

Seven Tips for Surviving the College Admissions Process

- ❖ **START GATHERING INFORMATION EARLY**– Visit school websites to acquire all information about the admissions process from application to financial aid. Even if a school requires or offers online applications, either download materials or request materials to be sent to you.
- ❖ **FINISH ALL STANDARDIZED TESTING** – Complete the SAT Reasoning, SAT Subject Tests, ACT with the optional writing by December of senior year. Remember to prep ahead of time before test day, eat and sleep well the night before. Follow-up that test scores have been sent to and received by colleges. Do not assume that they have arrived because of making the request. www.collegeboard.com and www.act.org
- ❖ **FINALIZE COLLEGE LIST** – Check in with a college counselor about the variety of colleges on your final list. There ought to be a range of safety, 50/50 and reach schools. Also ensure that the number of schools you are applying is a reasonable total, fundamentally between 7 and 10. Plus, make sure you are not trophy hunting with schools you are truly not interested in attending, make each of your selections diligently and seriously. www.connectedu.net
- ❖ **COMPLETE A BASIC RESUME** – This form will help organize your information for applications, to give to teachers for letters of recommendation, and to be used for scholarships. Make sure that you correctly and thoroughly make entries about academic rigor, community service, honors/awards, sports, and other extracurricular interests and activities.
- ❖ **VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES** – Try to plan your college visits to when school is in session. During winter break the campus feels and looks completely different than the bustling atmosphere of classes being taught. Primarily, you need to be able to envision yourself on the campus, with the people, in the surrounding community. Thinking about spending the majority of the next four years in a physical space requires some careful contemplation and firsthand knowledge. If available, sit in on a class, take a guided tour, eat the food, and peruse the dorms.
- ❖ **UTILIZE THE INTERNET** – The Internet provides an array of opportunities to assist you in the college admissions process. Sites, such as collegeboard.com, allow students to investigate anything from refining the college list to providing thumbnail sketches of college offerings and cost. In addition, visiting college websites will grant students opportunities to see viewbooks, to look at faculty backgrounds, and to be in contact with student organizations.
- ❖ **COMMUNICATE AS A FAMILY** – Maybe one of the most important, and most often overlooked, aspects of the college admissions process is communication among all family members. Initiating this dialogue early in high school, preferably sophomore or early junior year, will work to establish a framework of understanding about the significant transitions which will be made, the duties and responsibilities on everyone’s part, and the dreams, desires, and expectations of all. In fact, this may lead to some frustration and misunderstanding, but with a clear commitment on everyone’s part to continue talking through obstacles and come to a working approach to this highly exciting time in a student’s life.