Senior Parent
College Information Meeting

September 20, 2017 6:30 p.m.
Canal Winchester High School
Types of Colleges/Universities

- Proprietary Schools
  - vocational/technical/career diploma or certification programs
- Community or Junior Colleges
- Four-Year Colleges
  - (liberal arts versus comprehensive)
- HBCU’s (Historically Black Colleges/Univ)
- Service Academies
- Accelerated Track Programs, e.g. BS/MD, BA/JD
Key College Vocabulary

- Credits or Credit Hours
- Enrollment Status
- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Rolling Admissions vs. Common Notification
- Out-of-State Student (implications)
- FAFSA
- Cost of Attendance
- Expected Family Contribution
- Award Letter or Financial Aid “Package”
- Standard National Candidate Reply Date
Competitiveness of Admission

- **Open** (all high school graduates/GED holders accepted)
  - includes community colleges and regional campuses

- **Liberal** (minimally competitive)

- **Traditional** (moderately competitive)

- **Selective** (very competitive)

- **Highly Selective** (extremely competitive)
Application Processing Procedures

- Observing Deadlines (HS recommends Dec. 1st - the Tuesday after Thanksgiving break, but the earlier the better!)

- Elements of the Application (varies)
  - Common Application (www.commonapp.org)

- Online versus Paper Application

- Requesting Recommendations

- Mid-Year Report Forms
Application Checklist

- The general application
- Academic Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (waive access)
- Work Samples/Portfolios
- Application Essays
- Reply Cards
- SAT/ACT scores
  (from transcript or directly)
- Signature page
- Keep copies of important documents
Options Through College Websites

- Obtain general information
- Obtain curriculum information for specific majors
- Investigate sources of financial aid and scholarships
- Note applicable deadlines
- Schedule campus visits
- Access online or downloadable application
Checklist for a Campus Visit

Minimum visit includes a group information session (adult/admissions perspective) and student-led tour of campus (student perspective).

Additional options are:

- meeting with faculty in department of intended major
- individual meeting with admissions or financial aid contact
- attend a class and eat in a dining hall
- get “lost” on campus!!!
Steps to a Successful College Interview

- Select the colleges you wish to visit
- Decide whom you want to meet with on campus
- Schedule your appointments
- Compile your credentials
- Create a list of questions
- Know proper etiquette
- Be yourself
- Collect names and addresses
- Record your impressions of the college
- Send thank you notes!
Writing the Personal Essay

Select a familiar topic (common ones are academic plans/possible major, current events or social issues, personal achievements, background and influences)

Begin the essay early
Write several drafts
Have one or two key people review it
Be concise
Type the essay unless stated otherwise
Proofread the essay—don’t depend on spellcheck
Know the audience that you’re writing for!
Searching for Scholarships

Through the school’s website High School/Guidance page

TuitionFundingSources is another searchable scholarship database provided to CW Schools by virtue of our Pepsi Contract. Go to www.tuitionfundingsources.com to login.

www.fastweb.com is a third scholarship database which is very comprehensive.
Technology resources

- www.cwschools.org
- www.transfer.org
- www.actstudent.org
- www.collegeboard.com
- http://www.ohioprivatecolleges.com
  ✓ (for SAT as well as AP information)
- http://www.securityoncampus.org (campus safety)
- http://nsse.iub.edu/html/students_parents.cfm
- http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/college
- http://www.ucan-network.org/members.asp
Develop a Plan to Finance Your Education

- Determine college costs
- Investigate ALL possible resources
  - Parents
  - Savings
  - Summer earnings
  - Financial aid: scholarships, grants, loans and work-study
  - Other sources
- Secure necessary forms and note deadlines
- Apply for financial aid as early as possible
Senior Checklist

- Make sure that rising senior questionnaire and resume are updated for assistance with counselor and teacher recommendations.
- Schedule individual conference with counselor as early in the year as possible.
- Have parents attend Senior Workshop - for Parents of Seniors in October
- Finalize list of colleges to apply to by November
- Submit all applications or transcript requests to the guidance center – watch deadlines, especially for ED, EA, specific programs and scholarship consideration.
- Visit with college representatives in fall
- Follow proper procedures for using school days to complete college visits.
- Retake ACT and/or SAT in fall and/or, if necessary. Note whether official test scores (from the testing agency) with or without Writing are required and request accordingly.
- Pick up financial aid form to register for the "Profile" if required by college
- In December notify counselor if 7th semester grades are to be sent to colleges
- Attend January financial aid meetings held for students and parents.
- Complete financial aid application process (FAFSA) in late Jan./early Feb.
- Request final transcript to be sent to the college you will be attending
- Notify guidance center of all college decisions (May 1st is National Reply Date)
- Apply for housing early - check refund policy
- Don't develop "senioritis" - colleges have been known to revoke offers of admission
- Graduation
Colleges and universities inform students on the application or in the acceptance letter that admission is contingent on their performance throughout their senior year.
“We recently received your final transcript and we are writing to express our concern with the drop in your academic performance. Specifically, I refer to the grade of a D in XXXXX.

Your acceptance to XXXXX was made with the understanding that you maintain a school record of high quality through your final semester. Admission to college is conditional and for this reason we carefully examine all final transcripts.

Please submit a letter of explanation for the decline in your academic performance as soon as possible.”
1. Contact with admissions is BEST done directly by the student.

2. Appealing an admission decision is most effective if there is new information that the school may not be aware of, such as, new test scores or a significant accomplishment.
From a 5/02 NPR interview with president of Natl. Center for Public Policy and Higher Education:

“Tuition has gone up faster than financial aid, just like it has gone up faster than family income. So while we have a lot more money in the system, it’s not covering as much of the cost”

Have a frank and realistic discussion
With your son/daughter about what is “affordable” for your family.
FOUR STEPS

Step #1. Let the University know that you are interested in financial aid. Always check/mark on the application that you want financial aid.
STEP 2. Learn all you can about scholarships

Local Scholarships

Most scholarships that are reserved just for CW students are “active” in the spring... when students are most tired of filling out forms! Encourage them to “stay the course”!. These are the ones they have the best chance of getting!
STEP 2. Learn all you can about scholarships

- **Merit Aid/ Institutional Aid**
  - (70 – 90 % of $ comes from here)
  - File all college financial aid forms sent by the colleges directly to the financial aid office of the college to which you are apply
  - Merit aid typically based on a variety of criteria which may include any or all of the following: GPA, rank in class, SAT/ACT scores, essays, interviews, competition on a test
  - Merit aid can affect your financial aid package
STEP 2. Learn all you can about scholarships
Athletic Scholarships

- All athletes applying to Div. 1 and 2 colleges must file with the NCAA Clearinghouse.
  - http://www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org

- Applications to colleges where you intend to seek admission based on an athletic scholarship need to be done following the instructions of the college coach.
2. Learn all you can about scholarships

Talent Scholarships

- Art scholarships generally require a portfolio for scholarship consideration as well as for admission.

- Music and theater scholarships will generally require an audition (also part of admissions).
Step 3. FAFSA
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Follow directions step by step.
- Must obtain a pin number before applying online. www.pin.ed.gov
- Parent and student should both obtain a pin # now.
FOUR EASY STEPS

1. Check the financial aid box on application
2. Learn all you can about scholarships
3. FAFSA
4. Understanding the financial aid package
Don’t eliminate any college because of costs before receiving financial assistance information!

Remember ... check with college officials for accurate costs.