early experience & exploration
- Bring dimension to yourself
- Evidence of your character or motivation
- Implications of AI



Letters of Recommendation

- Why – measure in and out of class
- Who – people who know you, not always your favorite teacher
- Different letters, different views



Demonstrated Interest

- What is it?
- How to express interest?
- Easy win for you
- Reframe the idea!



College Interviews

- Be Presentable
- Have Questions
- Confidence
- Bring Resume
- Speak!! Don't be quiet!!
- Campus, Regional, Virtual, or Phone?



An aerial photograph of a university campus during the "golden hour" of sunset. The scene is bathed in a warm, orange-red light. In the center, a large, modern academic building with a central tower and glass facade stands out. Below it is a large, green athletic field. To the left, there are several older, multi-story brick buildings. The campus is surrounded by a dense forest of trees, and residential houses are visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is serene and academic.

Q & A and Discussion

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