

Junior College Planning Night

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Director of
College/Transitional
Counseling

College Counseling Mission

- ▶ Our mission is to help each student identify, apply, and matriculate to colleges that fit their interests, abilities, and goals. I value the relationship between students and counselors and strive to know all students well so that I can best advise them and help them reach their post-secondary goals.
- ▶ Sending children to college is a family decision, so I hope to communicate with parents during all aspects of the college application process.
- ▶ Additionally, I expect that students conduct themselves with integrity throughout the college application process. Students should represent their achievements honestly to their counselor as well as on their college applications and in college interviews.
- ▶ For those that are choosing an alternative path for life after Parker, my goal is to ensure that you are aware of options and have a path chosen that reflects your goals and aspirations as well as talents and abilities

What Parents Should Remember During the College Process

- ▶ This is your son/daughter's responsibility
- ▶ They contact the schools/ make appointments
 - ▶ They complete the applications
 - ▶ They ask the questions
- ▶ Offer support and encouragement, not pressure and unsolicited advice
- ▶ Set reasonable expectations
- ▶ Be open and honest about financial matters

Timeline of College Application Process: Junior Year

First Semester

- ▶ School work for strong assessments. This is a tough transition so focus on the work. Most important year of their transcript! Division 3 shows your preparedness for college level work
- ▶ Participate in meaningful activities-Leadership roles
- ▶ Build relationships with teachers (preparing for letters of recommendation)
- ▶ PSAT & ACT Review/Create College Board Account

Timeline of College Application Process: Junior Year

Second Semester:

- ▶ Register for ACT, SAT
- ▶ NO MORE SAT II Subject Tests!!! NO MORE SAT ESSAY
- ▶ Schedule a meeting with Missy (February-June)
- ▶ Use Naviance to find colleges that have majors in areas you are interested in (Junior College Planning Day in March)
- ▶ Research colleges that interest you, schedule college visits over school vacations - Check the websites and register early because of limited space
- ▶ Speak with two teachers about writing recommendation letters for you and fill out Recommendation Request Form (to be done in May or early June)
- ▶ Save graded essays
- ▶ Fill out the Junior survey and Info Packet (Done on College Day)
- ▶ Review the Life After Parker booklet
- ▶ Have parents fill out Parent Brag Sheet (found on guidance website)

Standardized Testing Info: SAT & ACT

How do kids decide which one to take???

- ▶ Tons of free SAT practice tests and testing hints
- ▶ Partnership with Khan Academy
www.khanacademy.org/sat
- ▶ www.collegeboard.org
- ▶ Open Door in Acton
- ▶ ACT Info - practice test available through ACT
- ▶ ACT www.act.org
- ▶ Prepare and study for these exams

TEAS Exam - Nursing Students

- ▶ Test of Essential Academic Skills
- ▶ A Pre-Admission test for nursing candidates
- ▶ Most nursing schools do not require this for admissions - but check to make sure. All nursing students will take it but most do it once enrolled in a program
- ▶ Computer based exam
- ▶ For more info visit the website
- ▶ <https://atitesting.com/Solutions/pre-program/TEAS.aspx>

SAT Registration Dates

Test Date

- ▶ March 11, 2023
- ▶ May 6, 2023
- ▶ June 3, 2023
- ▶ August 26, 2023
- ▶ October 7, 2023
- ▶ November 4, 2023
- ▶ December 2, 2023

Registration Deadlines

- February 10, 2023
- April 7, 2023
- May 4, 2023
- July 28, 2023
- September 8, 2023
- October 6, 2023
- November 3, 2023

***Plan your testing strategy based on AP tests, and
combo of the SAT/ACT**

****Scores are released about 2 weeks after test
date**

ACT Registration Dates

Test Date

- ▶ April 15, 2023
- ▶ June 10, 2023
- ▶ July 15, 2023
- ▶ September 9, 2023*
- ▶ October 21, 2023*
- ▶ December 9, 2023*

Registration Deadlines

- March 10, 2023
- May 5, 2023
- June 16, 2023
- August 4, 2023
- September 15, 2023
- December 9, 2023

*Estimated date- deadlines
will be published spring 2023

Practice ACT

- ▶ Given by Open Door from Acton, Ma
- ▶ Open to 10th and 11th grade students
- ▶ Testing takes place at Parker Charter
- ▶ Testing on TBD
- ▶ Scores will be 3 weeks after testing
- ▶ Great opportunity to practice high-stakes testing
- ▶ Start to compare comfort with ACT vs SAT
- ▶ They will have ACT vs SAT info sessions student can attend

College Planning Day April 2023

- ▶ Common App Essay Prompts, Helpful Hints and many examples
- ▶ Housekeeping (junior survey)& Common App
- ▶ SAT Prep Info and Naked Roommate Passages
- ▶ Naviance Info
- ▶ Strengths Explorer or Career Interest Inventory
- ▶ Resume Building

