Overview of tonight’s topics

Session 1: General insight into college admissions is shared. This overview of the process includes an extensive review of the chronology and terminology of college admissions and a general explanation of the changes in the world of college admissions.
February 4 and February 11

- **Session 2**: How do colleges select candidates and how do candidates select a college. Primary and Secondary Research will be discussed.

- **Session 3**: General financial aid information, making the final choice, and an introduction to the Naviance college search program.
The Journey begins...

What are you feeling?
Are there alternatives to college?
Trade School, Military, Work, Gap year
Becoming a college student

- Admissions means nothing if your child is not ready.

- Sit next to your child at the computer while they complete the application.

- If they do the work, they will ultimately make a better decision.

- What college-age characteristics do you see in your child at this point?
Do they wake up on their own?

Are they on-time for school?

Do they work independently (is school work on time without prodding)?

Can they manage their time effectively (not wait for last minute to finish a project)?

Can they manage their own laundry, meals, and money?

How do they handle a bad day? Do they exhibit healthy coping skills?
Junior Timeline

- **February 14** -
  - Preliminary scheduling for 2021 concludes
  - Registration deadline for the March 14 SAT

- **February 28** - Registration deadline for the April 4 ACT exam

- **March 3** -
  - 11th grade College Planning Workshops

- **March 4** -
  - Junior Conferences begin with Guidance Counselors, parents and students
February 4 and 11 -
College Admission Program parts 2 and 3

April 9 through April 19 - Spring break; a good time to visit colleges.

April 3 - Registration deadline for the May 2 SAT/SAT Subject Tests.

April 22 - Spring College Expo at Hofstra
Throughout April - Junior Conferences continue.

May 8 - Registration deadline for the June 6 SAT/SAT Subject Tests

May 8 - Registration deadline for the June 13 ACT exam
Throughout the spring - give green Informal Recommendation forms to teachers, and ask others to write letters of recommendation. Provide them with the Letter of Recommendation form available in the guidance office.

Also...take a *final* look at that senior year schedule.
June 5 - deadline for:
1. draft of activity sheet
2. Counselor Recommendation form
3. Parent Comment Sheet

June 6 - SAT/SAT Subject tests

June 13 - ACT

June - Ace those finals and Regents exams!
Have your son or daughter register now.

They will need their username and password.

Check out the essay questions.

Become familiar with the format of the web site.
Go to
www.connection.naviance.com/wantaghhs

Online transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.

College Search Engine

Scattergrams

All seniors should use their own, valid email address and check it often.
July and August

- visit colleges
- Do research: Narrow your list of colleges/majors
- Begin Common App essays
- Link Common App and Naviance Accounts
- Read
...and if you have the time in the summer...

- Prep or take the SAT and/or ACT
- Summer Employment
- Summer Academic coursework
- Activities/Volunteer Work
Senior year!

**SEPTEMBER**

- Attend Senior College Night Program
- Register for October SAT/SAT Subject Tests
- Register for October ACT
- Senior College Workshops with Guidance Counselors
- WHS “Onsite Admission Days”
September continued

- Senior Conferences begin
- Mini College Fairs
- Attend the Fall College Expo at the SUNY College at Old Westbury - Date TBD
- Financial Aid Night at WHS
- Work on your college essays
- WHS Onsite Admission Days and Individual College Visits.
A word about Deadlines...

- Counselors need 10 business days to process a Transcript Request Form.
- If your Early Action deadline is October 31, you need to submit online and hand in the form by October 16.
- After 3 years of hard work, why risk rushing an application?
October

- File the Financial Aid forms (FAFSA, PROFILE) as soon as possible after October 1st.

- **Attend** the NACAC L.I. College Fair on **Date TBD** (11:00 AM-4:00 PM).

- **File** Early Decision/Early Action applications to colleges if you intend to participate in this type of program.
October continued

- **Register** for **November SAT/SAT Subject Tests**
- **Remind** those teachers you asked to write a letter of recommendation.
- Throughout October: **Senior Conferences with Guidance Counselors**
- **Earn good first quarter grades!**
By November 1, most students have submitted applications online and Transcript Request Forms to Counselors.

