

CCDS College Counseling: An Introduction to the College Process

College Counseling Overview By Year



9th: Settle In, Discover, Grow



10th: Think Strategically

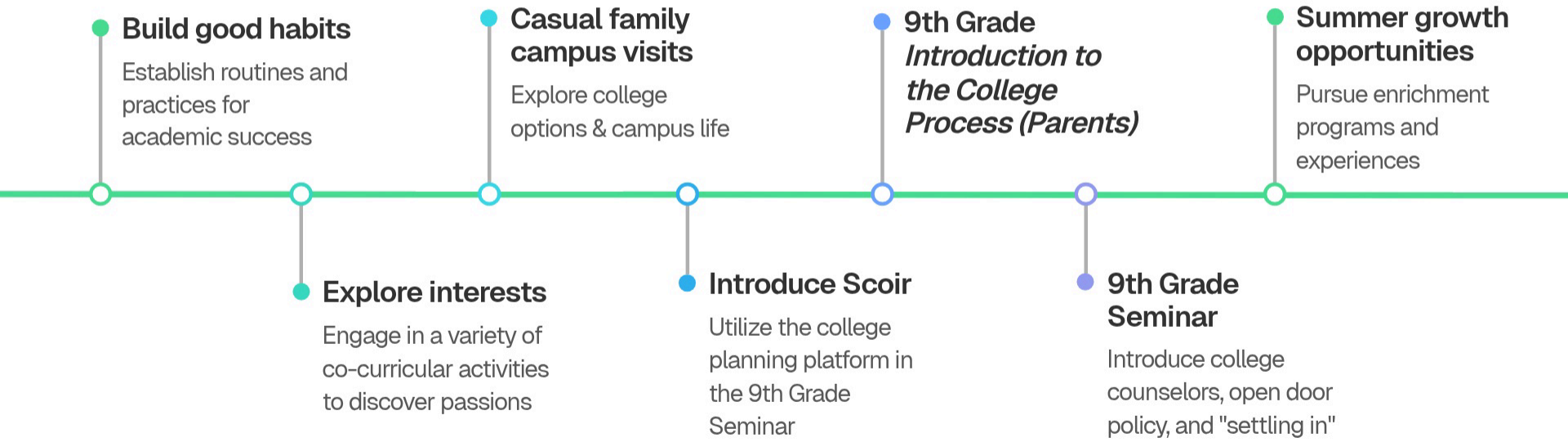


11th: Engage with Purpose and Begin Your College Search



12th: Find Colleges That Are Right For *YOU*

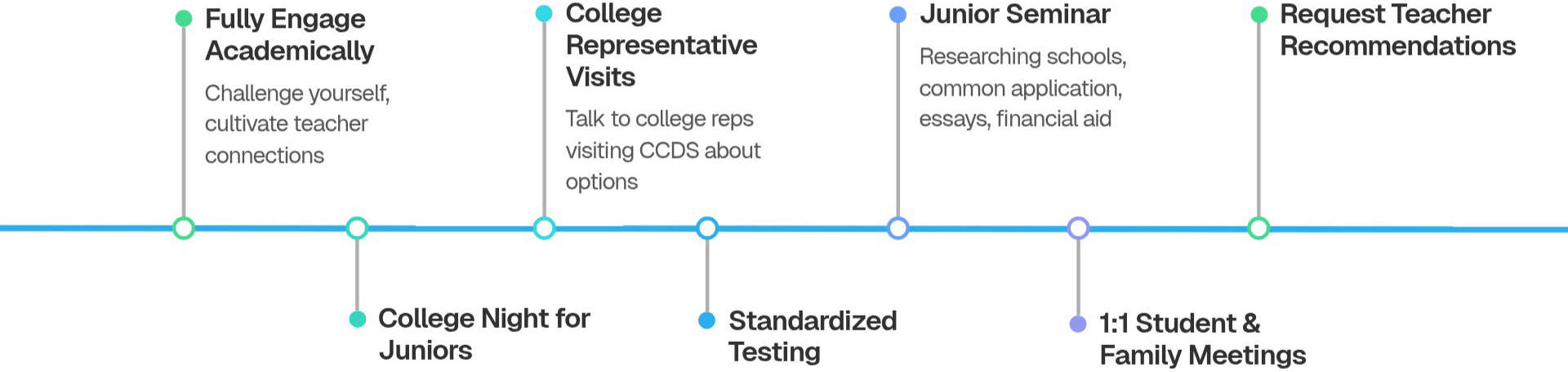
9th Grade — Settle In, Discover, and Grow



