Agenda

1. College counseling philosophy and why ‘fit’ matters
2. College counseling resources at PHA
3. Review of the College Prep class
4. Six dimensions of the college application
5. Developing a college list
6. Important college + financial aid vocabulary
7. Things to think about and collect this summer
8. Q+A
PHA College Counseling Philosophy:

Prospect Hill Academy’s College Counseling department seeks to place students at colleges, universities, and post-graduate programs that are the best ‘fit’ for the whole student. Students should matriculate where they will thrive academically and socially, but also have the most opportunities in life with the least amount of financial burden.
Helping Students Find Their Fit - College Counseling Resources at PHA

- Three college counselors to ensure a personalized approach
  - Erin McElligott (Director of College Counseling; Alumni Support)
  - Allie Michels (College Counselor; 12th Grade College Prep course and Financial Aid Specialist)
  - Leo Costa (College Counselor; 11th Grade College Prep course and 9th/10th programming)
- Small caseloads (<1:30)
- Weekly College Prep class
- Admissions representative visits (Fall semester)
- Family programming events
  - Fall: College Process Intro + FAFSA Fill-In Night (October); 9/10 Family Night (December)
  - Spring: FAB Meeting (May)
- Comprehensive College Counseling webpage, including CC handbook
  - [https://www.phacs.org/apps/pages/CI-college-counseling](https://www.phacs.org/apps/pages/CI-college-counseling)
September:
- Develop and finalize college list
- Draft Common App essay
- Complete Common App

October:
- FAFSA and CSS Profile open; financial aid applications begin
- Draft supplement essays
- Continue financial aid preparation

November:
- Early Applications due
- Draft college visits
- Prepare for winter break
- Search for scholarships

December:
- Apply to all* schools
- Schedule college visits
- Financial aid verification process begins
- Transitions curriculum begins

January:
- Ensure all financial aid applications are in and verification processes are complete
- Apply for scholarships

February:
- Apply for scholarships
- Hear back from your schools!

March - June:
College Application Components

- Transcript #1
- Standardized Testing #2
- Recommendations #3
- Essay #3
- Extracurriculars #4
- Interview #5

Most Important!!!
Developing a College List

- Self-reflection
- Honest assessment of grades and scores
- Independent research and plan visit(s) to college campuses
- All students should apply to a range of schools (up to ~12)
  - “Likely” schools
  - “Possible/target” schools
  - “Reach” schools
A/A+ GPA (93-100)
B+/A- GPA (87-92)
B-/B GPA (80-86)
C- GPA (75) and below

- 2-year college options (excellent CC options in MA)
- Alternative programming
- Some commuter opportunities
Important College Vocabulary

Terminology to know for senior year!

- Public vs. private institution
- Commuter vs. residential housing
- Liberal arts vs. pre-professional schools
- Two-year vs. four-year vs. graduate programs
- Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Regular Decision vs. Rolling Admission
Important Financial Aid Vocabulary

- COA (Cost of Attendance)
- FAFSA + CSS Profile
- EFC (Expected Family Contribution)
- Verification
Information for undocumented/DACA/TPS families:

If the *student* is undocumented or has DACA or TPS status:

Please consult your individual college counselor independently and do NOT submit a FAFSA form in the fall. We will assist the student in anonymously contacting colleges to determine their institutional procedure.
11th Grade Families: FA Items to Gather Over the Summer

- Social Security numbers for applying student and parent(s)
- **2018** Tax documentation
  - Parent tax returns (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) -- ensure 2018 taxes have been filed using the correct filing status
  - Parent W2 forms (from all jobs)
  - Student tax return (if applicable)
  - Student W2 form(s) (if applicable) or year-end pay stubs
- Evidence of citizenship, where applicable
  - US Passport (current)
  - US Certificate of Citizenship
- Proof of residency (MA state ID, voter registration, bills/mail addressed to student, benefits confirmation with student’s name, etc.)
- Documentation of assets, investments, or additional income
- Ensure names match on all documents
Q + A