



# THE MEADOWS SCHOOL

## OFFICE OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

### Who We Are



**Mr. Michael Hallman**

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**Ms. Melissa Lustig**

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**Ms. Linda Hines**

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Read our bios and get to know us at  
themeadowsschool.org/collegecounseling

### GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Welcome to a new academic year at The Meadows! College Counseling is pleased to share upcoming events, reminders, and tips for students and families as you plan for the future.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY

College Counseling at The Meadows School is a comprehensive program focused on guiding students to find the best-fit college or university based on their individual strengths and aspirations. Our college counselors are assigned by last name to work with half the students in each grade, fostering a strong personal relationship between counselor and counsee.

### SENIORS

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Tuesday, September 8: Senior & Parent College Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Register at <http://bit.ly/tmsseniornight>. Questions should be emailed to Ms. Linda Hines at [linda\\_hines@themeadowsschool.org](mailto:linda_hines@themeadowsschool.org) by Monday, September 7. Topics addressed will include an application timeline, senior advisory, information about testing, updates about Naviance, and financial aid.

#### **Wednesday, September 23: Writing the College Essay featuring Mr. Will Peters, Assistant Director of Admission at the University of Southern California, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Register at <http://bit.ly/collegeessayusc>. Questions should be emailed to Ms. Linda Hines at [linda\\_hines@themeadowsschool.org](mailto:linda_hines@themeadowsschool.org) by Monday, September 21.

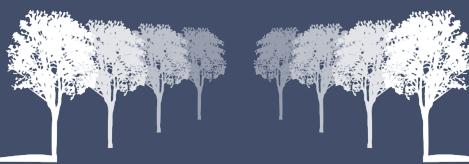
#### **Tuesday, October 6: Financial Aid Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Registration link TBA. The first hour is devoted to a general Financial Aid and Scholarship discussion. The second hour is devoted to walking through the applications. Click on the Financial Aid & Scholarships page on The Meadows School College Counseling website for more information.

### VIRTUAL COLLEGE VISITS, COLLEGE FAIRS, AND NAVIANCE

Log into your Naviance portal or visit our College Counseling website and click on 2020-2021 Admission Officer Visits to see when colleges are scheduling virtual high school visits and online information sessions. If students will be missing class to attend a college visit, they must download the Permission to Attend College Meeting form and have their teacher sign it. The student will then email it to Ms. Linda Hines at [linda\\_hines@themeadowsschool.org](mailto:linda_hines@themeadowsschool.org).

600+ colleges will be online for a National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) virtual college fair to talk with students on Sept. 13, Oct. 12, Oct. 18, and Nov. 8. Register at [virtualcollegefairs.org](http://virtualcollegefairs.org) to explore, attend, and interact live with admissions officers. Also, here is a great article about "Top 12 Tips for Making the Most of a College Fair": <http://bit.ly/NACACfair>.



## SENIORS (cont.)

### A WORD ABOUT TESTING

1400+ colleges and universities have gone test-optional for the 2020-2021 application cycle. All test-optional institutions have assured us that no student will be penalized or at a disadvantage for not having, or sending, test scores. For those who DO have test scores, we highly encourage those students to meet with College Counseling to discuss whether to send them or not. Families can find the 2020-2021 Testing Calendar on the College Counseling page of the Meadows website. Please note that sites may close depending on health and safety considerations at that specific school.

In the words of Ms. Liz Creighton, Dean of Admission at Williams College, "We know there are countless reasons why standardized testing might not be possible this year, so it's entirely up to you whether you submit scores for the SAT or ACT. Regardless, rest assured that your application will be reviewed in a thorough, student-centered, holistic admission process. The submission of SAT and ACT scores is truly optional for the 2020-2021 application cycle and no student should put themselves at risk to pursue testing this fall."

**What is the testing policy at your institutions?** For each college on your list, identify their testing policy for the 2020-2021 application cycle. Here are a few links to check if your colleges have gone test-optional: [2021Admissions.org](http://2021Admissions.org), [www.fairtest.org/university/optional](http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional), and [www.insight-education.net/list-test-optional-colleges-2021](http://www.insight-education.net/list-test-optional-colleges-2021).

**What resources are available for test prep?** Khan Academy offers free test prep tutoring available at [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) and all students have free access to [www.albert.io](http://www.albert.io) for test prep. There are also a variety of free test prep apps available on your phone that you can download for practice problems and helpful tips.

