



College Counseling Crier

October 2018

Volume 2, Issue 3

Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

PSAT/NMSQT* for 10th and 11th grade students

October 10, 2018

ACT Test Dates and Deadlines*

October 27, 2018

(registration deadline has passed)

December 8, 2018

(registration deadline: November 2, 2018)

SAT Test Dates and Deadlines*

October 6, 2018

(registration deadline has passed)

November 3, 2018

(registration deadline: October 5, 2018)

December 1, 2018

(registration deadline: November 2, 2018)

*If you will be taking these tests with accommodations, please contact Mrs. Anzelone

Already on to October...

September was an exciting and busy month in College Counseling. In addition to meeting with **four to five college representatives** every day, we've been working with seniors on fine-tuning application materials, essays, and preparing for impending deadlines. Additionally, teachers and college counselors have been completing letters of recommendation to supplement our students' applications. We enjoyed our time spent with parents during our Parent Coffees and were happy to answer questions and get to know you. Mark your calendars for our December Drop-In Days – we look forward to seeing you then!

Preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT

On Wednesday, **October 10**, our sophomores and juniors will sit for the College Board-sponsored PSAT. For sophomores, this is solely a *practice* to help them get used to the format of a standardized testing environment; for our juniors, this also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

We ask that sophomores and juniors arrive at the Athletic Center by 7:45 a.m. – we *will* wait for the buses to arrive before administering the exams. Students need to bring:

- Two sharpened, non-mechanical #2 pencils with erasers *or* a separate eraser
- A calculator with fresh, working batteries
- A drink and a snack
- We also recommend a watch – the CollegeBoard only permits us to share a few specific pacing reminders with students and there is *no* clock in either gym

PSAT/NMSQT

CollegeBoard / NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

As a reminder, students who are not present for the PSAT/NMSQT are not permitted to participate in afternoon sports or activities that afternoon.

Save the Dates

Financial Aid Information Night

Tuesday, November 6
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Boarman Discovery Center,
Studio Theatre

December Drop-In Dates for all Upper School families

Monday, December 3
Tuesday, December 4
Wednesday, December 5

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

North Hall, 1st Floor,
College Counseling Suite

Notes from Our National Conference



Just after our 9th and 10th-grade Parent Coffee, Mr. Weisgold boarded a plane to Salt Lake City for the National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC) National Conference. The conference, attended by **over 7,500** college counseling professionals; admission representatives; and organizations like [Naviance](#), the [Common Application](#), and the [Coalition for College Access](#) served as a great opportunity to share information and trends in the ever-changing landscape of college admission and to network with college representatives throughout the country and the world.

Mr. Weisgold brought back information about the differences in application requirements and expectations between UK and US colleges and universities; changes in the FAFSA (see below for more details); applying to Service Academics; and the importance and value of equity and inclusion in higher education. An Exhibitor Hall was open throughout the duration of the conference full of vendors and services such as [Applerouth](#) and [Revolution Prep](#). On Friday afternoon, college counselors attended the Counselors College Fair where they had the opportunity to interact with **520** college representatives.



Conflicting Information Surrounding the College Essay

As seniors continue to navigate the college admission process, specifically the college essay, we know there are a lot of opinions out there about what makes the “perfect” college essay. The truth? There is no formula. There is no magic bullet. Authenticity and voice are valued over “the right topic.” Tyler Sant, the Director of College Counseling at Holy Innocents’ Episcopal School in Atlanta provides his take on on the subject in an article, “[College Essay Advice Gone Wrong](#),” which we think will help provide some relief for our families.

The Value in Listening



Georgia Tech's Admission Blog has helpful information about the college application process. Rick Clark, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, posted his thoughts earlier this summer in an article titled, "That One Thing!" sharing that while students and parents may feel powerless in the admission process – the one thing they can control is the ability to listen. Above, we have provided an abridged

version of the article; however, you can find the [full article here](#).

Financial Aid Forms are Available...as is a New Program at Bullis!

As of October 1 the **2019-2020** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available! Prior to completing the FAFSA, both students *and* parents will need to register for a [Federal Student Aid ID](#) (FSA ID), which serves as both a login to the FAFSA and a legal signature. Once created, each FSA ID is verified through the Social Security Administration and can take a few days to be approved, so we encourage families to continue to check their email for more details from the Department of Education.