Naviance

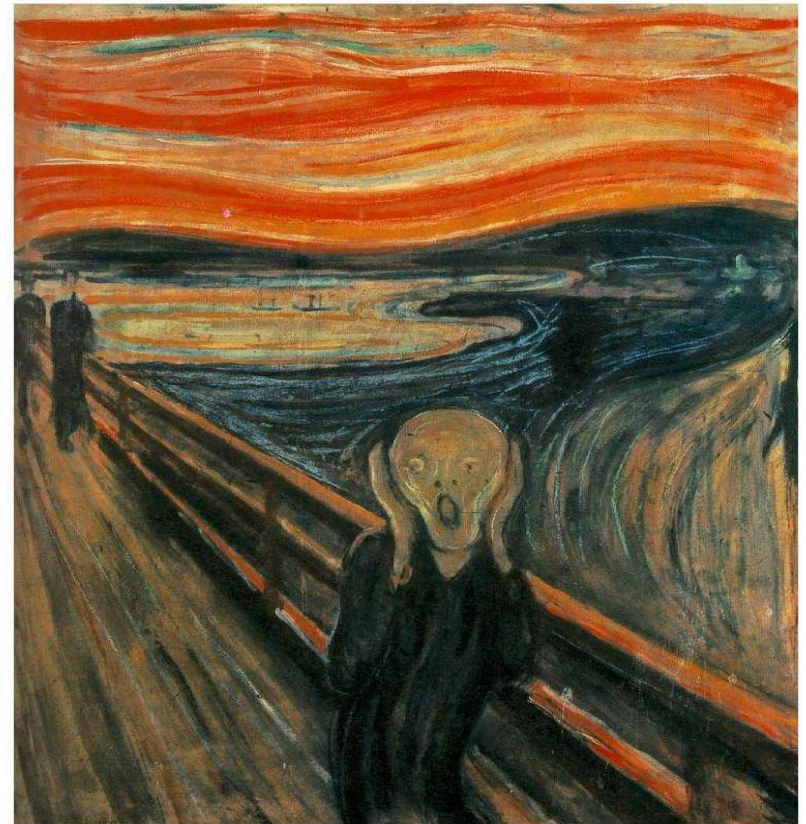
- ▶ What is Naviance?
- ▶ What do students use it for?
 - ▶ College Rep visits
 - ▶ Research schools
 - ▶ Keep track of schools they are applying to
 - ▶ Scholarship Information
- ▶ How do the students know how to use it?
 - ▶ College Search lesson - Sophomore year
 - ▶ Junior College Day-
- ▶ How do parents access the information?
- ▶ When should students be updating the information in Naviance?

Visiting Colleges

- ▶ Plan Early this Year - COVID some have small-number restrictions and some have vaccination restrictions
- ▶ See schedule of tours, information sessions on a college's admissions website
- ▶ Check-in with admissions to make sure they know you visited (ask if the rep for your area is available)
- ▶ Try to visit when students will be on campus
- ▶ Pay attention to how you *feel* on campus—are you comfortable, uncomfortable, etc.? Look at the students!!
- ▶ Speak to current students
- ▶ Try to schedule an overnight visit of the schools you really like *
- ▶ Be open-minded
- ▶ School vacations are great times to visit colleges
- ▶ Re-visit schools after acceptances have been received to help make your decision

Teacher Letter of Recommendation

- ▶ Who do you ask??
- ▶ When should you ask them??
- ▶ What is the right way to ask them??
- ▶ What will they write about you??
- ▶ How many recommendations should you get??
- ▶ Do I get to see what they write??
- ▶ Can I get outside/supplemental letters of recommendation??



Timeline: Senior Year

Summer:

▶ **Work on college essay!!!!**

- ▶ Prepare to re-take SAT/ACT, if necessary
- ▶ Work on your list of colleges & update in Naviance
- ▶ Update your “resume” of all your activities, athletics, academic accomplishments, community service and work history
- ▶ Work/Community Service/Internships...do something!! Don't just sit around!

Timeline: Senior Year

Fall

- ▶ Meet early and regularly with your counselor
- ▶ Make final list of colleges & update in Naviance
- ▶ Register & Re-Take ACT &/or SAT, if necessary
- ▶ Determine all deadlines and under what deadline you will be applying (ED, EA, REA, RD, Rolling)
- ▶ Complete your FAFSA if applying early (&CSS Profile) October 1st it becomes available
- ▶ Have 3 people read your essay: English teacher, college counselor, friend/family member (Sue & Lia's Essay Time in Academic block)
- ▶ Finish applications in time for deadlines!!!!

College Rep Visits

- ▶ College reps come to Parker to talk about their school
- ▶ We had over 25 visits this year (Sept-Nov)
- ▶ Look at Naviance site for complete list
- ▶ Sign-up in Naviance
- ▶ Bring questions and be professional at these visits...these will be the admission reps reviewing your application



- ▶ Make a positive, lasting impression!!!

