

## *Suddenly They're Seniors*

A Presentation by the  
FJA College Counseling Department

## *Counseling Services*

- College Planning and Placement
- Financial Aid
- Career Planning
- Support Services

## *Testing*

- ACT with writing
  - Most used --all Michigan students take it
- SAT with writing
  - Most colleges will accept whichever is higher
- SAT II Subject tests
  - Check which colleges require
  - May be required if take SAT I instead of ACT
- AP exams
  - Optional to report; used for placement
  - Some colleges may use to substitute for SAT II's

## *Time Line*

- ACT or SAT fall test dates
  - ACT: Sept. 13
  - Oct. 25
  - Dec. 13
    - FJA test center code: 215661
  - SAT: Oct 18
  - Nov. 8
  - Dec. 6
    - Beth Jacob test center code: 01000

## *Time Line*

- Bloomfield Hills College Night
  - October 12, 2009 Troy Athens High School 6:30-8:00
  - October 15, 2009 OCC Orchard Ridge 6:30-8:00
  - October 21, 2009 OCC Royal Oak 6:00-8:00
- Financial Aid Night
  - December 8, 2010 Beit Midrash 7:30
- Honors Convocation
  - June 7, 2010
- Graduation
  - June 9, 2010

## *College Reps*

- Contact people/read our applications
- Usually during lunch
- Ask questions specific to admissions and applications
- Recommended for schools you did not yet visit, or for schools you are serious about
- Watch the bulletin board or College News

## College Reps

- 9/14 George Washington/Brandeis
- 9/15 Earlham College
- 9/16 University of Michigan
- 9/17 Washington University
- 9/22 NYU
- 10/6 Indiana/U of M Dearborn
- 10/13 Yeshiva U
- 10/16 Michigan State University (onsite admissions)
- 10/21 Cornell College (Iowa)
- 10/22 Vassar
- 11/3 Mt. Holyoke

## Campus Visits

- A must!
- Call college admissions office to schedule or schedule online—campus tour, etc.
- May be able to schedule interview, if required
- Meet prospective students
- Parent/student bonding!
- May want to wait until you hear: virtual visit?
- Overnight visit—for the final decision?

## College Application Process

- Decision-making process
  - Self-knowledge
  - College knowledge
  - Comparison
  - Action Plan
- “Not a prize to be won, but a match to be made”

## The Admissions Process

- All applications are read, usually by at least three readers, often a committee
- Considerations: GPA, test scores, strength of curriculum, student essay, counselor/teacher recommendations, class rank if reported, activities, legacies
- Responses: Accept, Defer, Deny
  - Usually will defer rather than deny if they can
  - Will look for additional information
    - 7th semester grades, new test scores, additional letter

## The Admissions Process

- Rolling admissions: September is early, October is on-time, November is getting late
- “Modified rolling admissions” U-M, MSU
  - Many more are wait-listed, may not know until June
  - Early Response deadlines
    - MSU—October 16 !!
    - U of M--November 1 (Early Response)
    - Indiana--November 1 (Scholarship Priority)
- College applications to Rolling Admissions schools get first priority

## The Admissions Process

- “Precipice” schools
  - Early Decision: Binding. Must withdraw all other applications if accepted
  - Early Action: Non-binding. Earlier deadlines, earlier notice (The above get “second” priority)
  - Regular Decision: Exact date in January or February
    - Generally these are sent before the December break
  - Not necessary to send these applications way ahead of the deadlines
  - Students may send their part ahead of the high school
  - Students are responsible for keeping track of these deadlines!

## *College Application Process*

- Students ask teachers for rec letters—with form
  - Students provide college evaluation forms for teacher and counselor as needed
  - Students request ACT and/or SAT send scores directly to colleges from their website
  - Students turn in signed Transcript Release forms with first application (gold form)
  - Students bring resume, essay for counselor to proofread; copy for file
  - Student provides counselor with letter of recommendation questionnaire, resume and “15-20 names”
- Green and purple checklists to keep track!

## *College Application Process*

- Counselor fills out all required forms
- Counselor writes letter of recommendation when needed
- College Counseling collects teacher forms and recommendation letters
  - Teachers notify counselor if sent online
- College Counseling sends transcript and all supporting documents to colleges

## *College Application Process*

- *Online applications*
  - Essentially all applications now!
  - Print out counselor page and give to counselor
  - Teacher recommendations may be online or on paper
    - Check with teacher; most are on paper
  - Student essays and/or resumes may be sent electronically or with high school package (eg. Indiana)
  - Transcripts, counselor page, written recommendations and all other paperwork will be mailed together by counselor
  - Student generally pay online with credit card
  - Let me know when they are sent! (please)

## *Fee Waivers*

- Specific guidelines posted in College News
- Some colleges provide for online or “VIP’s”
- Mrs. Bostwick will discuss with interested individuals confidentially for income based
- Fee waivers can apply to several areas:
  - ACT or SAT testing
  - College applications
  - AP Testing
  - NCAA Clearinghouse applications

## *Applying to U of M*

- Suggest student apply online
  - Essays and resume can be uploaded
  - Resume uploaded under “additional information”
- Print out and sign Counselor Rec Form and give to Mrs. Bostwick
- Print out and sign Teacher Recommendation form and give to teacher
- Check with recommender whether they will submit online or on paper. Mrs Bostwick will submit on paper; most teachers will
- Transcript will be sent along with teacher form and letter, counselor form and letter, and any additional optional information by College Counseling
- Meet with Mrs. Bryant on Wednesday, September 16 for the latest information!

