

THE MEADOWS SCHOOL

OFFICE OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Who We Are



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

GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Please enjoy our newsletter with information for all Upper School students and parents!

SENIORS

A few thoughts to keep in mind as you contemplate your admissions decisions and the months ahead. Some of the decisions are happy ones; some will leave you in limbo, and some will close a door you hoped to walk through. Please do not let these decisions determine your self-worth! Frank Bruni says it best in his acclaimed book, *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be*, that "life is defined by little snags and big setbacks; success is determined by the ability to distinguish between the two and rebound from either. And there's no single juncture, no one crossroads, on which everything hinges." Your admissions decisions do not define you! "College has no monopoly on the ingredients for professional success or for a life well lived."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Wednesday, April 14: Final Senior & Parent College Presentation at 6 p.m.** Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling section of the TMS website.
- **Thursday, April 22: 9th-12th Ins & Outs of Financial Aid & Scholarships Presentation at 6 p.m.** Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling section of the TMS website.

ACTION ITEMS

- Check your email and log into your college application portals on a regular basis. Colleges communicate their decisions and missing materials here.
- **UPDATE NAVIANCE!** We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for seniors to update Naviance with college admissions decisions.
- Remember that colleges care about 2nd semester senior grades. All decisions are pending the successful completion of your senior year. Finish strong!
- If you have been admitted through Early Decision (binding), or deposited at your college of choice, please contact the Admissions Offices at your other colleges to withdraw your application.

SCHOLARSHIP MILESTONES

Congratulations to **Michelle Luh, Jake Maeng, Adam Mehdi, and Alice Sun** who qualified as finalists for the 2021 National Merit Scholarship awards. These seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$31 million. About half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar® title.

Congratulations to **Michelle Luh, Jake Maeng and Alice Sun** who were selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. Students are chosen for outstanding standardized test scores and exceptional talent in visual, creative, and performing arts as well as those who demonstrate ability in career and technical education. Each year, only 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars nationwide.



JUNIORS

You may know that many seniors have heard back from their early applications and will continue to do so over the next few months. Some have, and will, receive news to rejoice. However, not all decisions will be the ones they'd hoped for. Please give them the space to decide if they want to share their news, positive or negative. If you want to know where students have been admitted, you can check the list of College Acceptances on the College Counseling board outside our offices.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

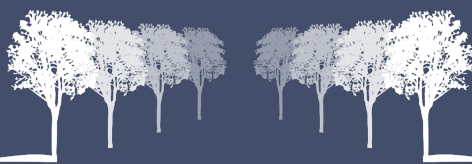
- **Wednesday, March 17: NCAA Student-Athlete Panel and Presentation at 6 p.m.**
Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling page of the TMS website.
- **Thursday, April 22: 9th-12th Ins & Outs of Financial Aid & Scholarships Presentation at 6 p.m.**
Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling section of the TMS website.
- Sign up for College Board's Big Future Virtual College Fair featuring many highly selective colleges at <https://pages.collegeboard.org/big-future-days>
 - **Tuesday, February 23, 2:00-6:00 p.m.** Mid-Atlantic and Southern Colleges
 - **Sunday, March 7, 1:00-5:00 p.m.** Northeast Colleges
 - **Thursday, March 11, 2:00-6:00 p.m.** Midwest Colleges
- Sign up for the Western Association of College Admission Counselors (WACAC) Spring Virtual College Fair featuring over 200 colleges and universities at www.strivescan.com/wacac
 - **Wednesday, March 3, 4:00-8:00 p.m.**
 - **Sunday, March 14, 12:00-4:00 p.m.**
 - **Monday, April 19, 4:00-8:00 p.m.**
- Sign up for the National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC) Spring Virtual College Fairs at www.nacacfairs.org
 - **Sunday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Fair
 - **Thursday, March 16, 1:00-5:00 p.m.** Performing and Visual Arts Fair

ACTION ITEMS

- Create a separate email address specifically for college applications, scholarships, etc. Your email will get SPAMMED with tons of extraneous information during this process.
- Watch the Senior Panels on the college search, applications, admissions, college essays, college interviews, scholarships, and financial aid tips.
- Continue researching colleges through virtual college tours such as ecampustours.com.
- Meet with your College Counselor to discuss your curriculum for next year.
- Sign-up for standardized testing through act.org and collegeboard.org. While many colleges may continue their test-optional policies, this is not guaranteed. Additionally, many colleges require test scores for merit aid consideration.
- Seek out extracurricular leadership opportunities and plan for your summer with independent projects or initiatives that are important to you. Think outside the box.
- Update your resume. Or start one if you have not done so already!
- Research and apply for scholarships starting with our Scholarship Resources page in the College Counseling section of the TMS website.

INDIVIDUAL APPOINTMENTS

Email your College Counselor to arrange a first junior meeting. The first junior meeting should include one or both parents on Zoom. Parents are an important part of this conversation and planning for the future involves collaboration and transparency.



JUNIORS (cont.)

TEST PREP RESOURCES

The College Board will no longer offer Subject Tests in the U.S. Subject Tests were traditionally recommended by highly selective institutions and/or for students who wanted to demonstrate expertise in a specific academic field. Students in the U.S. will automatically have their registrations for Subject Tests canceled and receive a refund. Additionally, the SAT will no longer include the essay after June 2021. Students registered for the SAT with Essay this spring can cancel the essay portion at any time, free of charge.

All students have access to ACT®, SAT®, and SAT Subject Test® Prep through their **Albert IO** school accounts. Simply log in, select Subjects, then Test Prep. Albert IO offers practice problems, assessments, and answer explanations. College Counseling will be including test prep and Albert IO in Junior Advisory.

SOPHOMORES & FRESHMEN

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **Wednesday, February 24: Freshman/Sophomore & Parent College Evening Zoom Presentation at 6 p.m.**
Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling section of the TMS website.
- **Wednesday, March 17: NCAA Student-Athlete Panel and Presentation at 6 p.m.**
Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling page of the TMS website.
- **Thursday, April 22: 9th-12th Ins & Outs of Financial Aid & Scholarships Presentation at 6 p.m.**
Registration link will be shared via email and on the College Counseling section of the TMS website.
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- Create a separate email address specifically for college applications, scholarships, etc. Your email will get SPAMMED with tons of extraneous information during this process.
- Review your 1st semester grades and transcript. Evaluate what went well and what you can improve upon. Challenge yourself in your areas of strength and subjects that appeal to you. Make the most of our Meadows curriculum.
- Check out our School Profile on the College Counseling section of the TMS website which includes details such as Junior Year Cumulative GPA Distribution, Testing Profile, Grading, and more.
- Meet with your College Counselor to discuss a 4-year plan and timeline.
- Hone in on those handful of activities that you enjoy and will commit to throughout high school. Look for leadership opportunities for next year, and step up your contributions! Focus on the activities that are meaningful to you, on what you love to do, on the impact that you can make, not on what you think you should do or what you think colleges want to see. Be bold, be creative, take initiative, take a calculated risk, step outside your comfort zone. Start a "Passion Project" that is unique to you in which you take your interest to the next level. Show your passion in action.
- Start a resume to keep a record of your achievements, awards, commitments, programs, extracurriculars, etc. When you are a senior, you will need to document all the details of your life story in high school starting from freshman year. Keep a record of all of it!