Beginning the College Journey
Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help
Talk to Your Scholar

Who are they and what makes them tick?

- Interests
- Strengths
- Career Goals
- Aspirations
- Challenges
- Fears/Concerns
Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Build a College List

Tools to start building a college list

- www.niche.com
- https://www.usnews.com/education
- https://www.princetonreview.com/college-search
- www.bigfuture.collegeboard.com
- www.collegedata.com
- www.collegegreenlight.com
Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Explore College Options

Factors to Consider

- Majors, rankings
- Admission requirements
  - GPA, class rank, SAT/ACT score
- Distance from home/location
- Student body enrollment (small, midsize, large)
- Cost of attendance
- Academic support
- Student life

- Residence halls
- Scholarships and other financial aid
- Public v. private
- Liberal arts v. traditional
- Single gender v. coed
- Undergraduate research
- Career assistance
Getting Started: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Tour College Campuses

School Breaks are Great Times to Tour Colleges

- 17 February
- 9-13 March (Spring Break)
- North Hills – Day Trip to Austin
University of Texas at Austin

St. Edward’s University

Texas State University

COLLEGE TRIP - AUSTIN, TX  |  THURSDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2020  |  MORE DETAILS SOON
Spring

MARCH
APRIL
MAY
**Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help**

**Register for Testing: SAT v. ACT**

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<tr>
<th>List Icon</th>
<th>Graph Icon</th>
<th>People Icon</th>
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<tr>
<td>We highly recommend taking BOTH tests to determine the test that your scholar is most comfortable taking.</td>
<td>Increased comfort level = higher score earning potential.</td>
<td>Once a student has established their preferred assessment:</td>
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<td>Take the test no more than 3 times</td>
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<td>Studies show that students normally reach their highest score between attempts 1-3 IF they have had test preparation before and/or throughout the 3 attempts.</td>
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Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help
Encourage Self-Assessment

Take College Entrance Exams
ACT Test - on campus
Tuesday, 24 March

Test Prep Resources
www.KahnAcademy.org
www.PrincetonReview.com
www.kdcollegeprep.com
Others

Discover Your Interests
Interest Inventories

https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip

http://career-tests-guide.com/free-career-interest-test.html

Assess Your Strengths
Naviance Strengths Explorer®
Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help

Encourage Self-Assessment

Explore Majors

- Occupational Outlook (Bureau of Labor Statistics)
  https://www.bls.gov/ooh/
- Try Career Finder
  https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder
- Talk to teachers
- Identify favorite subjects
- Consider career goals
- Know how many years you are willing to attend college
- Research salaries: www.payscale.com

Demonstrate Leadership

- School clubs
- Public service
- Community organizations
- Create a new program or group
Keep Going: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Understand Cost/Revise the College List

**Estimate Costs**
- Tuition and Cost of Attendance Calculators (university websites, financial aid pages)
- FAFSA4Caster- Estimate Your Aid: [https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate](https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate)

**Apply for Scholarships**
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- [https://scholarshipowl.com/](https://scholarshipowl.com/)
- [https://myscholly.com/](https://myscholly.com/)
- [https://scholarships360.org/](https://scholarships360.org/)
- Religious and community organizations
- Employers

**Visit More Colleges!**
Junior Scholar Meetings

Scholar-to-College Counselor assignments will be posted in mid-March

Scholar meetings will begin in mid-March by appointment

Meeting Topics:
- College List
- Personal Statements
- Resume
- Interests, etc.

Summer appointments are also available
Theories of Knowledge (TOK)/College Prep 101 Series

(Feburary-April)

**1x/month**

- College Awareness & Planning
  - College terminology
  - College research
  - Prospective college lists

- Self-Awareness
  - StrengthsExplorer® (Naviance)
  - Academic program interest

- Putting it All Together
  - Letters of recommendation
  - College admission requirements
  - Application guidelines/requirements
Summer

JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
Almost There: How Parents/Guardians Can Help
Create and Prepare

1. Create/Update
   - Résumé
2. Apply
   - Scholarships
3. Study & Test/Retest
   - SAT/ACT tests
4. Organize/Create
   - College Application Materials
     - Essays
     - Application fees
     - Letters of recommendation
     - Work samples
     - Application opening dates and deadlines
Almost There: How Parents/Guardians Can Help Foster a College Going Culture

Visit Colleges
- Family vacations
- College tours
- Fly-in programs
- Summer immersion programs
- Academic interest programs
- Sports camps

Take Dual Credit Course(s) if applicable
- Government and Economics only

Work a Summer Job or Internship

Subscribe to College Mailing Lists
Fall Preview

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
Road to College & Career: College Counselors & Families Together

- College Counselor meetings by appointment
- Uplift College Fair
- College Reps @ North Hills
- Submit College Applications before winter break
- Financial Aid Applications: FAFSA, TASFA, CSS Profile
- Tax Returns: 2018 and 2019
Planning Ahead: How Parents/Guardians Can Help
Save the Dates

February
- 13th – College Trip – Austin, TX
- TBD – Career Exploration Field Trips

March
- 3rd – 4th – Texas Tech University overnight (business, engineering, health science)
- 24th – ACT Test @ North Hills

April
- 3rd - 4th - JUMP
- 19th – NACAC College Fair (on your own)
Thank You