



August 2019

Dear Grade 10 Parents,

We had the pleasure of meeting with your children earlier this week. We look forward to working more closely with them as they progress through the Upper School. Until the college search process goes into “full swing” next year, we would like to provide you with an overview of upcoming college counseling events.

Throughout the year, students and parents will have the opportunity to participate in numerous activities in anticipation of college enrollment. Please note there are many events and touch points and it is **not** expected that students and parents attend **all** of these. Columbus Academy has a well-developed and robust College Counseling program and we meet individual and family needs throughout the many stages of this process. Students and families all have different entry points into the college search. We encourage you to think of this as similar to the process of children losing teeth. Every child starts with baby teeth, they lose them at all different times, but by senior year, adult teeth are in (even if some of the baby teeth needed to be pulled!). Please keep this in mind as you embark on this journey.

- Grade 9 to 12 *students and parents* are invited to the evening program “**Financing College**” to be held in the **Ruch Dining Room at Columbus School for Girls on Wednesday, October 2, 7:00 pm**. We highly recommend attending this program. (Families can enter the building through the Drexel Ave Main Entrance at 65 S. Drexel Ave. Look for the flagpole, and the door will be to the left.)
- All Grade 10 students will take the **PSAT** at Columbus Academy at **8:05 am on Wednesday, October 16**. The college counseling office handles registration. Students will be billed for the cost. Earlier this week, students received information about the PSAT (link to slides will be sent via email and published in the Viking Voice). PSAT/NMSQT Student Guides will be distributed to students during advisory.
- Parents are invited to attend our series of **College Counseling Coffees** to be held on **Wednesday Jan 15, Wednesday Jan 22, Wednesday Jan 29 and Thursday Feb 6**. All coffees will run from 8:00 to 9:00 am in the Dining Hall and will cover various topics related to college counseling.
- On **Wednesday, March 4 at 7:00 pm** in the Dining Hall, we will host a Sophomore and Freshman Parent/Student College Night. **PLEASE MAKE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM. THIS IS THE ONLY COLLEGE NIGHT FOR THE YEAR SPECIFICALLY GEARED TOWARDS GRADE 10 STUDENTS AND PARENTS.**



Columbus Academy

4300 Cherry Bottom Road
P.O. Box 30745
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

Phone 614 475 2311
Fax 614 475 0396
columbusacademy.org

- The **Columbus National College Fair** is open to the public on **Sunday, Feb 9** at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, **1-4 pm**. For more information, see: <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/columbus-college-fair/>
- We will offer **Academic Advising Conferences** to Grade 10 students and their parents **during the week beginning Tuesday, April 21**. These 15-minute appointments were first offered a few years ago and students and parents have found them to be very helpful. We encourage you all to sign up - more details will follow closer to the time.
- We will again offer **college campus visits** at the end of the academic year. Please stay tuned for details.

In addition, those students who are enrolled in honors courses will be taking their AP Examinations during the first full two weeks of May. **NEW THIS YEAR**, AP registration occurs during classes, to be completed by Nov 1. Some students may also take SAT Subject Tests in specific areas of study in May and June. We will discuss these options during our student/parent meeting in the spring.

Students who need extended time on any standardized tests (PSAT, SAT, ACT, AP) must have documentation on file and approval from the College Board and/or ACT. Please note that the ACT (www.act.org) and the College Board (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>) have two separate applications and approval processes (details on their websites). Email Joan Young (youngj@columbusacademy.org) with questions.

During the sophomore year it is most important for students to focus on their coursework. When colleges evaluate students for admission, often they only view grades from 9th, 10th, and 11th grade to determine GPA.

Throughout the fall and into the winter, we will be working closely with the juniors and seniors as they are in the thick of their college search process. In the spring, we look forward to a series of programs designed and dedicated specifically to the needs of sophomores. We wish you all a happy and healthy start to the new school year!

Sincerely,

Darnell P. Heywood
Director of College Counseling

Jen FitzPatrick
Associate Director of College Counseling

Jon Wagshul
Assistant Director of College Counseling