Application Types

Early Decision

- ▶ Deadline 11/1-12/15
 - ▶ Binding
- ▶ Your #1 school you know you will go to if you get in
- ▶ Have to withdraw other applications upon acceptance

Early Action

- ▶ Deadline 11/1-12/15
- ▶ One of your top schools
 - ▶ Usually a reach and a safety
 - ▶ Non-Binding
- ▶ Do not have to withdraw other applications

Application Types

Restricted Early Action

- ▶ Deadlines 11/1-12/15
- ▶ Can usually apply only to that school
- ▶ May be able to apply to an in-state school , but need to check with each individual college

Regular Decision

- ▶ Deadlines 1/1-??
- ▶ Not Binding

Rolling Admissions

- ▶ Not binding
- ▶ Reviewed as they receive application
- ▶ Open until class is full

What Does a College Application Require?

- ▶ Teacher Recommendations (no more than 2)
- ▶ College Counselor Recommendation
- ▶ Transcripts & Narrative Summary
- ▶ SAT/ACT Test Scores
- ▶ No Class Ranking/GPA
- ▶ School Profile to show rigorous curriculum & explanation of assessment
- ▶ The Common App
 - ▶ Filling out the general information
 - ▶ Getting family info filled in
 - ▶ Writing your college essay (hints, revisions!!)
 - ▶ Completing the supplements
 - ▶ Any college applications that do not use the common app

Common App

- ▶ One Application for over 900 schools
- ▶ General Registration
 - ▶ www.commonapp.org
 - ▶ Register with the same username, password, and email address as Naviance.
 - ▶ Put in your general info for registration if you have not done so
 - ▶ Common App will now roll over from year to year if you want to start early!!

What is on the Common App

- ▶ Applicant Demographics
- ▶ Parent/Family Information
- ▶ Academics/Honors
- ▶ Extracurricular Activities
- ▶ Personal Essay
- ▶ Individual College Supplements

Interviewing

- ▶ Strongly recommended/required for smaller and more selective schools
- ▶ Contact school for their specific protocols
- ▶ On-Campus vs. Alumni Interviews
- ▶ Mock Interviews available
- ▶ Meet with your counselor before for helpful tips

Timeline: Senior Year (cont.)

Fall/Winter/Spring

- ▶ Apply for financial aid (FAFSA & CSS Profile) Changes in FAFSA - Now available on October 1st
- ▶ CSS Profile - What is it and when do I do it??
- ▶ Submit all regular decision applications
- ▶ Compare acceptance letters and financial aid awards
- ▶ Decide where you're going to college & then make your deposit on May 1st - National Decision Day

PPY-Prior Prior Year

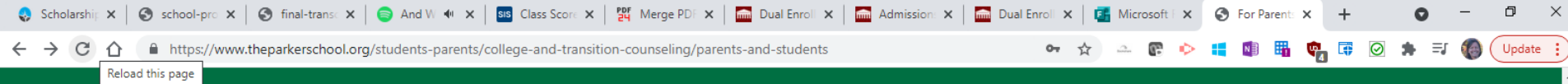
- ▶ What is PPY?
- ▶ Why are they changing this and what are the benefits?
- ▶ How does it affect the Financial Aid deadlines?
- ▶ How will it affect the application process?
- ▶ How does/will it affect state schools?
- ▶ How does/will it affect private schools?
- ▶ As a parent, what do I need to do to make sure that I am all set for PPY next year?

How do I pay for college?



- ▶ College is expensive, but luckily financial aid can offset some of the costs
- ▶ MEFA Financial Aid Night Done virtually now
- ▶ FAFSA & CSS Profile
- ▶ Grants vs. Loans vs. Scholarships
- ▶ Need-based vs. Merit-based aid
- ▶ Net price Calculator

Resources




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
For Parents and Students


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
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
Note: Parker's CEEB code is 220689

 [Junior College Planning Night Slides \(1,189.76 KB\)](#)

 [Parker's Post-Secondary Planning Guidebook \(933.68 KB\)](#)

 [Timeline for Juniors and Seniors \(273.80 KB\)](#)

 [College Financing Presentation \(2,286.38 KB\)](#)

 [Parent Brag Sheet 2021 \(107.51 KB\)](#)

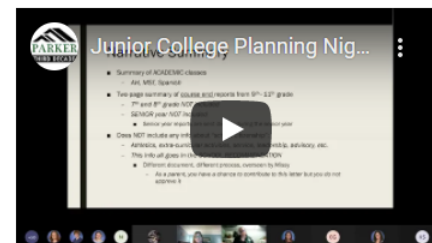
[General Information](#)

[Naviance](#)

[Information for Colleges](#)

[For Parents and Students](#)

[External Resources](#)



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2/11/2022

Resources

Parker Website:

http://www.theparkerschool.org/pages/Francis_W_Parker_Charter_Esse/Essential_Resources/Counseling_and_Health_Services/College

SAT: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

ACT: <http://www.act.org/>

MEFA: www.MEFA.org

Thank You

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