Class of 2020

JUNIOR PARENT COLLEGE PLANNING KICK OFF

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Presented by:

Your School Counselors

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VISIT THE SCHOOL COUNSELING PAGE

- https://cityhonors.org/academics/school-counseling-office/
- Monthly Newsletter
- Topics listed alphabetically
  - Updated College Visit Schedule
  - College Info
  - Financial Aid Info
  - Career Info
  - Volunteer Info
  - Athletics Info
THE COLLEGE SEARCH

- College Board- Big Future
  https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

- WNY College Connection
  www.wnycollegeconnection.com

- College Scorecard
  https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/

- Next Step U
  http://www.nextstepu.com/college-search.aspx

- Self-evaluation and serious discussion in the family
SELECTING A COLLEGE

- Location
- Size
- Public/Private
- Programs
- Cost
RESEARCH COLLEGES

- Attend college open houses
  (Links to open houses can be found on City Honors website)

- College representative visits to City Honors
  (Updated regularly on City Honors website)

- National College Fair
  - Buffalo Niagara Convention Center
    Wed., March 20: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm; 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
    Thurs., March 21: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
PUTTING TOGETHER THE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

What are colleges looking for?

- Community Service
- Extracurricular Involvement
- Recommendations
- Test Scores
- Grades/ Transcript
ADMISSIONS TESTS

SAT I/SAT II (Subject Tests)
- March 9 – Register by February 8th (SAT I only)
- June 1st - Register by May 3rd
  - All juniors took the PSAT in October 2018 and have access to free SAT preparation through Khan Academy from the College Board [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

A.C.T.
- April 13th- Register by March 8th
- June 8th- Register by May 3rd
A.C.T. (36) vs. S.A.T. (1600)

- English (1-36)
- Math (1-36)
- Reading (1-36)
- Science (1-36)
- Writing (optional) (2-12)

- Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (200–800)
- Math (200–800)
- Essay (optional)
  - Analysis (2-8)
  - Reading (2-8)
  - Writing (2-8)
GETTING READY FOR THE S.A.T.

- Read and Write as much as possible
- Practice taking the test
- Use PSAT results to target weak areas
- Start studying 6-8 weeks before the test
  - S.A.T. question of the day
  - Free S.A.T. preparation through Khan Academy® from the College Board

www.khanacademy.org
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SAT/ACT

- You can retake the S.A.T./A.C.T.
- Colleges will take the better score
- Colleges will mix and match scores (S.A.T.)
- Scores can be sent to four colleges for free
- Additional colleges can receive scores (www.collegeboard.org)(www.ACT.org) for a fee or with a fee waiver (for those who qualify)
THE COLLEGE ESSAY

- College Application
- Scholarship Application
- Help from Gene Warner, retired from the Buffalo News after 36 years of reporting
- Gene.warner7@gmail.com for an appointment
SELECTING A TOPIC

- **Start Early** - students can begin selecting their topic over the summer

- Choose a topic that sends a positive message

- Choose a topic **YOU** can write about

- Essay Writing is a process that takes time to develop
COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Common Application (www.commonapp.org)
- SUNY Application (www.suny.edu/gosuny/index.cfm)
- Paper Applications
- Online directly through the college

➢ Must submit a transcript request form to Guidance
What is the difference?

**Early Decision:** *Binding* agreement with the college that if you are accepted you will attend

**Early Action:** Accepted early, there is no obligation to attend
THE EARLY BIRD DOES GET THE WORM

- Be mindful of *Due Dates*…
  Many dates are firm and not negotiable

- Scholarship and Admission due dates may be different

- Teachers and School Counselors require time to complete reports. Give them ample notice.
FINANCIAL AID

- **FAFSA**: Free Application for Federal Student Aid - Window opens: October 1, 2019

- **NYS HESC TAP**: NYS Higher Education Services Corporation Tuition Assistance Program. Can be completed through FAFSA application (at the end)

- **CSS Profile** may be required as well. The CSS Profile is an online application that collects information used by nearly 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal aid.

- If you feel you qualify for a *fee waiver*, you MUST complete the income verification form
FINANCIAL AID WEB SITES

- FAFSA- [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

- All students must complete the FAFSA and TAP to be eligible for the SAY YES scholarship!

Links to above financial aid information available on City Honors website under School Counseling Office
FINANCIAL AID

What can be done now?

▪ FAFSA Forecaster
▪ Financial Aid Calculator
▪ Net Price Calculator on College Web-Sites
▪ Get FAFSA ID

Links to above financial aid information available on City Honors website under School Counseling Office
Say Yes
Buffalo
Scholarships
What College Costs Does Say Yes Cover?

For eligible students:

- Tuition at a SUNY/CUNY school
- Tuition at a Say Yes private partner college

www.sayyesbuffalo.org
2019-20 EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

☑ TUITION-FREE SUNY

For New York State students whose families make less than $125,000/YEAR (AGI on 2017 tax return) and pursue an ASSOCIATE or BACHELOR’S degree and earn 30 CREDITS each year.
Recipients must annually complete:
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- TAP-on-the-Web Application
- 30 credits per year in college
- Reside in NYS after graduation for the number of years you took the scholarship

Note: This scholarship is best if you DO NOT qualify for Say Yes

TO APPLY - www.hesc.ny.gov.
NEW COLLEGE BOARD OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

To Enter:
- Create a College Board account or link an existing account at [www.cb.org/opportunity](http://www.cb.org/opportunity)
- Follow the steps on the next slide
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP
7 SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

1. Build your college list on Big Future™
   www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

2. Practice for the SAT on Khan Academy®
   www.Satpractice.org

3. Improve your SAT score by 100 points or more by practicing
   on Khan academy for 12 hours or more.

4. Strengthen your college list on Big Future™ so that it has a
   minimum of (1) “safety,” (2) “fit,” and three “reach” colleges

5. Complete the FAFSA

6. Apply to at least (2) colleges

7. Complete your journey by completing all six above activites
Thank you for coming!

There will be a Financial Aid meeting next year for senior parents.

Please check out the City Honors website for links to College Search and Financial Aid:

www.cityhonors.org

(click on Academics then School Counseling Office)

REACH FOR THE STARS!!