**How to send OFFICIAL test scores:** If you decide to send your test scores, you must send them through the testing services at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for SAT and [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for ACT. College Counseling does not send official scores. Many colleges will also be accepting self-reported scores on the application for the 2020-2021 application cycle.

**When to send scores:** It can take 2-4 weeks to receive scores after your test date. Once you request to send your scores, it can take between 2 days-2 weeks for scores to arrive at the colleges. Work backwards based on your first deadline.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

It's never too early to begin hunting for scholarships. A great place to start is with our list of resources on the College Counseling page of our website: [www.themeadowsschool.org/academics/college-counseling/college-financial-aid-scholarships](http://www.themeadowsschool.org/academics/college-counseling/college-financial-aid-scholarships). Some scholarships, like Coca-Cola and Questbridge, have September and October deadlines.

## JUNIORS

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, September 15: Junior & Parent College Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom**

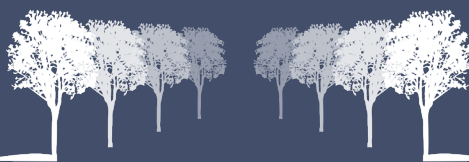
Register at <http://bit.ly/tmsjuniornight>. Questions should be emailed to Ms. Linda Hines at [linda\\_hines@themeadowsschool.org](mailto:linda_hines@themeadowsschool.org) by Monday, September 14. Topics addressed will include a junior year timeline, an introduction to Naviance, junior advisory, the PSAT, virtual college visits, and virtual college fairs. All parents and students are encouraged to attend. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**Wednesday, October 14: Optional PSAT/NMSQT for All 9th-11th Graders**

Juniors will meet in the Common. Freshmen and Sophomores will be assigned in small groups to classrooms. We will accommodate our remote learners for the PSAT, but they must opt to take it in person here on campus during our testing time. We will mitigate the risk, and all students will be situated 6 feet apart. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead at [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org). National Merit Scholars receive \$2,500 toward their first year of college.

### REMINDERS AND TIPS

**Meetings:** We typically begin meeting with underclassmen and their families after January 1. However, if you need to discuss your classes or have questions about constructing a 4-year plan, please feel free to reach out to us.



# THE MEADOWS SCHOOL

## OFFICE OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

### Upcoming Admission Officer Visits

9/9, 10:30 a.m.

University of Colorado, Boulder

9/15, 8:15 a.m.

Vanderbilt University

9/25, 10:30 a.m.

Boston University

9/25, 11:30 a.m.

Kenyon College

10/1, 11:00 a.m.

Northern Arizona University

10/8, 2:00 p.m.

George Washington University

10/20, 10:30 a.m.

Colby College

More information at  
[themeadowsschool.org/collegecounseling](http://themeadowsschool.org/collegecounseling)

### JUNIORS (cont.)

#### THE COLLEGE SEARCH DURING COVID-19

Junior year is the ideal time to begin researching colleges. Check out some of these resources to help you get started on your exploration: [campustours.com](http://campustours.com), [www.ecampustours.com](http://www.ecampustours.com), [www.youvisit.com](http://www.youvisit.com), and [www.youniversitytv.com](http://www.youniversitytv.com).

Log into your Naviance portal OR visit our College Counseling website and click on 2020-2021 Admission Officer Visits to see when colleges are scheduling virtual high school visits at The Meadows and online information sessions. If students will be missing class to attend a college visit, they must download the Permission to Attend College Meeting form and have their teacher sign it. The student will then email it to Ms. Linda Hines at [linda\\_hines@themeadowsschool.org](mailto:linda_hines@themeadowsschool.org)

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### SOPHOMORES & FRESHMEN

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, October 20: Freshman/Sophomore & Parent College Night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom**

Register link TBA. Topics addressed will include 9th and 10th grade to-do lists, advice on virtual college visits, and virtual college fairs. All parents and students are encouraged to attend.

#### REMINDERS AND TIPS

It is important to start high school on the right foot. Be sure that you are doing the work required of you in each of your classes. Challenge yourself, do your best, and ask for assistance as needed. Building relationships with your teachers offers many benefits. Establish good study habits early.

Look for opportunities to develop non-academic skills such as: leadership, creativity, responsibility, and special talents. Involvement in activities is a great way to make friends. Explore new experiences!

Finally, try to find a balance between school, extracurriculars, family, and friends. While this is easier said than done, remind yourself to relax, breathe, take it one day at a time, and do not compare yourself to anyone else!