

College Counseling and the 9th Grade Year  
2024-2025

We connect with 9th graders shortly after the school year begins. In our program titled High School Kickoff, we will share strategies for how to begin the high school years on a positive note in and out of the classroom. Our goal is for 9th graders to recognize the importance of a strong academic start, to consider how they will explore the wealth of extracurricular opportunities on campus, and to develop a network of mentors. This student-only program will take place August 27 during Community Time.

The College Counseling Office will be co-hosting a free webinar with The College Funding Coach® on October 3 from 6:30-8:30pm. This virtual event is for families in all divisions wanting to learn how to pay for college. The College Funding Coach® was founded in 2002 to help families better understand the complexities of paying for college and how to make higher education more affordable. Since that time, The College Funding Coach® team has been on a mission to help families save on the high cost of higher education. They have established an approach that helps parents understand the college funding process, reduce their out-of-pocket expenses, and balance the challenge of saving for college and retirement simultaneously. Registration information will be sent separately.

On the morning of October 8, all 9th graders will sit for the Digital PSAT 9, an early high school version of the PSAT. Results will be available in December and will provide families early testing feedback. The Upper School handles registration for this test and will share more information about this test date as the date approaches.

In November, we will share information via email about how to maximize the summer months and explore summer opportunities. Students routinely find those months as a great time to explore both new and old interests. Our hope is that students will pursue an active and engaged summer!

Our College Deans/Directors Panel Night allows us to welcome college admission officials from selective colleges and universities to share their wisdom with our community through moderated Q&A. We are excited to welcome these professionals, each of whom is an important thought-leader in the college admissions world. This student and parent virtual program will take place on January 27 at 7 p.m.

Shortly after the first semester concludes, we will host College Night for Freshmen. During this program we offer guidance to families on how to navigate the college preparation process in the years ahead. Strategies for course planning and extracurricular exploration highlight the evening's agenda. This student and parent virtual program will take place on February 3 at 7 p.m.

As course registration time arrives in April, the College Counseling Office provides guidance to faculty advisors on navigating curricular choices and college planning. Our faculty advisors bring a wealth of experience to the course planning process and we are happy to support their efforts.

We look forward to the years ahead with the Class of 2028!