



**SCA HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 7:30pm
Manhasset Secondary School Black Box Theater**

Welcome

- **Caroline Kenlon, HS SCA President**

Guidance Update - Jane Grappone, Director of Guidance / Counseling 7-12

- **Seniors** – continuing work with students
- **Juniors** – Students must submit paper copy of Common Application and Naviance College Search to Guidance office prior to scheduling college appointments
- **8th and 9th Grade** – letters being sent to parents for end-of-year conferences. Meetings will be scheduled for after Feb 6th, when teacher recommendations are due. Both the recommendations and the electives students have chosen will be needed for meetings.
- **Mock Interviews for Juniors** - Currently have 52 interviewers; 104 students will be accommodated. Students can begin to sign up next week – first come, first serve basis.
- **Two Career Nights** – first is March 25th – theme is Career Trends in Business. Keeping with the academic theme, the Associate Dean of Hofstra University will share insight into trends, etc. More info to follow.

Special Presentation – Dr. Joie Jager-Hyman, founder of educational consulting company, College Prep 360

- **Academics** - Grades and Rigor of Courses: these are reviewed along with the School Profile; guidance counselor will also enter the rigor of the student's courses. Rule of Thumb – take the most challenging courses you can do well in. Know your guidance counselor and work with them to schedule the right classes for you.
- **Testing – SAT or ACT?**
 - **ACT** comes from the Midwest – more familiar and more straightforward. Includes science, more questions, more sections, less vocabulary. Take practice tests and see which test you like.
 - **SAT** – old Army IQ test from the 1930's. Can prepare for it (ie, like crossword puzzle terminology) Not necessary to take both SAT and ACT.
 - Students should prepare with experts - tutors, study programs, on-line resources, etc.
 - Investigate and plan test dates – look at college application deadlines, look at test dates – have at least three scores (arbitrary number). Need at least two scores; 2 is the norm, plan on three.
 - Accommodations for Disabilities – key boards, extra time, etc – apply early!
 - SAT Subject Tests, AP Tests – usually not required, except maybe for the very select colleges; work with guidance counselors to decide which tests, if any, to take
 - Plan early and have a schedule, space the tests out, if possible
- **Activities** – Colleges look for interesting people, applicants should answer 'What can I contribute to this school?' A narrative telling the story of the applicant - how one is unique, how they can engage with the resources of the college.
 - Do something you are good at, or have a great interest in. How you made an impact, create the less obvious.
 - Leadership is important.

- Quality over quantity; one or two is better.
- Use summer to take advantage and expand on interests.
- Hours per week spent outside school are important, include jobs, clubs, sports, independent studies, academic interests (creative way to present the information).
- Create a resume, even if not required – will be useful for interviews, etc. Think about how to present the information.

Remember - Academics most important!

- **College Research and Selection** – review the questions in the book; use the list as a guide to do research and prioritize (major/minor) . Many ways to gather information on colleges: Princeton Review and other resource books, on-line sites, student reviews, etc. Visits are important - rational decision vs emotional decision. Colleges may track visits as well.
 - Apply early; start with your early decision schools
 - Make the most of College Visits
 - Sign in
 - Don't judge the school by the tour guide
 - Talk to someone who goes there
 - Sit in on classes if possible; maybe spend the night
 - Take notes – very useful when completing applications later on
 - Meet with guidance counselors
 - Familiarize yourself with Naviance
 - College Fairs

- **Q and A followed**

Next HS/MS Joint Parent Council Meeting, March 13th, 2015 Secondary School Boardroom