

# JUNIOR PARENT NIGHT

**February 11, 2020**

# Welcome

What we will cover this today?

- Timeline for college applications
- Testing
- Financial aid
- College Options
- College Wellness: Parenting tips for supporting your teen and maintaining your relationship

# College Application Process at Mercy

## Spring of Junior Year:

- Schedule SAT and ACT
- Take SAT and/or ACT
- Meet with Mrs. Ohanessian
- Visit Colleges
- Apply for summer programs
- Think about who is writing your letters of recommendation

## Summer of Junior Year:

- Work on Personal Statements
- Visit Schools
- Create a resume/list of activities with description
- August 1st applications available.

# College Application Process at Mercy

August/September:

- Request Letters of Recommendation
- Submit Parent Response Form
- Work on Senior Autobiography
- Take your SAT/ACT
- Work on personal statements
- Begin Applications
- Students attend presentations for College Rep Meetings
- Check in with Mrs. O - Regularly

# College Application Process at Mercy

October/November:

- Finish up applications for CSU/UC and Early Action
- Take your SAT/ACT
  - Send the scores to schools
- Attend after school workshops.
- Finishing touches on personal statements and supplemental questions
- Begin Completing FAFSA and Financial aid Applications
- Attend Tri-School Fair and continue attending Mercy College Presentations

# College Application Process at Mercy

December/January:

- Finish up all applications
- Submit Fafsa and Financial aid paperwork
- Check college portals regularly
- Thank your recommenders for writing letters of recommendation
- Update Naviance with final list of schools

# Testing

**DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR SCORES TO ALL SCHOOLS!**

# Which Test is Right for Your Student?

## Some General Guidelines

### The ACT may be better for students who:

- *hate standardized exams*
- *lack testing confidence*
- *are stronger in reading comprehension than math and read quickly*

### The SAT may be better for students who:

- *are stronger in math than English*
- *have difficulty finishing exams in the allotted time*
- *are good at solving puzzles*



# Some examples of different approaches/timelines.

## The minimalist approach:

### Junior year

- *PSAT in October*
- *SAT/ACT in March, May, or June*

### Senior year

- Retake SAT/ACT in October (depending on results)

# The normal approach (for most students):

## Junior year

- PSAT in October
- SAT in January, March, or May
- ACT in April or June
- SAT Subject Tests in May or June

## Senior year

- Retake SAT in October or ACT in September depending on previous results

# The intense approach (for ambitious students and aspiring college athletes):

## Junior Year

- *PSAT in October*
- *SAT in January and/or March*
- *ACT in April*
- *SAT Subject Tests in May*
- *Retake SAT or ACT in June*

## Senior year

- *Retake SAT in October or ACT in September depending on previous results*

# **Vocabulary Lesson**

# Vocabulary

## Early Decision

Apply early

One school

Binding

## Early Action

Apply Early

Many schools

Non-Binding

## Regular Decision

Applications are

due around

January/

February/March

**Mercy strongly encourages students to complete applications by December 1st in an effort to prepare for first semester finals.**

# College Rep Visits

Over 50 Representatives come from various colleges all over the country.

Calendar will be available in weekly emails and will appear in SCOIR/Naviance.

## **The College Options:**

**UC, CSU, Private/Out of State and Community  
Colleges**

# Things to Consider...

- Overall Fit –
  - Can I see myself here?
  - Do they have the programs I am interested in
- Cost –
  - Can we afford this school?
- Return on Investment –
  - What are the graduation rates?
  - How likely am I to get classes and what is the cost of tuition?



# University of California



- 10 campuses in CA – only 9 open for undergraduates
- 3.0 and higher GPA
- Large Research-based Universities
- A-G requirements
- Application available July 1st and due November 30th.
- No large Personal statement
  - 4 insight questions out of 8
- Must send test scores
- Transcripts are not required until July 1st
- Might be selected for Verification

# California State Universities

- 23 Campuses
- Eligibility Index
- Bachelor's and Master's Degrees
- A-G Requirements
- Impaction
- Application available  
October 1st
  - Due November 30th
- No personal statement
- Choose more than one  
Majors
- Send Test Scores



# Community College

- Applications and Registration begin in the Spring
  - Application
  - Placement tests
  - Course selection
- Matriculation Agreements with UC's and private schools
  - TAG (Transfer Admissions Guarantee)/GTC (Guaranteed Transfer Contracts)
  - On Campus Workshops w/ UC admissions & Private admissions teams

# **Out of State and Private Colleges and Universities**

# It varies...

- Everything is different for each school
- Common App and Coalition Application are typically the application types.
- Varies in Sizes, location, affiliation etc.

**College Wellness:** Supporting your  
Teen and Maintaining your  
Relationship through the College  
Process

# SETTING THE FRAME: GOAL-SETTING

- What are your goals for your teen in the college application process?
- What are your goals as a parent in the college application process?

\*Why is this important (x3)

# TIPS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR TEEN

- Minimize pressure
- Balance need for independence and support
  - Check-in, but talk about other things too
  - Help them out, but don't write their essays for them
- REMEMBER: The best college for your teen is the right college for THEM



# TROUBLESHOOTING COMMUNICATION

- If you aren't seeing eye-to-eye, involve your teen in the problem solving process
  - Layout problem (using a compliment sandwich)
  - Listen to your teen's perspective
  - Share your concerns
  - Try and meet in the middle
  - Talk about a back-up plan

# TO MAINTAIN YOUR SANITY & YOUR RELATIONSHIP, REMEMBER...

- Keep the big picture in mind
- Prioritize your relationship with your teen
- Use your resources and ask for help
- Your teen will be okay!

# COUNSELOR CONTACT INFO:

College Counselor-- Francesca Ohanessian  
[fohanessian@mercyhsb.com](mailto:fohanessian@mercyhsb.com)

Academic Counselor-- Caroline O'Sullivan  
[cosullivan@mercyhsb.com](mailto:cosullivan@mercyhsb.com)

Wellness Counselor-- Joy Phillips  
[jphillips@mercyhsb.com](mailto:jphillips@mercyhsb.com)