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YOUR PARTNERS IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

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APRIL 7, 2020 NEWSLETTER - UPDATE FOR JUNIORS

TASK LIST FOR JUNIORS:

1. **Complete the personal Activities Worksheet we shared** and then schedule a time to meet with [Jessica](#) or [Tracey](#) to complete the Activities Section of the Common App. This is an important and strategic part of your application!
2. **Continue to research colleges and refine your college list.** We know this is challenging and have provided resources below to help you learn more, starting with the [Steps to Research a College](#).
3. **Plan for SAT and/or ACT tests once they are offered again.** The tentative summer and fall schedule is below. When registration opens you should **plan to be first in line** due to the high demand. If you have specific questions regarding Subject Tests we can discuss this at our next meeting.
4. **Request recommendations (in writing) from your teachers.** Some teachers are overwhelmed with requests, so please do this now. Ideally, you should have one math/science and one English/history, but more important is whether the teachers know you well as a student and can speak to your work ethic, intellectual curiosity, leadership in class, and/or growth as a student. Please talk with us if you would like to discuss further.
5. **Brainstorm essay ideas.** We will soon send a few sample essays and other materials to help. Remember to start with your values - what do you want admissions officers to know about you? Then find the stories from your life - little moments are best - that illustrate your key qualities. Please keep in mind that this is the hardest part of essay writing; once you have your value, stories, and voice, the essay will flow out and only editing and polishing will remain. Please share your ideas, notes, thoughts, scribbles, and half-baked ideas with Tracey. She can help to identify the best options.

RESOURCES:

College Research:

- ❖ **How do you know if a college is right for you?** Begin with the [Steps to Research a College](#)
- ❖ **Colleges are offering virtual tours, info sessions, and more:** [Links to Virtual College Tours!](#)

Testing (SAT AND ACT): *Check registration availability daily!*

- ❖ [What to do if your SAT or ACT was Canceled](#) - advice from testing expert Jed Applerouth.
- ❖ [SAT Corona Updates](#) Fall SAT registration may open at the end of April, the College Board recently announced, but ***check daily to register as soon as it opens!***
- ❖ [ACT Corona Updates](#) Fall ACT registration is currently scheduled to open in July, but ***check daily to register as soon as it opens!***
- ❖ [Colleges Going Test-Optional for Class of 2021 and Beyond](#): ***updated almost daily***, this website shows colleges' test policies for the class of 2021 (current juniors). Please read each college's policies carefully, as some changes are permanent, others are temporary, and some apply only in certain circumstances.
- ❖ [College Admission & Testing During Coronavirus Webinar](#): an on-demand webinar geared toward students and those who support them.

UPCOMING TEST DATES 2020* (*please check with testing companies as dates may change)	
<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
June 6	June 13
August 29	July 18
October 3	September 12
November 7	October 24
December 5	December 12

Testing (AP Exams):

- ❖ [AP Coronavirus Updates](#): for exam changes and the new AP testing schedule.
- ❖ [All the AP exams will be open-book](#), as students will be testing from home, and most of the exams will feature several open-response questions. Language exams will have slightly different requirements, including speaking exercises.
- ❖ ***Most exams will last 45 minutes*** but students need to ***log on 30 minutes before their scheduled exam time*** to make sure that they are able to access the testing platform.

Demonstrating Interest:

- ❖ ***Many (but not all) schools use demonstrated interest as part of their decision-making process.***
Demonstrated interest is how a student signals they are interested in the college. Activities include visiting the school (including virtually), opening emails, clicking the links in an email, spending time on the website, and crafting well-written school supplemental essays. Since college visits are not an option for many right now, the other measures are likely to become more important. Rest assured, however, that everyone is in the same situation.
- ❖ ***What you can do now to demonstrate interest:***
 - Sign up for virtual information sessions and virtual campus tours
 - Sign up for college newsletters and updates
 - Open every email from the colleges you are interested in
 - Click on the links in each email
 - Spend time on the school's website (cookies can track how long you spend on each page)
 - Reach out to your admissions officers to establish contact and ask a good question

Quarantine and Summertime Activities and Ideas:

- ❖ It's very possible that colleges will ask supplemental essay questions about how you spent time during the crisis; answering "Seven hours daily on TikTok!" is not likely to make you a more competitive candidate! If your summer plans change due to coronavirus restrictions, you can still stay active with interesting activities and make a difference. Try these excellent resources:
 - [Things to Do From Home During a Pandemic \(Part 1\)](#)
 - [Things to Do From Home During a Pandemic \(Part 2\)](#)
 - [40 Resume-Worthy Activities Summer 2020](#)
 - [Volunteer Ideas Summer 2020](#)

Taking Care of Yourself:

- ❖ [The COVID-19 Survival Guide: 5 Ways to Manage the Stress](#)
- ❖ [Coping in the time of Coronavirus](#): a wonderful piece by the Tulane University Director of Admissions, Jeff Schiffman.

Schedule a Meeting: Be sure to reach out to schedule a time to meet! As always, let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Be on the lookout for our future news, and stay well!