

# The College Preparation Process

**Know How to Go: 11th and 12th Grades**

**Happiness is... a good plan**

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REMEMBER  
whose journey  
this is.

Parents are

- Guideposts
- Supporters
- Passengers
- Awesome Consultants

# Organize - Junior Year

- Develop a meeting plan (More in a minute)
- Create a calendar (testing, visits, college fairs, meetings...)
- Journal responses/reaction to college interactions
- Begin establishing priorities in search
- Develop activities (leadership and longevity)
- Work/volunteer experience (meaningful, benefits, timing)
- Summer Experience (colleges, camps, service, employment)

# Organize - Senior Year

- Create a calendar/spreadsheet
  - Deadlines for early action/decision –Work backwards
  - Financial Aid deadlines and Support
  - Scholarship Resources
  - If Arts: performance auditions, portfolios...
  - If Athletics: official visits, timeline strategies
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- Maintain notes and responses to visits, college and financial search

# Visits

## Junior Year

- Official Tours
- Mailing lists/emails
- Special Program Visit Days
- Summer Programs
- Peel Away!

## Senior Year

- On-Site Admissions
- Pre & Post acceptance visits
- Note *gut* response

# Meetings

## Junior Year

1. School
  - a. family/counselor 1-on-1
  - b. Group meetings (students and parents)
  - c. Financial Aid
2. Parent/Student
  - a. Monthly 30 min
  - b. Goals, research, visits, testing

## Senior Year

1. School
  - a. Senior Parent meeting
  - b. College fair/onsites
  - c. Financial Aid Workshop
2. Parent/Student
  - a. Monthly 30 Minutes
  - b. Expectations, Responsibilities, Apps, Financials

# Testing

## Juniors

- PSAT/NMSQT
- SAT/ACT
- Possibly AP and SAT Subject Tests

## Seniors

- Potential final retake of college entrance exams
- Possibly AP and SAT Subject Tests
- Placement Testing



# Staying Sane

Perspective & Mental Health

Random Tips:

Keep Quiet (scores, GPA, decisions)

Use Rising Senior Summer

Stay Positive!

Enjoy the Journey & Maintain your  
Relationship

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# Resources

- [College is Yours 2.0: Preparing, Applying, and Paying for Colleges Perfect for You](#) [Patrick J O'Connor PhD](#)
- [Love the Journey to College: Guidance from an Admissions Consultant and Her Daughter](#) [Jill Madenberg and Amanda Madenberg](#)
- [Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania](#) [Frank Bruni](#)
- [Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges](#) [Loren Pope](#) and [Hilary Masell Oswald](#)

Online Resources will be offered in the other presentation