Overview and Agenda

• A healthy mindset in post-high school planning
• Post Secondary Options
• Junior and Senior Year Timeline
• Types of Admission & Deadlines
• Components of an application
• Scholarships and Financial aid
Focus on “fit”

Research shows that finding a “good fit” college and career where you can be engaged is more important for student learning, job satisfaction, and well-being than going to a highly ranked school.
Approaching post-high school planning with a healthy mindset…

Adam Grant, author of *Think Again* - An organizational psychologist, he is a leading expert on how we can find motivation and meaning, and live more generous and creative lives.

“There is no such thing as a best school or a best job. There’s only a best fit for your values and goals. Status signals the reputation of an institution but it reveals nothing about what your life will be like there…”
Counselors want you to know

- Set boundaries around discussing college. It is a conversation that may bring stress and anxiety and can feel exclusive or overwhelming. Consider limiting the amount of time you talk about college with family and friends.

- Encourage Independence – allow students to do the work of applying to college; allows for an authentic process.

- Encourage Etiquette
  - Ask "what are your plans for next year” instead of asking "where did you get in or where are you applying?“
  - Don’t ask people their GPA or SAT score.
  - Be proud of where you are applying/going regardless of “status” or name recognition or describing your plan if it doesn't include college.
  - Be mindful of others.
Post-Secondary Options

Career/Technical Schools
- Culinary, Cosmetology, Digital Media, Plumbing, Electrician, Auto Body & Mechanics, Agriculture, Healthcare, Visual & Performing Arts

Military Service
- Enlistment, National Guard Service, ROTC, Military College, Service Academies

Employment
- Resume, references, Linked In, Monster, Indeed, Seek Apprenticeships

College/University
- 2 year, 4 year, Accelerated Programs

Gap Year
- Develop plan, consider working with agency or counselor, travel, community service
Samantha Raymond, LMSD graduate, and junior at an out of state university, learned to appreciate the value of community college, after taking courses at Montgomery County Community College online during the pandemic. Her time in the virtual classroom opened her eyes to the breadth and depth of experiences and intelligence of her classmates. ..“I want ...students to be more aware of what it means to say negative things about other institutions or intelligence.”

“College has no monopoly on the ingredients for professional success or for a life well lived...Life is defined by little snags and big setbacks; success is determined by the ability to distinguish between the two and rebound from either. And there is no single juncture, no one crossroads, on which everything hinges”.

- Close to 500 four-year colleges accept more than 75 percent of applicants
- Only apx. 50 4-year colleges, out of 3000+ are considered highly selective and admit less that 25%
Hidden Gems – find yours!

- **Pennsylvania College of Technology** – all 2-year programs have a pathway to a 4-year degree on this residential campus – traditional tech school with largest welding facility in the US AND also 5-year BS/MS programs. Williamsport, PA is also home to Lycoming College, a small liberal arts college.

- **Colorado College** learn and function on a block plan – you take 1 class every 3 ½ weeks, open curriculum.

- **Unity College** in Maine is “America’s Environmental College” – where you take 2 classes at a time and can graduate with a major in Conservation law enforcement or Captive Wildlife Care.

- **Pratt Institute** one of the country’s leading art schools also has 2 year associate degree programs while also being the #1 Architecture School in the country on a 25 acre gated campus in Brooklyn, NY.

- **Colleges That Change Lives** – 40 small liberal arts colleges that will change the way you think about colleges – look up Rhodes College in Memphis, TN, Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA, or Clark University in Worcester, MA.

- **Butler University**, home of Hinkle Fieldhouse, a national historic landmark, and the site where the movie Hoosiers was filmed. Butler is a small campus with a big Division 1 feel – Butler Bulldog spirit!

- **Bucknell University** – has an animal behavior major with access to their own primate reserve.

“College is a match to be made, not a trophy to be won”
Timeline for Juniors

Fall/WINTER:
- Think about WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, HOW
- Use Naviance to build your “Colleges I’m Thinking about” list
- Review the Naviance Careers tab – do a career assessment, check out Roadtrip Nation
- Make a plan to take standardized tests
- Set academic goals – last full academic year a college will use to evaluate
- Clubs, sports, part-time job – create a resume to use for interviews and your college applications
- Attend College visits at Harriton

SPRING:
- Continue to work hard in your classes
- Research colleges; schedule campus tours, go to college fairs, visit campuses and sign up for tours and information sessions
- Meet with your counselor – an invitation will be sent for a 1:1 planning meeting with parents/guardians
- Become familiar with The Common App
- Ask teachers who know you best for letters of recommendation
- Take standardized tests; March, April, May, June
- Consider a summer program or apply for a job/internship/apprenticeship
Summer /FALL of Senior Year

