

# Hunterdon Central Regional High School

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade College Planning Night for Parents

January 16, 2020

6:30 pm

# Welcome & Introductions

- Supervisor of Counseling Services  
Dana Kurilew
- Class of 2021 Counselors  
Deborah Hul (A-EC)  
Anne Biber (ED-LEM)  
Casey Rupon (LEN-ROB)  
Annmarie Taylor (ROC-Z)
- College & Career Counselor  
Jennifer Nuechterlein

# 2019: The Year in Review

- College Matriculations
- College Trends
- What does this mean for the Classes of 2020, 2021?

# Current Trends in College Admissions

- Early Application Increases
- Changes to Ethical Practices in the Admission Office
- A College's Financial Sustainability - *what does that mean for us?*
- Test Optional/Test Flexible Growth
- Rigor & Grades remain the most important factors in admission decisions.

# Goals

- Develop a working college list.
- Makes plans to visit campuses.
- Create a standardized testing plan.
- Think about letters of recommendation and essays.
- Submit feedback forms and recommendation waiver in Google Classroom.

# How A Decision Is Made

Factors colleges consider in a “holistic review”:

- Level of rigor
- Grades in college-prep courses
- Standardized test scores
- Letters of recommendation
- Essay(s)
- Activities/special talents/level of commitment
- Demonstration of interest
- Interview

# Developing A Healthy College List

- Probable, Target, Reach Schools
- Search Criteria
- Finding Fit
  - Academic, Financial, Social
- Search Tools
- Naviance

# Majors & Careers

- Resources (Naviance, Career Cruising, College Board)
- What if I'm undecided?
- Consider real experience, both in and out of the classroom.
- Visual & Performing Arts majors:
  - audition or portfolio to showcase work
  - specific deadlines

# Admission Plans

- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admission
- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Single-Choice or Restrictive Early Action

# Standardized Testing



- PSAT
- SAT & Subject Tests
- ACT
- Score Reporting



# College Visits

- Schedule these visits on the admission website.
- (3) excused visit days/school year.
- Making a connection with admission staff.
- Go beyond script; spend extra time on campus.

# Letters of Recommendation

- Counselor
  - Holistic letter for every student.
- Teachers
  - Who do you choose?
  - When do you ask?
  - How do you ask?
- Check each college's recommendation requirements.

# Writing the College Essay

- Brainstorm now using past essay questions.
- First draft in spring.
- Have all pieces thoroughly reviewed!
- There could be supplemental essays required by colleges.

# Your Student's Activities

- Everything counts!
- If it's not on the academic transcript, it is an activity.
- Consider their non-traditional duties:
  - caring for siblings
  - helping elderly family members
  - helping with a family business

# College Athletics

- It is recommended that all prospective student-athletes register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Students should fill out prospective student athlete questionnaires on college websites.
- Review the “approved course list” on the NCAA Eligibility Center website.

# Scheduling for Senior Year

- Continue academic rigor.
- Check admission requirements of colleges.
- Scheduling window in Aspen for seniors is February 6-10.
- Counselors will meet with every student individually after February 10 to discuss schedule.
  - The counselor can make changes during this time.

# Post-High School Options

- Community College
- Gap Year
- Prep School
- Military
- Employment

# Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Apply for Financial Aid on/after October 1, 2020
- Prepare documents early!
- Resources on HCRHS Website
  - Home Page > Counseling > College & Career Services > Financial Aid Information
- Local Scholarship Program – February 2021

# What's Next for Juniors?

- College planning groups January 15-21.
- Keep up the rigor as senior year schedules are prepared.
- Register and prepare for standardized testing.
- Develop the list; narrow down this spring/summer.
- Consider teachers for letters of recommendation.
- Brainstorm and prepare rough drafts of essays and a resume.
- Complete feedback questionnaires for counselor.

# Final Thoughts

- There is a college for every student.
- Be realistic and positive.
- Stay organized.
- Let your son/daughter do the work.
- Seek out the help – we are here for you.

*“College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”*