



## GUIDANCE OFFICE

June 7, 2010

### College Preparation for Juniors

With the closing of school at hand, your son/daughter should be preparing for his/her college applications in September.

I have met with each junior five times this year. They should be well prepared in the steps they should be taking in the college process. This note is for the parents so that you may be aware of some of the steps that you and they should be pursuing this summer.

1. Visit colleges – Visiting colleges gives you an initial impression of that college. You may visit the college informally or schedule a more formal campus visit through the college admissions office.
2. Work on college essays and activity profile. Some colleges give you a prompt on essay while others leave the essay open ended. Either way, focus on the message that they want to give the college admission counselors about themselves – something personal and cannot be found on the transcript or activity profile. For the activity profile, write down all the activities and achievements both inside and outside of school. Community service is very important. Be sure to include all community service.
3. Students should finish their activity profile and give them to two teachers who they have asked to write a college recommendation. It is important that the activity profile is thorough so that the teacher may have more insight into the student's life and can give a clear explanation of the student's accomplishments both inside and outside the school.

You should be supportive in the college process. Let your child take the lead in getting his/her work done meeting all deadlines. In October, there will be a financial aid seminar for both parents and students. The evening will be of great help to parents in planning for college tuition. Scholarships and FAFSA information will be disseminated at this meeting that could be invaluable to your college planning and choice. You will have the exact date of this MEFA Program as soon as we have it. Please do not miss this evening. It will be enlightening for your college planning and choices.

Your child should have 4-7 colleges that they have researched, visited, and will be applying to in September. I will see him/her again in September to start their application process. In the meantime, it would be beneficial for him/her to begin to prepare their college applications and work on their essays during the summer.

I hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer. If you have questions, please contact me at (617-974-5528).

Sincerely,

Gerald Cunniff  
Guidance Counselor