



Northfield Mount Hermon School

F O U N D E D I N 1 8 7 9

It has begun in earnest!

The College Counseling classes have begun for juniors and counselors have been appointed. You will have already heard from the office via e-mail about those pairings. Every junior also has a college counseling class (in some cases, the teacher of the class is not the counselor) which will run for the winter term. A few juniors who have conflicts with their schedules (notably winter sport athletes) will have the class in the spring. The class covers many topics, ranging from the ways you can research college options to interview tips, from a detailed standardizing testing calendar to the ways to polish your essay. After the classes are over, students will meet individually with their counselor and, by the time summer vacation begins, they will have developed a list of schools as well as a list of things to do over the summer.

This is both an exciting time full of opportunities as well as an anxious time full of doubts. What we try to do for our students (and what you can do for your children) is to focus on the opportunities while managing the doubts. Our college counseling class does much for the students by way of answering questions and laying out the landscape. Our Naviance program (a web based search engine) helps everyone research schools, compare colleges and universities one to the other as well as acting as a document manager. The entire list of schools your son or daughter will consider will be in Naviance, for example. Your link to the site and password will come in a later mailing, after we have had a chance to introduce the students to the program.

I am excited to announce that NMH has purchased a site license agreement with Peterson's, an on-line standardized testing program. Every junior will be able to log on to the Peterson's site and set up an individualized tutoring course, complete with pre-tests, exercises as well as three complete SAT tests. Students will get immediate feedback on the questions they have answered as well as suggestions for ways to improve their strategies. These courses can be accessed anywhere at any time. The faculty members who run our SAT preparation courses will use the system to supervise the work of their students, but any student can use the service at any time. We are literally a few days away from being able to launch this service.

The most important thing for our juniors to do is to stay focused on their academic achievement and extracurricular success. Doing well now will help each of them position themselves for the most rigorous courses next year. Good grades in challenging classes are still the number one criteria for college success.

We are here to answer questions and e-mails throughout the process. We wish you a happy new year from the College Counseling Office.

Peter Jenkins
Senior Associate Director
For the Office