10th Grade — Think Strategically

- **Take challenging courses**
  Pursue rigor while having balance - be strategic.
- **Explore AP/IB options**
  Explore which courses align with academic strengths and rigor.
- **Engage in meaningful co-curricular activities**
  Align with interests allowing them to develop leadership skills and demonstrate their commitment to their community.
- **Explore SCOIR (Personality & Career Assessments)**
- **Attend Case Studies**
  Interactive, mock admission exercise led by admission counselors, followed by a college fair.
- **1:1 Student Meeting**
- **Grade Level Meetings**

11th Grade — Engage with Purpose & Begin Your College Search



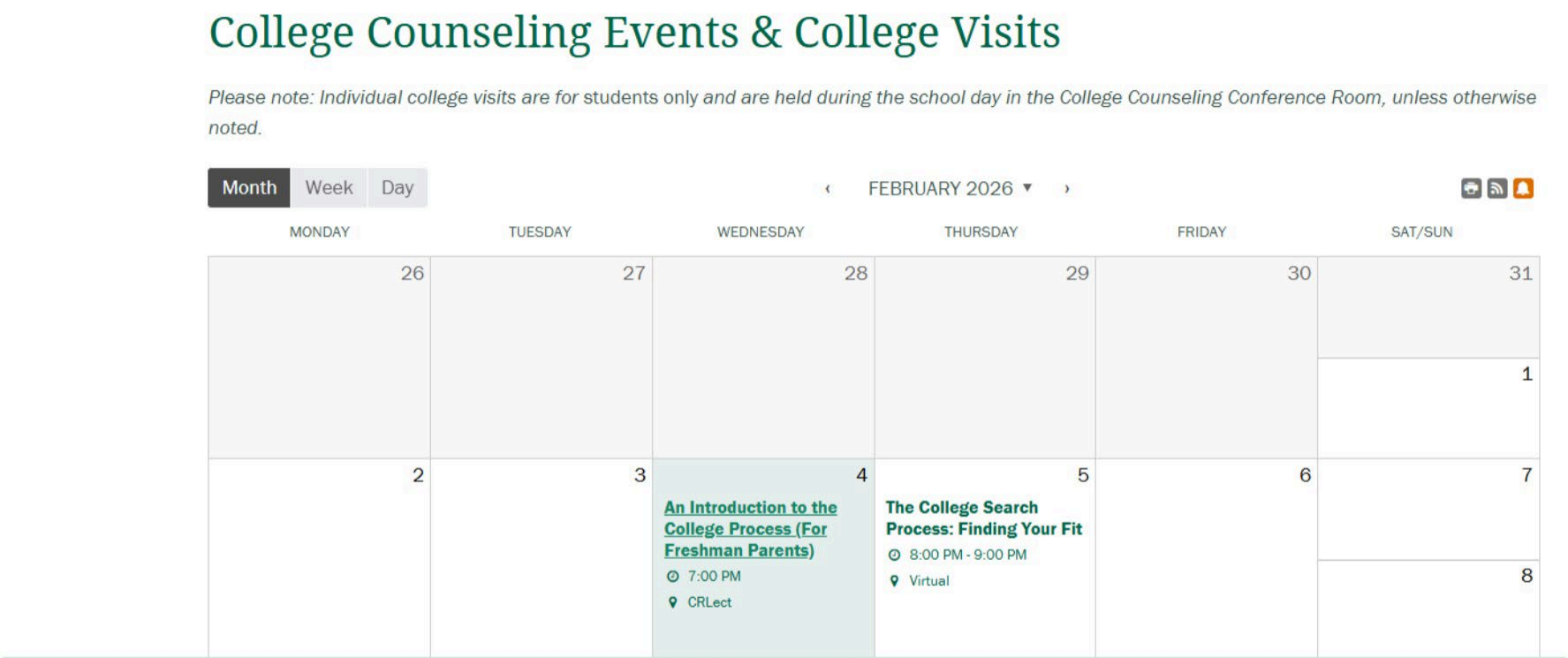
12th Grade — Find Colleges That Are Right For YOU

