

BB&N
College Counseling Office

**An Introduction to
the College Process**

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Introductions

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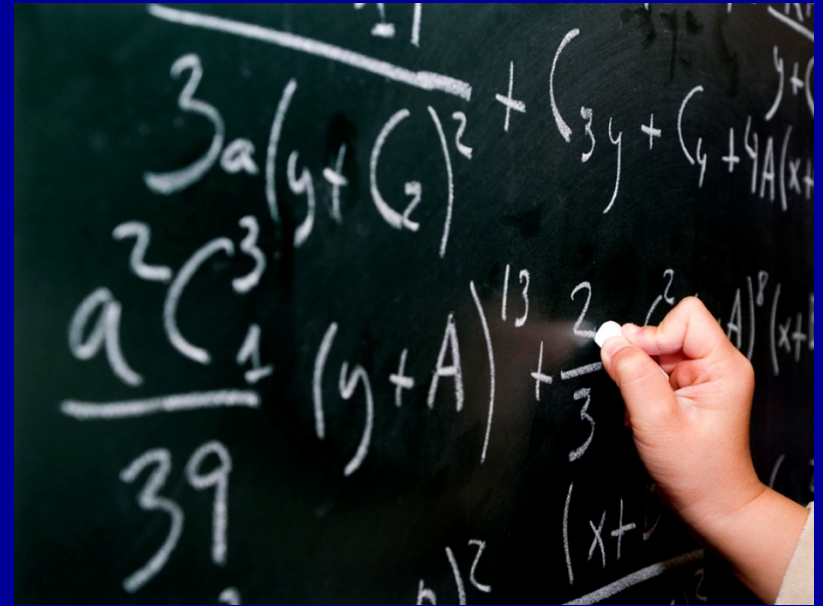
When I applied to college...

- It was not such a big deal.
- I did it all myself.
- My guidance counselor told me what to do.
- I went to my parent's college.
- I handwrote my essay.
- I walked to school uphill, barefoot in the snow.

So, what is the big deal?

Trends

- Baby boomlet
- Male/female ratio
- “Early” applications
- Standardized testing



Simple Facts

More college-age high school graduates enrolling
in 4-year, degree-granting institutions

+

Colleges maintaining size of incoming classes

=

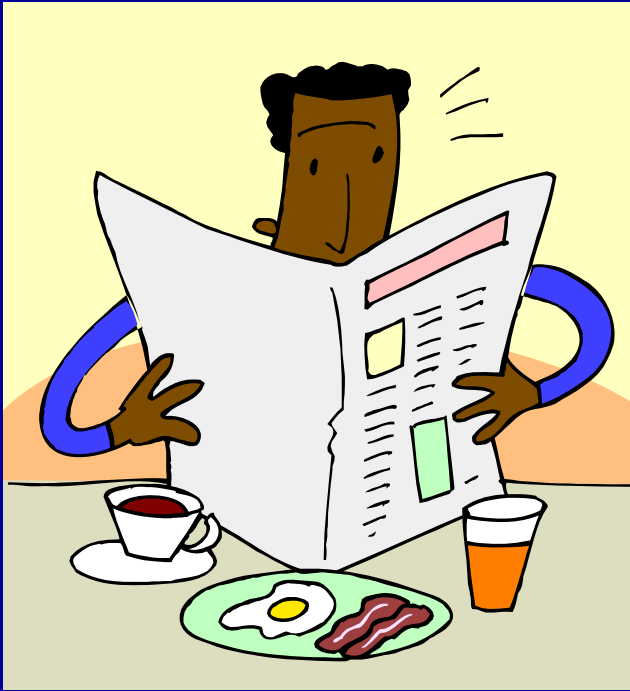
Increased competition for admission

Additional Factors

- Demonstrated Interest
- Regional barriers falling
- International interest
- Common Application
- Institutional Needs/Priorities
- Athletics
- Best defense? The balanced list.

What are your concerns?

- Standardized Testing
- Course Selection
- The College Counseling Process
- What is my role?
- What is the Silver Bullet?
- What am I missing?









THE COLLEGE OFFICE

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The Philosophy of Our Office



- **Development**
- **Ownership**
- **Empowerment**

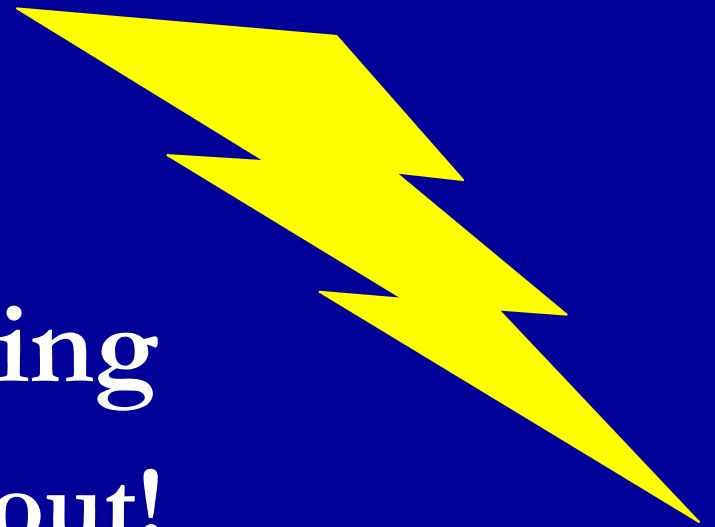
The Power of Myths



Standardized Testing

- **MYTH:** Test prep early and take tests often.

- **REALITY:** Testing
burnout!



