



August 2023

Dear Juniors and your Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you are enjoying a restful summer. As we prepare to return to school in September, the School and College Counseling Office wanted to provide you with an outline for your junior year. In addition to an overview of the year, you will find the name of your Counselor below, based on your last name.

Through scheduled meetings, formal programs, a College and Career Planning Class and the use of our Maia Learning software, we will come together, learn about the college admissions process and discuss strategies that should prove helpful in pursuing your college dreams. The class meets once every other cycle throughout the year.

Each counselor will schedule an initial meeting with their junior students in the late fall. This first meeting will be one on one with your counselor. We will schedule parent meetings in January and February. These meetings are scheduled during the school day when your son has either lunch or a free period and should occur between January and March. There will also be several parent events throughout the year where we will share more about school and college counseling at CBA.

Counselor Assignments by Last Name

Mr. David Frick-----A - D
Mr. Kevin McCaig-----E - K
Ms. Gina Morrello-----L - P
Mr. Patrick Brennan-----Q - Z

In College and Career Planning you will explore the various aspects of the college search and application processes. We will discuss critical factors, such as your grades and test scores while encouraging you to dig deep to find the school that meets all of your needs. Skills learned during your junior year will assist in your preparation for the journey ahead. We expect your entire class to be met with equal success and the recognition earned by prior CBA classes.

Topics will include:

- The use of Maia Learning to gather and analyze significant amounts of college & career data
- The college selection process – how do college admissions officers evaluate applicants?
- The competitive nature of selective admissions – qualified vs. competitive
- College “hooks” – special interests
- The definition of a “good” college; the use and misuse of college rankings
- Finding the “right fit”- the matching process between you and the college

- Finding college information from different sources – use of college search engines
- Importance and use of standardized tests – what can they predict, what can't they predict
- Importance of college visits – tips to maximize your visits – interview hints
- Using personality profiles & career assessment surveys to discover potential majors & careers
- All types of financial aid including need-based aid, merit scholarships and more
- College application essays – what works, what doesn't
- Importance of extracurricular activities – building resumes and activity sheets
- College applications – detailed review of the entire Common Application
- Developing your self-profile – background information that helps us write recommendations

Special Considerations:

- Athletics (Recruitment Process, NCAA rules, etc.)
- Military (Academies & ROTC Programs)
- Music, Art, Filmmaking, etc. – portfolios

The importance of earning solid grades throughout junior year cannot be emphasized enough. We can assure you that continuing to work hard in your classes while maintaining your involvement in activities, athletics as well as your commitment to service will lead to your best possible college choices.

We have a busy agenda ahead of us but by working together we can enjoy a fruitful and productive year. Included on the class page you will also find a calendar of important tasks to guide you through the year. We look forward to our continued partnership and to seeing you at the Junior Parent Night on Thursday, September 28 at 6:30 PM.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

The CBA School and College Counseling Office