## *Applying to MSU (and other State Universities)*

- Students apply online
  - Enter essay text and resume in space provided, or cut and paste
- Print “High School Form” *after* courses are entered
  - Give to Mrs. Bostwick
- Teacher recommended not needed, but we will send if provided (No form)
- Transcript sent along with High School form and any optional additional information by College Counseling
- *PRINT APPLICATION FOR MR. COTTER’S REVIEW*
- *For other state universities, check to see if there is a counselor page, and proceed as above*

## *Applying with the Common App*

- Check commonapp.com for college deadlines and to see if a supplemental form is needed for the particular college
- After entering personal information, print the “Secondary School Report” form and two “Teacher Evaluation” forms
- Give the signed Secondary School reports to Mrs. Bostwick, and signed teacher forms to two academic teachers, ideally from different disciplines
- Suggested: “Waive” option to see the recommendation
- Fill out Letter of rec questionnaire, with 15-20 names & emails, and give to Mrs. Bostwick at least three weeks before college deadline
- Transcript will be sent by College Counseling along with all supporting documentation, including counselor and teacher recommendations, and any optional additional information in a timely manner!
- Let College Counseling know if you are applying Early Action or Early Decision! (Separate form for ED)

## *Make the most of your Senior Year*

- Senior grades are the last step of admissions
  - *STAY FOCUSED—NO SENIORITIS!*
- Wait list or deferred
  - Retaking the ACT or SAT
  - New SAT reporting policy
- Mid-year report
  - After 1st semester transcripts are completed
  - Turn in form to Counseling Center
  - Will send transcripts to all schools that have not made a decision (even state universities)
- Final transcript
  - Need college form and FJA release form

## *Scholarships*

- College based
  - Major or specific merit criteria
- Community based
  - Leadership
  - Community Service
  - **WATCH COLLEGE NEWS FOR SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**
- ACT: 23 + FAFSA ??? Michigan Promise ???
  - Awaiting October budget—will be notified

## *Financial Aid*

- Encourage to apply FAFSA online
  - Apply for your PIN now!!
- Do not apply until January 1, 2010
  - Go to FAFSA.ed.gov *not* FAFSA.com
- Come to Financial Aid Night December 8, 2009
- CSS Profile
  - Available October 1, 2009 U of M and others

## *CSS PROFILE*

- Some private colleges have additional money for grants and scholarships
- The CSS PROFILE requests additional financial aid information required for this money
- www.profileonline.collegeboard.com
- Check online or in the Counseling Center to see if the college your student wishes to attend requires the PROFILE (U of M does, and many private colleges and universities do)

## *Scholarship Searches*

- College News!
  - Wirescholar.com
  - Scholarships.com
  - MeritAid.com
  - Fastweb.com
  - Beware of scholarship scams
    - Financial Aid “Consultants”
    - “College Partnership”
    - “Who’s Who”

## *Counseling Website*

- College News
  - College Calendar
  - College reps/College Visit Days
  - Parent informational meetings
  - Scholarship Bulletins
  - Important forms
- Be in the know!!
- Let us know if there is anything else we should include!
- Bottom line: We're here to help you!

## *Thinking of a Gap Year?*

- Erik Erickson!
- Colleges love it!
- Personal growth and maturity
  - Global perspective—make a difference
  - Develop independence
  - Enhance Jewish identity
  - College credit

## *Thinking of a Gap Year?*

- Defer vs. reapply
  - Many colleges have established policies
    - Defer as long as take no college credits
    - Defer as long as not in a degree seeking program
    - Need to “reapply” or “reactivate” application
- Colleges without standing policies are willing to work with students
- May use the “Gap Year” to improve record and have more college choices as a “transfer” student
  - Cannot “Defer” and do this!

## *Thinking of a Gap Year?*

- MASA—an umbrella program
  - 150 programs sponsored and funded
  - Scholarships and grants available
- All programs have components of
  - Hebrew study (Ulpan)
  - Travel
  - Community Service and connection with Israeli life
- Watch in the bulletin and College News for visits by various programs

## *A Word to the Wise*

- Keep the parent-student communication lines open
- We have been through this process many times, and will make the system work for you
- We look forward to working with you!!
- Enjoy the ride!!!

## *Have a wonderful Senior Year!*

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