Don’t miss the registration deadlines for the December SAT and ACT.

Submit later college applications no less than 10 school days before each recess in the Guidance Office.
January/February

- Hand in requests for mid-year (7th semester) grades for those colleges that require them, non Common App
- File for special scholarships such as the Wantagh Scholarship Fund.
- Carefully review the scholarship notices that are on the Guidance Department web page.
- Do scholarship searches on-line.
March/April

- After receiving your college acceptances, carefully consider your options. Consult with your counselor.

- As early as possible, notify those colleges that have accepted you of your decision.

- Don’t miss the May 1st deposit deadline!!!!
May/June

- In early May complete all of the information on the College Survey form including your final choice college so that your final transcript can be sent.

- Parent Evening programs: “For Senior Parents Only”

- Process transcript request forms for any College Level credits you may have earned in High School.
Terminology

▶ Naviance
A computerized program that enables counselors to send college documents electronically, increases communication between the Counselor and the Student, perform college searches with real student data, and sort statistics of applicants.

▶ Common App
A college application honored by many colleges. Rapidly becoming widespread in its use, and available at www.commonapp.org

▶ They must be linked! Look for my mailing to you in late August: Step by step instructions on how to “marry” your Common App and Naviance accounts.
Standardized testing:
The SAT, Subject tests, ACT, PSAT/NMSQT

- **Score Choice**
  An option currently for SAT takers, enabling them to send their best test scores by date.

- **Super Score**
  A college may at their discretion use a high SAT sub score from one test date with a different sub score of another test date.
Trends in College Admissions

- Changes to Early Decision and Early Action programs.
- Changes to the “universal reply date” regulations.
- Consumers are debt-conscious, and career-focused.
- 33% of NYS college freshmen earn a BA in 4 years. About the same number do not finish at all.
The Gap year.

Social Networking sites play a role in admissions.

More colleges are eliminating Standardized testing as criteria for admission. See www.fairtest.org

However, more students are taking ACT and SAT and receiving preparation for each.

More students are paying for prep for the SAT and ACT.
More students are applying to more colleges and applying earlier.

As a result, acceptance percentages are down.

Counselors have processed 2,196 college applications to 322 different colleges so far this year, most prior to November 1.

The average number of colleges applied to per student is 9, but varies greatly.
Internet/On-Line Resources: Explore sites related to colleges, careers, financial aid scholarships and even college virtual visits. (Try: www.(collegename).edu)

www.wantaghschools.org: The school district’s website. Click on “Guidance Department” at the left of the home page to navigate to the Guidance and Counseling Department’s webpage for valuable information including links to college and financial aid on line resources.
• **Early Action/Early Decision:**

  “Early” plans are offered to applicants who prefer a particular college and receive a decision earlier than the normal response dates in the spring of senior year. With Early Action, the student is not committed to enroll; with Early Decision, the student is committed and the decision is binding on the student.
Characteristics of Colleges

- **Honors Program**: Any special program for qualified students offering the opportunity for educational enrichment, independent study, acceleration or some combination of these.

- **Learning Disabled College Facilities**: Programs or services provided by colleges for classified special education students.
Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC): Offer two and four year programs of military training culminating in an officer’s commission. In some colleges, credits for these courses can be applied to fulfillment of degree requirements. (offered by the Army, Navy and Air Force.)

Study Abroad: An arrangement by which a student completes part of a college program studying in another country that is a campus extension of the college itself or some other accredited college.
Accelerated Programs
Example: 7 year Medicine degree.

Dual Degree Programs
Example: 3:2 Engineering/Liberal Arts degrees.
AP vs. CL

- Same weighting for GPA until 2024
- College Level (dual enrollment) enables students to accumulate more potential credits, but is not universally accepted.
- AP is a well known standard of rigor, and is generally considered, along with IB courses, to be among the most rigorous available.
NCAA Regulations

- Special college admissions requirements for high school students wishing to participate in Division I or II sports teams in college. They include minimum number of required courses, minimum SAT and grade point averages. Start the application process during the second half of 11th grade.
Next Week:
How colleges select our students, and how our students select colleges.