Standardized Testing

- Freshman / Sophomore year
 - SAT Subject tests
 - Who should take them?
 - Cost/benefit analysis
 - Register online!

Standardized Testing

- PSATs
 - Sophomore year: just practice
 - Junior year: National Merit
 - To prep or not to prep
 - Make use of the results

Standardized Testing

- Testing Plan
 - Junior year
 - SAT, ACT, Subject Tests, APs
 - Senior year
 - Retesting

Standardized Testing

BB&N registers students for:

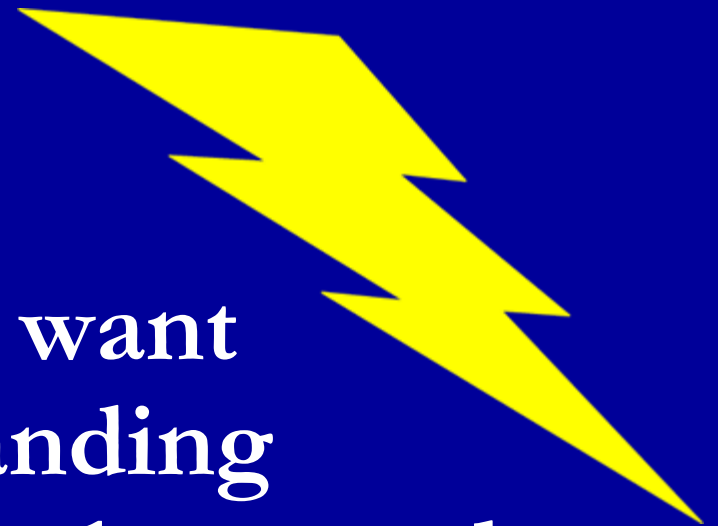
- PSAT
- APs

BB&N CANNOT register students for:

- SAT
- ACT
- Subject Tests

Course Selection

- **MYTH:** All As are better than Bs in honors courses.
- **REALITY:** Colleges want to see the most demanding course selection & the best grades. Find a balance!



Course Selection

- **Challenge v. Overkill**
 - Teachers
 - Advisors
 - The Big Picture

Course Selection

- Transcript evaluation
 - Rigor of BB&N
 - Opportunities available
 - Take a risk vs. play it safe
 - Requirements v. qualifications

Course Selection

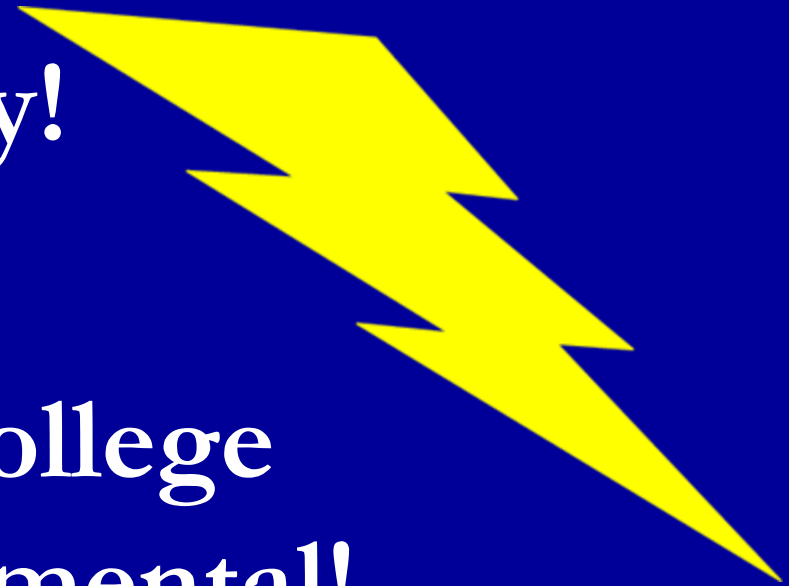
- What should we do?
 - Find a balance
 - Talk to teachers
 - Use advisor
- Advisors & College Counseling



*"We want you to have fun, as long as it's fun that
enhances a college-admission application."*

The BB&N College Process

- **MYTH:** Start early!
- **REALITY:** The college process is developmental!



The BB&N College Process

- FR / SO years
 - Testing
 - Think about course selection
 - Get involved in the school
 - Make use of the advisor
 - Class-wide communication from the College Office

The BB&N College Process

- Junior Year
 - Testing Plan in full force
 - February Workshop
 - Individual Meetings
 - Family Meetings
 - March visits

The BB&N College Process

- Junior Year
 - BISSCA Fair
 - Balanced list
 - Interview preparation
 - Summer visits
 - Summer work

A word about student-athletes...



The BB&N College Process

- Senior Year

- Testing

- Interviews & College Visits

- Balanced list

- Alphabet soup!

- Help with applications & essays

- Waiting game & Decisions

Responsibilities



- **MYTH:** My child cannot handle this process
- **REALITY:** Your child can!

The Student's Role

- Fill out questionnaires
- Schedule meetings with college counselor
- Register for standardized tests
- Think about course selection and teacher recommendations
- Research colleges
- Write applications



The Counselor's Role

- Meet with students
- Help them develop a balanced list of colleges
- Meet with parents after the first student meeting
- Meet with advisor for the historical perspective
- Advocate for students



The Parents' Role



"Thank you, Adrian. Parenting is a learning process, and your criticisms help."

The Parents' Role

- Positive reinforcement
- Support
- Communicate
- Advocacy
- Transportation
- Listen



What do I do now?

- Encourage involvement! Applaud positive peer relationships
- Help your child connect with teachers and advisor
- Get the most out of BB&N
- Allow room for change and development in your child
- Most importantly...