- Refine college list
- Write your College Essay(s) – LMSD workshop will be available in July
- Visit Colleges
- Enjoy your summer!
- For students considering military academy – summer program
- Work part-time
- Volunteer in the community
- Get your Naviance account in order and create a Common Application Account

- Complete The Common Application - Early Action, Early Decision, Oct. 15 - Nov. 15
- Finish testing, SAT/ACT
- Senior Post Secondary and College Planning Night - September
- The next wave is Nov. 15 – Jan. 1 with December and January deadlines
- Attend college visits at Harriton
- Financial Aid application – Oct. 1
Plan and Prepare for Testing

- PSAT – Administered in October (practice only)
- SAT – November, December, March/April, May, and June
- AP Exams
- ACT – December thru June, July & August
- TOEFL – for non-native English speakers
- Test Optional/Test Flexible
- Superscore
• More than 1200 four-year colleges and universities do not require the SAT or ACT, some are “Test Blind”

• Does test optional really mean test optional?
  • Colleges have affirmed that they will not penalize students for the absence of a standardized test score and endorse a student-centered, holistic approach to admission that will not disadvantage any student without a test score.
Many factors influence admission decisions:

- Courses taken – Transcript and Profile
- Grades received/GPA
- Standardized test scores
- Personal statements and essays
- Recommendations (counselor, teachers, outside recommenders)
- Extracurricular activities, athletics, part-time job
- Interviews (some offer or recommend – almost never required)
- Demonstrated interest (some track this)
- If it applies to you – athletic recruitment, art portfolios and music auditions, legacy
- *Institutional priorities
## Types of college admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Types</th>
<th>Application Deadlines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Action/Priority</td>
<td>Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Dec. 1, Dec. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Decision I and II</td>
<td>Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Jan. 1, and Jan. 15</td>
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<td>Binding contract</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rolling Decision</td>
<td>No deadlines but early is recommended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Decision</td>
<td>Jan. 1 or 2, Jan. 15, Feb. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Usually Jan. 1, 15, Feb. 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Usually Nov. 1 or 15</td>
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Varies widely (Jan – July)
Naviance – how to access:

**Link to Naviance**

- [http://student.naviance.com/harrton](http://student.naviance.com/harrton) - bookmark this page

Naviance is the place to list your colleges:

“COLLEGES I’M THINKING ABOUT” - JUNIOR YEAR

“COLLEGES I’M APPLYING TO” - SENIOR YEAR
Welcome, Caroline!

Welcome Class of 2020!

Welcome to your senior year and we hope that you had a wonderful summer!

The Student Services Department is committed to assisting you to achieve your post high school plans. Throughout the school year, we will provide you information that will help you with the transition from high school to your post-secondary plans.

My Favorites

- COLLEGES
  - I'm thinking about
- COLLEGES
  - I'm applying to
- CAREERS AND CLUSTERS
  - I'm thinking about
Scholarships and Financial Aid

**NEED Based Aid**
- Apply Oct. 1 of senior year - FAFSA and The CSS Profile
  - Grants, Loans, Work-Study

**Scholarships**
- College – based Scholarships (automatic review when you apply for admission)
- Private/Corporate/Philanthropic organizations offer scholarships for merit, leadership, community service (**Lower Merion Township Scholarship Fund**)
  - Fast Web and College Board

**Affordability**
- EFC
- Use the Net Price Calculator – this will help estimate affordability
  - Sources: PHEAA.org and LMSD Financial Aid programs online
Save the Dates

- Nov. 30 – Admission Roundtable event – 7pm
- Dec. 6 – PSAT’s: You Took Them, Now What? – 7pm
- December - Look for invite for Individual post high school planning meeting after winter break
The prospect of a college education should be filled with possibility, hope, and joy – and so should the experience to get there. Attitude is everything, so start by internalizing that it really, truly is all going to work out.

Barnard, B. and Clark, R., *The Truth about College Admission*, 2019
Everyone has their own path

We're so busy watching out for what's just ahead of us that we don't take the time to enjoy where we are.
Individual Counselor Meetings

Mandy Weatherill - (A - Dio)
https://zoom.us/j/6645189161

Barbara Serratore – (Dix - Kl)
https://zoom.us/j/9120489174

Steph Graziosi–Hibbs (Ko - M)
https://zoom.us/j/3148486320

Allison Gulnac (Kimberly Thompson) (N - Shin)
(with Whelan) - https://zoom.us/j/4409038984

Michael Mallozzi – (Ship - Z)
https://zoom.us/my/mallozzicounselor