College Planning for Juniors
Counselor Introduction

- Jane Tenya-Feng, A-L
- Tracey Williams, M-Z
- Janet Winter, Financial Aid Coordinator
- Susan Adewusi, Transition Coordinator
Funny, but true!
• Students
  ◦ You must decide what you want before you can decide where to apply (and eventually attend)

• Parents
  ◦ You are a guide, a help, and a great resource, but the ultimate actions lie with the student. (Empower)
• Self-assessment

◦ What do YOU want from your college experience?
◦ What are your interests and talents?

It is your responsibility to communicate your wants and needs to your parents and counselor.
The college decision is YOURS!

- You gather the data
- You weigh your options
- You exercise your choices
- You develop coping skills

YOU complete the applications, write the essays, and ask for the teacher recommendations.
• Parents

- EMPOWER your students and allow them to take the lead and use the skills learned from you!
  (Avoid pronoun confusion: We need to register for our ACT/SATs)
- Be a sounding board and give advice when asked.
- Parents (continued)

  ◦ Go with students on college visits  
    (Let students take the lead and ask questions.)
  ◦ Ask student’s opinion about the college before voicing yours.
  ◦ Provide funds for application fees.
  ◦ Talk honestly about what you can/will pay.
Counselors

- Provide information and guidance
- Provide individual college planning meetings as necessary (students and/or parents)
- Act as sounding boards
- Write letters of recommendation when requested
- Send transcripts and Secondary School Reports

Counselors: Part of the Team
What is important to you?
- Size
- Location
- Cost
- Academic Programs
- Extra-Curricular Opportunities
- Atmosphere
The College Search

- College Board – “College Search” (Big Future)
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Cappex
  - [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)
- Welcome to College
  - [http://www.welcometocollege.com](http://www.welcometocollege.com)
- Withrow H.S. Counseling Website/Naviance
  - [http://withrow.cps-k12.org](http://withrow.cps-k12.org)
  - Use your powerschool username and password to login
Other Resources

- Your Counselor
- Mrs. Tenya-Feng or Mrs. Williams
- Resource Books
- Parents
- Teachers
- Relatives/Friends
- Alumni
What criteria do college admissions officers consider to be the most reliable indicators of success?

- School achievement: 89%
- Test scores: 85%
- Recommendations: 48%
- Essay: 43%
- Activities/Interviews: 30%

1,950 colleges ranked 6 factors
What is the order of importance for most college admission decisions?

Strength/rigor of curriculum
Grades in those classes/GPA
Test scores
Essays
Letters of recommendation
Activities
Other factors (legacies, talent, etc.)
Junior Year

- Choose a strong senior schedule
- Earn the best grades you can
- Schedule standardized tests this spring & test preparation if desired
  - SAT Subject Tests?
- Stay involved
- Have an interesting summer
- Continue developing your Profile
- Visit colleges (use days we are off of school!)
- Athletes - Register with the NCAA (www.eligibilitycenter.org) in June
• Consistency of name and email address
  ◦ Use your full legal name on all documents
  ◦ Create an email address dedicated to college business – include your name if possible
  ◦ Example: jsmith2015college@gmail.com
Senior Year

- Select a strong senior year schedule
  - At least 5 core courses

- Stretch yourself but don’t overload

- Think about what fits best for the next step

- First transcript sent to colleges in fall will include GPA through junior year; senior year courses will be listed

- Mid-Year Report (January) includes first semester senior year final grades
  - This is too late for many scholarship deadlines though!

- College Credit Plus (formerly Post Secondary Education Option Program, aka PSEOP)
Standardized Tests

- ACT
  - www.actstudent.org

- SAT Subject Tests
  - www.collegeboard.com

- SAT Reasoning Test
  - Math, Critical Reading, and Writing

- Write down usernames and passwords

- Send Scores
  - Four free and pay $$ to send additional score reports, per test per date.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Essay (s)</th>
<th>Letters of Recommendation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◦ Jr. English</td>
<td>◦ Give teachers 2 week notice</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ SHOW, don’t tell!</td>
<td>◦ Provide a resume</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ Avoid cliché topics</td>
<td>◦ Send a thank you note</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Resume</th>
<th>Your Interests/Passions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Your Accomplishments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Your Talents</td>
<td>Legacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity/Background</td>
<td>Special Skills (“Hooks”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletics</td>
<td>Finding best “fit”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Media Websites (i.e.-Facebook)</td>
<td>Common Application</td>
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<td><strong><a href="http://www.commonapp.org">www.commonapp.org</a></strong></td>
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- Attend college rep. visits here at Withrow
  - Schedule with Ms. Porter in Families Forward
- Use days off of school during school year
- Plan around family vacations
- Visit different kinds of schools
  - Urban, Suburban, Rural
  - Small, Medium, Large
  - Private vs Public
Look at and apply to at least five schools. This means one reach, two intermediates, and a two safeties. Several kids that were forced to attend only their safety school because they were rejected from their reach school and intermediate schools.
• Know that published “costs of attendance” are likely not to tell you the full story about the actual costs your student will encounter.

  ◦ Differential tuition, which is higher tuition for certain majors, such as business, engineering, and music.
  ◦ Program costs, especially in music and other high-cost programs.
  ◦ Higher tuition for upper-level students than for lower-level students. Example: as soon as students reach 55 credits (including any credits granted for AP classes), students pay higher tuition than at the start.
  ◦ An idea of annual tuition increases. More than likely, you will be making the decision about where to attend before you know the freshman-year tuition for your student because many schools don’t announce it until after May first, which is your student’s deadline for choosing a college.
  ◦ Look at housing and meal plans. The marketing brochures usually include the cheapest meal plan and dorm option, and your student (especially boys who need unlimited meal plans) will have higher expenses in reality.
  ◦ Make sure you understand the rules about out-of-state tuition at each individual public institution because they are set by each institution’s Board of Regents. Residency status for tuition-paying purposes is unique and is not the same as for voting, owning property, etc.
Pay attention to your student through the whole process. If you have any doubts about whether he or she is ready for college, do not be afraid to plan alternatives, such as a gap year, community college living at home, or even work. Believe it or not, not every IHHS graduate is ready for college right away. Make the right choice with your child.

-Parent of students at Muskingum University and University of Miami (FL)
“Remember that your job is to help your child get to the right college for him or her. You already had your college experience, and now it is his or her turn.”

-Parent of students at Muskingum University and University of Miami (FL)
“Allow your child to select the colleges he or she applies to. Be careful to remain neutral about the list, even if your student picks places you don’t like or have never heard of. The best input you can have at the start is to make sure the student picks at least one college where acceptance is highly likely and that you can afford, even if there is no financial aid/scholarship.”

-Parent of students at Muskingum University and University of Miami (FL)
Students… your homework:

1. Research! Research! Research!
   - “Links to College Search Engines” handout
   - Explore your interests and talents
   - Determine what you want from your college experience

2. Set a testing schedule (don’t wait ‘til it’s too late!)
   - ACT & SAT test dates are listed in each Newsletter

3. Visit! Visit! Visit!
   - “Campus Visit Checklist” Worksheet
Naviance

Access through the webpage www.connection.naviance.com/withrowuhs
(Log-in same as powerschool login)

A very important resource
Everyday is a Great Day
to be a tiger!

Created by Mrs. Tracey Williams

Any questions?
Please contact your Counselor
Jane Tenya-Feng, A-L 513 363-9274
fengjan@cpsboe.k12.oh.us
Tracey Williams, M-Z 513 363-9016
willitr@cpsboe.k12.oh.us