

10 TIPS FOR GETTING INTO COLLEGE

Junior Seminar: April 25, 2018

TIP #1: Grades

- Get the best possible grades you can during High School
- Even if your grades were weak during your 9th grade year, if you are showing that your grades improved as you got older, that works in your favor

TIP #2: Rigor & Well-Roundedness

- Take academically rigorous courses that you can handle
- College Courses & AP Courses are good, but . . .
- **NOTHING IS MORE VALUABLE THAN SHOWING COLLEGES THAT YOU ARE WELL-ROUNDED** (interested in many areas like Art, Music, Athletics, Speech, Debate, & other Clubs & Organizations)!

TIP #3: Practice Taking the ACT

- Practice taking the SAT or ACT to become familiar with the material and directions
- Take advantage of free online study materials and practice tests
- Start an account at www.actstudent.org
- If you are looking at starting at a Community College, you can contact Iowa Valley to take the Accuplacer test as many times as you like . . .

TIP #4: College Essays

- Spend some time on your essays – think, reflect, write, and re-write
- This is your chance to sell yourself – to convey who you are
- How can you make the “real you” stand out from the rest of the crowd?
- Get feedback from teachers, Ms. Allen, Mr. Keller, Ms. Pearce, or Ms. Durbin

TIP #5: Get Involved

- Do stuff – seriously, it's not too late
- Keep track of your extracurricular activities, sports involvement, and other volunteer work you might do in the community
- Think about leadership positions you have had or currently have
- Be ready to talk about an interest or passion outside of school

TIP #6: Recommendations

- Be able to identify at least 3-5 people who know you and would write you a letter of recommendation
- These people can talk about your character or skills or both
- Give them a copy of your High School resume with your activities and volunteer work listed
- Give them at least two weeks to get it done!

TIP #7: Interview

- More and more colleges are interviewing students for admissions and for scholarships
- Google some sample questions & practice with your family or friends
- Practice being friendly & articulate, and dress professionally, not casually

TIP #8: Start Early

- GET YOUR “I Have A Plan” Done!
- Start researching colleges this year that have the kind of major & programs you want
- You should have a short list of colleges already researched by the start of your Senior year
- Applications, essays take time – don’t wait

TIP #9: Get Organized

- Make a file folder for each college you are looking at – keep your application, essays, etc. in it
- Use a check list
- *(Hand-Out College Planning Checklist)*
- Start by identifying things that you've already done and things you need to do

TIP #10: Ask for Help

- Ask your teachers for help (recommendations, looking over essays, etc.)
- Ask your counselors for help (identifying schools, programs of what you might be interested in)
- Keep your parents informed of what you are thinking
- **YOU CAN'T DO THIS ALONE!**