OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE PROCESS

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Upcoming Webinars

- October – Overview of College Planning
- November – Military Options
- December – Admissions Panel
- January – Financial Aid
- February – Athletics and Recruiting
- March – Planning for Students with Disabilities & Gap Year Programs
- April – Postgraduate Year
- May – End of year/Summer Planning

TIMELINE

- **JUNIOR YEAR**

- Counselors will be meeting with students in groups during flex block throughout the school year (already began in early October)

- Topics covered include general timeline, standardized testing, SCOIR, college visits, building a list, essays, recommendations, and more

- Course selection in early February

- Individual meetings throughout the spring

- Maintaining good academics and involvement

TIMELINE

- **Standardized Tests**
- **College visits/Start developing list**
- **Teacher/Counselor recommendations**
- **Parent/Family meeting upon request**

TIMELINE

- **SUMMER FOLLOWING JUNIOR YEAR**

  -Continue visiting colleges, interviews

  -Begin filling out Common Application (available August 1st), Supplements, Essay, Resume

  -Start narrowing down/finalizing list

TIMELINE

- **SENIOR YEAR FALL**

  -Senior Seminar during flex blocks throughout Quarter 1

  -Senior Night (parents and student)

  -Finish applications, essays, supplements

  -Finalize college list

TIMELINE

-Touch base with teachers about recommendations- let them know of earliest deadline

-Take standardized tests again if desired

- Remaining college visits and interviews

-Submit Early Decision and Early Action Applications

- Financial Aid – FAFSA, CSS Profile, Scholarships

TIMELINE

- **SENIOR YEAR WINTER/SPRING**

  -Submit Regular Decision deadline applications

  -Apply for scholarships

  -Wait….☺

  -May 1st is enrollment deadline

REMINDERS

- **NCAA - If planning on playing a Div. I or II sport in college you must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center – see counselor for more information**

- **SCOIR – Online platform that assists with all aspects of the college search, Scattergrams for individual colleges**

- Students made accounts last spring. Invites were sent to parents last spring as well. Invites to parents will be sent out again tomorrow to create accounts

THNGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- **Post-Secondary Planning does not have to mean traditional 4-year college (GAP Year, Community College, work, military)**
- **Parent vs. Student Involvement**

VARIABLES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- **What are your priorities? What is most important to you?**
- **What are you looking to get out of your college experience?**
- **What type of learner are you?**
- **What type of school- University, Liberal Arts, Engineering, Research, Technical, Business, etc.**
- **Size, location/part of country, distance from home, majors, urban/suburban/rural, diversity, religious affiliation, four-year, two-year, public/private, etc.**
- **Activities on campus, internship opportunities, study abroad, academic support, class size, athletics, etc.**
- **Cost**

CREATING A LIST

- **Have "parameters" conversation early on (cost, distance, etc.) and keep lines of communication open throughout process!**
- **Work with guidance counselor**
- **Talk with experts/mentors in your realm (coaches, music/art teacher, etc.)**
- **Use SCOIR to organize your list and gather info on colleges**
- **Research schools**
- **Keep options open**

CREATING A LIST

- **Reaches, Targets, Safeties**

  -What are they (can use SCOIR to determine where you fall- Scattergrams, Admit rate, etc.)

  -Academic, Financial

  -What should your list include

- **Keep lines of communication open with family, counselors**
- **Stay organized!**
- **Some considering particular majors, others looking for a "feeling"**

Expressed Interest

- Visiting colleges/ Tour
- Interviews
- National & Local College Fairs
- Communication with Admissions Representatives

VISTING A COLLEGE

- **Importance- Getting feel for school, Expressed Interest**
- **Timing- best when students are on campus**
- **Setting up visit**
- **“College Visit Days” – Let main office know of absence**
- **Have list of questions**

VISTING A COLLEGE

- **Immerse yourself as much as possible- dining hall, dorms, classes, visit departments of interest, coaches, support services, talk to students on campus!**
- **Let admissions know if can't get on tour**
- **Parents let your child develop their own impressions of schools**

INTERVIEWS

- **Importance- Gives colleges a more holistic view of applicant, expressed interest, relationship building**
- **Take advantage if offered**
- **Timing- find out what each colleges' process is for interviews**
- **Setting up interview, follow up with email/thank you note**
- **Have list of questions**
- **Convey to them why school is a good fit for you, what you can bring with you to the school**
- **Check out list of potential questions on Counseling website**

INTERVIEWS

- **Remember:**

  - Goal of college is to create an interesting, diverse and involved school community- how can you contribute to this?

