

August 1, 2007

Dear Parents of Sophomores,

You might be thinking that sophomore year is too early to talk about the college process. While we don't want to add to the pressures of school and the general stress that goes along with being a teenager, being prepared for this process now will help eliminate stress the junior and senior years.

Choosing a college is serious business. The process of choosing a college does not just involve filling out applications and dropping them in the mail. Finding a school that is a good match for your child is an important task that really begins in the ninth and tenth grades with course selection, grades, activities, and relationships with teachers.

The College Counseling Office is staffed by Amy Koudelka, Patti Culbreth, and Catherine Faulconer, '98. We will get to know you and your child over the course of the next four years. We will assist you and your child with understanding the College Process lingo—PSAT, SAT, SAT II: Subject Tests, ACT, early decision, regular decision, etc.

While sophomore year will be an exciting time for your student, we ask that you encourage your child to be aware that choices he/she makes his/her sophomore year impact the college process. Listed below are some topics that will interest you about the upcoming year. As we visit with the Sophomore Class this fall, we will emphasize how and why the sophomore year is important.

Testing Information

- All sophomores will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 17.
- Think about the SAT II: Subject Tests. It is a good idea to take each test soon after your last honors or Advanced Placement course in the subject.

Helpful Hints for Students

- Grades in 10th grade appear on your transcript and are considered a part of the college application.
- Take an active role in a club—think about a leadership role in extra-curriculars or athletics.
- Continue and maintain relationships with your College Counselor and teachers.
- If you do well in a particular subject, talk to your advisor about taking the Advanced Placement class in that subject.
- Talk with your parents about your college plans.
- Ask older friends and siblings who may be in college about their college experiences. Ask them what they would have done differently if they were just starting high school now.
- If you are near a college campus—for any reason—make an effort to visit and “get a feel” for the campus.

We hope this information is helpful and answers some of your questions and concerns. We look forward to seeing returning students and parents and new faces.

Sincerely,

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Co-Director of College Counseling

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