At NACAC'S National Conference last week, the Department of Education announced the release of a new app available through Google Play and/or the App Store in which students and families can complete the FAFSA! Additionally, the [FAFSA website](#) is now a responsive web app – this means no matter your technological device, the site will auto-adjust to fit your device's parameters.

The College Counseling is excited to announce that we will be hosting a Financial Aid Information Night in the Studio Theatre of the Boarman Discovery Center on Tuesday, November 6 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. We will provide not only general information surrounding financial aid terminology but also tips and suggestions as to how make the aid application process as easy as possible for Bullis students and families. We hope to see you there!

Please note, each college has its own financial aid application requirements – it's important for our seniors and their families to keep track of required forms and deadlines.

Federal Student Aid
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December Drop-In Dates

On Monday, December 3 at 8:00 a.m., Bullis will be hosting Jed Applerouth, Founder & President of Applerouth Tutoring for an informative and interactive discussion around standardized test preparation. Mrs. Kittel and Mrs. Brant were able to meet Jed last year and are thrilled to be able to present this opportunity to the Bullis community.



After coffee with Jed, we will dive right into our second year of December Drop-In Days to meet with underclassmen families. No appointments are necessary and we are keeping our calendars open to meet with as many of you as possible. We look forward to seeing you in the College Counseling Office located on the first floor of North Hall.

Coming to College Counseling

Bullis continues to host college and university representatives throughout the month of October. With 44 representatives already having visited Bullis we are looking forward to welcome the next round of college representatives. As a reminder, seniors are welcome to come to meetings (with permission 24-hours in advance from their teachers) and can sign up through Naviance. Juniors may attend *only* if they have Study Hall or Enrichment block during the time of the scheduled visit. Please note, visits are subject to change – the list below shows only those colleges who have registered for a visit so far for this October. Each college admission website is hyperlinked below.

Monday, October 1

[University of Michigan – Ann Arbor](#)
[Fordham University](#)
[Southern Vermont College](#)
[Johns Hopkins University](#)

Tuesday, October 2

[Le Moyne College](#)
[Dickinson College](#)
[Mount St. Mary's University](#)
[Duke University](#)

Wednesday, October 3

[Indiana University – Bloomington](#)
[University of Cincinnati](#)
[Rider University](#)
[Lipscomb University](#)
[Lafayette College](#)

Thursday, October 4

[University of Colorado, Boulder](#)
[Syracuse University](#)
[New York University](#)
[St. Lawrence University](#)
[Colby College](#)

Friday, October 5

[Sewanee: The University of the South](#)
[Boston University](#)
[Wheeling Jesuit University](#)
[Occidental College](#)
[American University](#)

*Please see the page below for more visits
in October*

Tuesday, October 9

Bryant University
 DePaul University
 Texas A&M University – College Station
 Furman University
 Rhodes College

Wednesday, October 10

Boston College
 University of Richmond

Thursday, October 11

Williams College
 Birmingham Southern College
 Wagner College

Friday, October 12

Tulane University
 Hult International Business School – San Francisco
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Prescott

Monday, October 15

Villanova University
 Hiram College
 St. Bonaventure University
 The College of Wooster
 University of San Diego

Tuesday, October 16

Elmira College
 Franklin & Marshall College
 Rollins College
 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
 Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Wednesday, October 17

Case Western Reserve University
 University of Southern California
 University of Mary Washington
 Assumption College
 Wofford College

Thursday, October 18

Butler University
 Lycoming College
 Elon University
 The Cooper Union
 Washington & Jefferson College

Friday, October 19

Bucknell University
 Babson College
 Eckerd College
 College of the Holy Cross
 Saint Joseph's University

Monday, October 22

Stonehill College
 Saint John's University – Queens, NY
 St. Mary's College of Maryland
 University of Tampa
 University of Delaware

Tuesday, October 23

Providence College
 Florida Southern College
 University of San Francisco
 Ohio Wesleyan University
 Randolph-Macon College

Wednesday, October 24

Northwestern University
 High Point University
 Christopher Newport University
 Clarkson University
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Thursday, October 25

Union College
 Merrimack University
 Kenyon College

Friday, October 26

Hampden-Sydney College
 Drexel University
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Campbell University
 Muhlenberg College

Monday, October 29

Pennsylvania State University – Main Campus
 University of Vermont

Tuesday, October 30

Haverford College
 Trinity College

Wednesday, October 31

Allegheny College
 Hofstra University
 Mount Holyoke University