- **Senior College Application Workshop**
  Common Application, SCOIR, overview of process.
- **1:1 Meetings/Open Door Policy**
  Strategize, refine college list, edit applications & essays, ask questions.
- **College Night for Senior Adults and Caregivers**
  Review of college application process, managing expectations, suggestions to reduce stress.
- **Submit Applications**
- **SCOIR**
  Students update all year until they deposit and enroll.
- **Navigate Financial Aid, Interviews, and Decisions**
- **Students Need to Manage Emails**
  Reminders and updates will come from our office and from colleges, requiring students to develop the habit of checking email regularly.

College Counseling Programming For ALL Grade Levels

- College Coffees
- Host College Information Events at CCDS: School Year/Summer
- College Admission Rep Visits: Fall for Juniors & Seniors
- Alumni College Forum for Juniors & Seniors
- Joint Programming with Charlotte Latin and Providence Day (Arts/Athletics/Case Studies/Financial Aid)
- Testing (9th PSAT 10th PreACT 11th PSAT/NMSQT
- BucsNet College Counseling Website - Calendar & Resources

Parent Tip: Bookmark BucsNet College Counseling Website Calendar of Events



BucsNet: College Counseling Website

The college counseling site offers parents and students a centralized hub for information, resources, and college planning tools.

FEB
17
2026

The College Admissions Process for Parents and Family Members: What are you looking for?

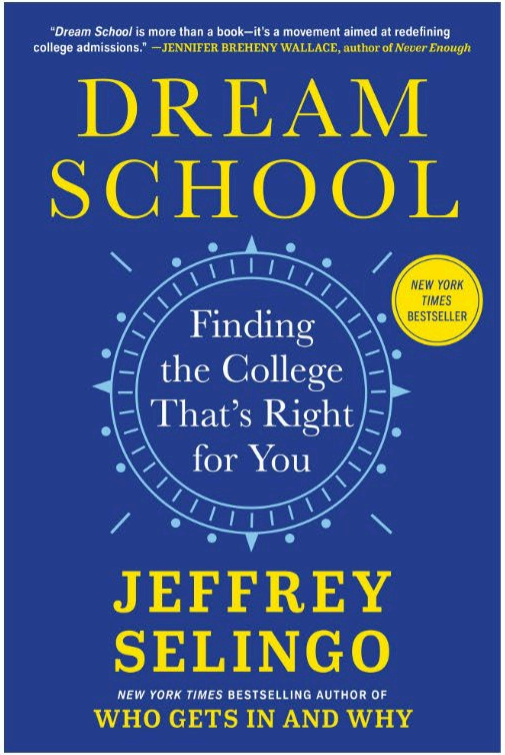
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Virtual

Join the Bowdoin College admissions office for a special information session for family members of high school juniors. A discussion on the factors you and your student should consider when building your college list, outlining first steps for your family to consider in your search and how to start exploring colleges that fit your criteria.

To register for the virtual event, click here.

BucsNet: College Counseling Website



Staff Pick for Best "New" College Admissions Book

Save the Date: March 10, 2026 Jeffrey Selingo at CCDS

How Adults Can Support



Empower students

Let students own the college process and make their own decisions



Maintain open communication

Encourage reflection and discussion about the student's goals and progress



Avoid taking over tasks

Goal is to help your student grow each year and become more independent



Celebrate successes

Provide emotional support and recognize the student's hard work and achievements

By empowering students, maintaining open communication, and providing emotional support, adults can play a crucial role in their student's college journey without taking over the process.

PRESENTERS

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