  -Colleges are concerned about their yield – how will you convey to them that they are top on your list?

ESSAY

- **Will work on this towards the end of the school year in English class**
- **Another opportunity to convey something about yourself**
- **Write about something that is important to you**
- **Make sure your voice comes through**
- **Show to an English teacher for grammar, have someone read for content**
- **Additional writing supplements as well**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Who to ask**

  -2 Teachers who really know you – not just the best grade

  - Cannot be two teachers from the same academic department

  -Optional- character/talent reference

- **When to ask**
- **Ask in person**
- **Follow up with thank you note**
- **Counselor Letter**

Standardized Testing

- **PSAT**
- **SAT**
- **ACT**

PSAT

- **Was offered to students at CCHS today**
- **Primarily a test for juniors though some sophomores may take it**
- **Results will be back in November**
- **Using results to prepare for future standardized tests**
- **Students will find out if they are eligible for National Merit Scholarship consideration in Sept. 2027**

SAT

- **Offered MAR, MAY, JUN, AUG, SEP, OCT, NOV, and DEC**
  - **Digital as opposed to paper and pencil**
  - **2 hours 14 minutes as opposed to 3 hours**
  - **Just two sections: Reading & Writing and Math**
  - **Adaptive test that generates answers based on previous choices**
  - **Much shorter reading passages and only one question per passage**

SAT (cont.)

- May use calculator for entire math section
- Exam tools
  - Digital countdown clock
  - Ability to flag questions to come back to later
  - Built-in calculator
  - Digital reference sheet for math

ACT

- Compare and contrast to SAT
- English (1-36)
- Math (1-36)
- Reading (1-36)
- Science (1-36)
- Composite Score (1-36)
- Offered FEB, APR, JUN, JUL, SEP, OCT, DEC

Changes to ACT (Fall 2025)

- Reduced number of questions – 44 fewer
- Test length decreased from 195 minutes to 125 minutes
- More time per question
- Four answer choices instead of five for math section
- Can choose to take ACT with or without Science section
- Will get STEM score if student takes both Math & Science
- Will be offered both on a computer or paper & pencil

SAT/ACT Prep

- Class
- Private Tutor
- SAT/ACT Prep Books
- Do nothing

Accommodations

- College Board approves ahead of time for all of their tests (PSAT, SAT, & AP Exams)
- ACT requires students to register for a test first
- CCHS does not make decision – each company decide on their own
- Any questions? Contact Dr. Nowicki, SSD Coordinator
  anowicki@concordcarlisle.org

College Application Process – Student's Responsibilities

- **Application**
- **Payment**
- **Standardized tests scores**
- **Outside letters of recommendation**
- **Supplemental material**

College Application Process – School's Responsibilities

- **FERPA Release Forms**
- **Transcripts**
- **School Profile**
- **Teacher letters of recommendation**
- **Counselor letter of recommendation**
- **Senior year classes**

College Admissions Policies

- **Early Decision (ED)**
- **Early Action (EA)**
- **Early Action – Restrictive**
- **Rolling**
- **Regular**

College Admissions Policies (Cont.)

- **Possible Outcomes**
  - **Accepted**
  - **Denied**
  - **Deferred**
  - **Wait List**

Financial Aid

- Forms
  - FAFSA
  - CSS Profile
  - Institutional forms
- Types of Aid
  - Grants
  - Loans
  - Work Study

Financial Aid (cont.)

- **Resources**
  - **MEFA – www.mefa.org**
  - **Financial Aid Office at colleges**

Additional Resources

- SCOIR
- Guidance Dept. website at www.concordcarlisle.org
- Post-Secondary Planning Guide
- College Board at www.collegeboard.org
- ACT at www.act.org
- Guidance Counselor!!