An Introduction to the College Process

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AGENDA

• Introductions
• The application landscape
• The College Office at BB&N
• Myths
• The college process
• What is my role?
THE COLLEGE OFFICE

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THE
COLLEGE
LANDSCAPE
When I was a teenager...

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 went right to work after high school. 
I paid my own way. 
I handwrote my essay. 
I walked to school uphill, barefoot in the snow.

So, what IS the big deal?
Trends

- Demonstrated Interest
- Early Applications
- Standardized testing
- No regional barriers
- International interest
- Common Application
- Institutional Priorities
- Athletics
- Mass marketing
Simple Facts

More students enrolling in 4-year institutions & more applications

+ Colleges maintaining class size

+ Colleges seeking a broad student body

= Increased competition for admission
I hate math!!!
I'll take Anything but math!

Do I have to go to college???

I'll take nursing so that I'll earn dollars

Dad wants me to become a lawyer but I want to be an actor!!

I want to be a doctor but I love to write & paint!

What's the RIGHT COURSE for me???

I don't have to go to a university to learn junk shop business
Our Philosophy

Development
College search as an educational journey – help students learn and grow through the process

Ownership
Help students find their voice, skills in organizing their search, craft their applications, and make decisions

Empowerment
Promote and encourage independence and confidence
The Power of Myths
Course Selection

MYTH: All A’s are better than B’s in honors courses.

REALITY: Colleges want the best grades in the most demanding courses.

ADVICE: Find a balance!
Course Selection

Transcript evaluation

• Context of BB&N
• Opportunities available
• Take a risk vs. play it safe
• Requirements v. qualifications
• Colleges & programs
Course Selection

• What should we do?
  – Find a balance
  – Keep educational goals in mind
  – Talk to teachers
  – Use advisor

• Advisors & College Counseling
Standardized Testing

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

**REALITY:** Testing burnout! Diminishing returns!

**ADVICE:** Use the BB&N testing plan
The BB&N Testing Plan

Junior year: First tests

• ACT – February or April
• SAT – March
• Subject Tests – May/June
• APs – May

• Some retesting if appropriate

Senior year: Retesting
Standardized Testing

BB&N registers students for:
  • PSAT (automatically)
  • APs (in class)

BB&N CANNOT register students for:
  • SAT
  • ACT
  • Subject Tests
What is the right choice?

- Timing
- Practice tests
- Test prep options
- Avoid over-testing
The BB&N College Process

**MYTH:** Start early! Visit now!

**REALITY:** The college process is developmental!

**ADVICE:** Allow for growth & take advantage of opportunities.
The BB&N College Process

Freshman/Sophomore years

• Course Selection
• Extracurricular Involvement
• Build Faculty Relationships
• Some Standardized Testing
• Class-wide communication from the College Office
The BB&N College Process

Junior Year - Winter

• Early winter workshop
• Individual Meetings
• Testing Plan
• Family Meetings
• March College diagnostic visits
• Financial aid
The BB&N College Process

Junior Year – Spring and Summer

• BISCCA Fair
• Balanced list
• Introduce interview process
• Summer visits
• Summer work
The BB&N College Process

Senior Year

• Testing (retests, subject tests)
• Interviews & College Visits
• Balanced list
• Alphabet soup!
• Help with applications & essays
• Waiting Game & Decisions
A word about our student-athletes...
WHAT IS MY ROLE?

MYTH: My child cannot handle this process!

REALITY: Your child can!

ADVICE: Allow your child to develop skills.
The Student’s Role

- Fill out questionnaires
- Schedule meetings with counselor
- Register for standardized tests
- Think about course selection & teacher recommendations
- Research colleges
- Write applications
The Counselor’s Role

• Meet with students
• Help develop a balanced list of colleges
• Meet with parents after the first student meeting
• Work with advisor for the historical perspective
STRATEGY PLUS
“Thank you, Adrian. Parenting is a learning process, and your criticisms help.”
The Parents’ Role

Positive reinforcement
Support
Communicate
Advocacy
Transportation
Listen
The Parents’ Role

CAUTION
What do I do now?

- Encourage involvement
- Applaud positive peer relationships
- Help your child connect with faculty
- Work with your child’s advisor
- Get the most out of BB&N
- Allow room for development
- Most importantly…
ENJOY THE RIDE!