



# MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Dear Junior Parents,

We understand how greatly this unprecedented time in our world is impacting your daughter's college search plans. This is new territory for all, including colleges, students, and counselors. We believe that communication is key, and we hope you will continue to seek out support from us and use the following information.

## **Student/Parent Meetings**

As always, we are available for virtual individual student and/or parent meetings.

## **Upcoming Virtual College Events**

- Encourage your daughter to take part in [Virtual College Exploration Week](#). This is occurring next week: Monday, April 20 through Thursday, April 23. The platform is offering four full days of virtual presentations for juniors to explore college options.
- MMA Junior Parent College Night: Tuesday, April 28 from 7-8 PM via Zoom. A save-the-date email along with a [google form](#) was sent on April 16 asking for questions/concerns regarding the college process to be addressed during the program.
- College Essay Presentation for Students: Monday, May 4 from 2-3 PM. Our presenter will be Alison Hildenbrand, Director of Admissions at Fairfield University. A recording of this will be made available for parents/guardians.

We will continue to update the college counseling webpage with future virtual events.

## **SAT/ACT**

Standardized testing will look very different for the Class of 2021. Keep in mind that SAT and ACT test dates through June have been cancelled. Please use the following links for additional information on the [ACT](#) and [SAT](#).

Colleges are recognizing the impact of these missed test dates. Many have announced test-optional admissions policies for the Class of 2021. Fairtest has a [list of colleges](#) that have announced test optional policies and will continue to update it as more join the movement.

Summer and fall test dates will most likely be the best options for students. Plans to offer additional test dates for the missed SAT and ACT are in the works and will be communicated when confirmed.

On April 6, Compass Education Group hosted a panel of college admission experts to delve into the pandemic's sweeping impact on college admission and testing. The recording is available [here](#).

### **College Visits**

Most colleges that have cancelled on-campus visit programs are offering virtual tours and other tools to give you a chance to get a sense of the campus. This [google doc](#) has been created to keep track of upcoming virtual college admissions events. NACAC (the National Association of College Admissions Counselors) is providing this [online tool](#) as a central resource for information about changes in college admission events and more as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

We encourage you and your daughter to continue to investigate colleges through virtual opportunities. Here is an article with some specific tips: [Researching a College During a Pandemic](#).

Some colleges are able to track a student's participation in virtual tours and other admission programs. Demonstrated interest can be a factor in the admission process for these colleges. This can help motivate your daughter to stay active in researching colleges!

The College Counseling team has created a resource spreadsheet with the names of MMA alumnae and parents who currently have daughters enrolled in college and who are available to speak with you. Please click [here](#) for this resource.

### **Final Thoughts**

Obviously we find ourselves in circumstances different from what any of us would have chosen. All of us need to be prepared to be flexible and patient, and to communicate more than ever. Many of the questions you have will not have specific answers, as the most common answer to any question in the college admission process is "It depends." The simple reason is that every college does things differently. This year will pose unique circumstances and challenges for all of us. We are here to help you navigate through the process, even if we too, are waiting for more answers. Be assured we will continue to communicate updates that are valid, time sensitive, and beneficial for you and your daughters.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jeannie O'Brien and Mrs. Theresa Yerger