

## **Keys to a Successful (lower stress) College Application Process From SHS Grads**

- ***Don't wait to get started, you should be starting over the summer!***
- ***Start applying as soon as possible and don't put off or procrastinate when doing this application process, because then it will become more stressful if you don't get it out of the way earlier.***
- ***Start Early. Have everything sent out by October at the latest so that you can enjoy senior year.***
- ***If I could offer one piece of advice to next year's seniors about applying to college or managing senior year, I would tell them to just focus on what they've got going on. It can be hard with everyone applying to the same schools, people talking about their supplements, talking about SAT/ACT scores, or how many schools they're applying to. It's best not to fall to the pressure of those expectations and take your time with applying.***
- ***Finish filling out the entire common app including the essay before the start of school so all you have to do is write supplements.***
- ***Do not go into massive amounts of debt by choosing a certain school.***
- ***Don't stress about it, everyone will eventually end up where they are supposed to be.***
- ***Schedule regular check-ins with your counselor to make sure you're up to date with deadlines and application processes.***
- ***It's easier than you think it is, just stay on top of your part of it (the essays, SAT, etc.)***
- ***Stay organized and research different colleges, and see what students say about the school not just information the school puts out.***
- ***My one piece of advice would be to always follow your heart and don't let the pressure of going to a big school affect your decisions because any college is a good college when your heart and mind are in it.***
- ***If you really know you're not going to end up at the school, don't apply just to see if you get in and spend \$100 on the application.***
- ***Don't fixate on one school. Have OPTIONS. The right school will come to you. Ranking does not matter. I got into the exact same schools as kids with stronger academic records than me. I also got waitlisted from schools with higher acceptance rates than ones I ended up getting into, so don't fixate on those numbers. Just enjoy it while you can, and trust that gut instinct because it is probably right.***
- ***Actually go to class.***