



# ACHS: COLLEGE 101

What Parents and Students Need to  
Know About Getting Into College

# AGENDA

- Sr. McCulloch & Mrs. Powell – Guidance Counselor Presentation
  - College Bound Folder distribution
  - College Information PowerPoint presentation
  - General questions & answers

# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

## ◎ October:

- Finalize college choices
- Complete & submit Activity Sheet to Counselor
- Prepare early decision, early action or rolling admissions applications
- Request teacher recommendations
- Request transcripts (only if you have above 2.0)
- Have 1<sup>st</sup> draft of personal statement reviewed by your English teacher or the Writing Center
- Take the SAT &/or ACT and have scores sent to the colleges of your choice.

## ◎ November

- Nov. 1-15: For early decision
- Complete at least one application by Thanksgiving
- Give teachers and/or counselors supplemental forms and requests at least two weeks before deadline.

# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

## ● December

- As you finish, send your applications
- Mid-year grades will be sent to colleges

## ● January - March

- NO SENIORITIS!
- Complete FAFSA
- Continue to send off applications if you have not yet finished.
- Remember schools **do look** at semester and final grades.
- Keep active in school.

## ● April

- You should start to receive acceptance and financial aids letters.
- Keep your counselor updated with both acceptances & denials.
- Follow-up with schools to check status of your application(s).

## ● May

- After May 1<sup>st</sup> inform schools of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admissions/financial aid.
- Send your deposit to ONE college only.

## ● June

- Final transcripts will be mailed to the college as you direct.

# THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

- ◎ Research & Gather Information
  - Size: Large or Small
  - Type: Public or Private; Single-sex or Coed
  - Location: Urban, suburban or rural
  - Activities
  - Environment
  - Cost
  - Entrance requirements
  - Philosophy
  - Academic offerings
- ◎ Select a school
- ◎ Complete and Send Applications
- ◎ Wait patiently
- ◎ Make a Final Decision

# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◉ Registering and taking the SAT and ACT
- ◉ Requesting Recommendation Letters
- ◉ Requesting Transcripts
- ◉ Registering with the NCAA Clearinghouse (athletes)
- ◉ Completing and Submitting Applications and Additional Materials
- ◉ Writing Personal Statement
- ◉ Searching and Applying for Scholarships

# PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◉ Offering Support and Encouragement
- ◉ Facilitating College Search and Selection
- ◉ Being Aware of Deadlines and Events and giving Gentle Reminders
- ◉ Submitting Fees and Forms Required of Parents Especially Application and Financial Aid Forms

# GUIDANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Complete Secondary School Recommendations
- Follow-Up with Students
- Send Transcripts, Recommendation Letters and Personal Statements
- Respond to Parent/Student Concerns and Questions



# SENIOR GRADES

- ◎ Acceptance “PENDING” Final Grades!
  - Maintain GPA
  - NO SENORITIS!
- ◎ Can Earn You Scholarships
- ◎ Can Place You In Honors Programs
- ◎ Mid-Year and Final Grades Will be Sent to Colleges

# TESTING

ACHS SCHOOL CODE 090010

- ◉ If you have NOT taken the SAT and ACT you MUST Register for the Upcoming Test
- ◉ If you have NOT scored favorable you NEED to re-test
- ◉ Keep tabs on test dates and registration deadlines
- ◉ When registering make sure you have your scores sent to the colleges of your choice.
- ◉ SAT - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- ◉ ACT - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

# SAT VS. ACT

- The SAT tests critical-thinking and problem solving.
- The SAT tests vocabulary much more than the ACT.
- The SAT is not entirely multiple choice.
- The SAT has a “guessing” penalty.
- The ACT is a content-based test.
- The ACT includes a science reasoning section.
- The ACT math section includes trigonometry.
- The ACT tests English grammar.

# APPLYING

- ◉ 3 Categories: safe schools, “good match” schools, and reach schools
- ◉ Consider a state school for your list
- ◉ Application Deadline
  - Early Decision - Binding application
  - Early Action - Not binding, early deadline
  - Regular decision
  - Rolling admissions
  - Open admissions - Community Colleges

# APPLICATION TIPS

- ◉ Keep copies of your submitted application materials
- ◉ Write an identifier as a header on the top right hand corner of your additional materials (essays, activities, lists) in case they are separated.
- ◉ Online Applications
  - Print and prepare in advance, especially essays
  - Follow up on your transcript requests and teacher recommendation requests
- ◉ READ & REREAD **everything** before submitting.
- ◉ Apply in a timely manner. DO NOT wait until the last minute.

# PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD!

- ◉ Well written essay(s)
- ◉ Comprehensive activities list/resume (if applicable)
- ◉ Recommendations from:
  - Teachers
  - Counselor
  - Coaches (if going to school for athletics)
  - Employers
- ◉ Choose individuals wisely
  - Someone who can speak to your
    - Personal abilities
    - Values
    - Overall character
- ◉ Allow sufficient time for completion

# PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETES

- ◉ Must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse
  - Walk-on
  - Scholarship athlete
  - [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) - more information found in your college bound folder

# FINANCIAL AID

- ◉ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - Secure your FAFSA pin numbers in November.
  - Complete and submit ASAP after January 1<sup>st</sup>. The sooner you submit the more money you may be able to obtain.
- ◉ Individual college scholarships
  - Research college's Office of Financial Aid website
- ◉ Merit based scholarships
- ◉ Corporate, professional, and civic group scholarships
- ◉ [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) - largest database of scholarships



# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

- ◉ College application
- ◉ Application fees
- ◉ Activities list/resume
- ◉ Recommendations
- ◉ SAT/ACT scores
- ◉ High school transcripts
- ◉ NCAA forms (if applicable)
- ◉ Supplemental forms (if applicable)

College counselors and parents do not get students admitted to colleges, nor do they keep them out; the student determines this. However, our experience and advice may help students present themselves in the best possible manner which could make them more attractive to their colleges.

~Unknown