

Hi all,

I know that right now you are all in different stages of the college admissions process. Some of you know where you are going and many of you are waiting to hear from colleges and universities before making a decision. As a class, this can be difficult and I hope that you will continue to support each other.

If you are still waiting to hear from one or more colleges and universities you should be:

*...assessing your options when you are accepted places. Once you are "in" begin researching the college or university again. Return to guidebooks, plan a second visit, connect with Academy students who attend the college and peruse sites like Unigo and College Prowler for "organized gossip" about the college or university. Look at strengths and weaknesses with a critical eye now that you know you are in.

*...demonstrating interest in colleges or universities you have not heard from (or were deferred from) by making contact with admissions officers and updating colleges on any new accomplishments or achievements. Colleges and universities will be making final decisions on applications in February and March. This is your last chance to tell your story.

*...talking with your college counselor. Let us know what colleges you are considering. If you have a first choice college and will plan to attend that college if admitted, communicate with us.

If you have heard from colleges and universities:

*..let your college counselors and recommenders know what you have heard. We spent late nights and early mornings writing letters for you. Let us share in your news! Colleges let us know decisions but we prefer to hear them from you.

If your family is applying for financial aid:

Remind your parents that their deadlines are approaching! MANY deadlines for financial aid fall on or around February 1.

Students apply to colleges (with the help of parents, admissions officers, and college counselors)

Parents apply for financial aid (with the help of students, financial aid officers, and college counselors)

It is the responsibility of parents to pay for college and they drive the financial aid application process.

We hosted a Financial Aid in late November and we have information about financial aid in the College Counseling Handbook and on our webpage: <http://www.columbusacademy.org/academics/financingcollege.aspx>.

Please tell your parents to contact us if they have questions!

Lastly, stay tuned for upcoming programming related to transitioning to college. As always, let us know if we can help you in anyway with your college search and selection process. You are almost there!

Ms. Heywood and Mr. Jones