Mr. Daniel F. Warner – Principal

NHS Guidance Department

Mr. Steven Pinch – Director of Guidance
Mrs. Kristen Manchester – School Counselor
Mrs. Elizabeth Afonso – School Counselor
Mr. John O’Brien – Graduation by Proficiency Coordinator
Senior Project

Students choose a topic of special interest that requires a “learning stretch” and, with the support of a mentor, complete the field work necessary to produce a final product. A Senior Project has four components:

- a research paper connected to the student’s Senior Project topic
- a final product that shows the student completed the learning stretch
- a portfolio documenting the student’s Senior Project journey
- an oral presentation before a panel of judges

To provide students with support and structure, the Senior Project is embedded in their English 12 and Civics/Senior Project classes.

More info can be found at http://www.nhs.nssk12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=203964&pageId=613489
Choosing a College: Ten Factors to Weigh
The realization probably hit you when college brochures started flooding your mailbox: there are a lot of colleges out there. In fact, there are more than 3,000 colleges across the country. There are colleges out there that want you. Once you get in, how do you choose the one that’s right for you? Be sure to consider these 10 factors as you decide what school will give you your ideal college experience:

**Degree Programs:** If you know what you want to major in, definitely look at colleges that are strong in that program. But if you have no idea what you want to study, it’s just as important to choose a school with a wide range of degree programs to explore and eventually choose from.

**Learning Environment:** Think about what type of learning environment suits you best. Then, consider factors like a college’s average class size, student-to-teacher ratios and whether classes are taught mainly by professors or graduate assistants. Do you learn better through discussions or through hands-on activity. All of these are factors which will impact your academic experience at college.

**Campus Life:** What do you want your college experience to be like outside of the classroom? Think about what’s important to you in terms of extracurricular activities, social life, school spirit and traditions and housing options.
Distance from Home: Decide how far from home you want your college experience to take you. Do you want to have the support of friends and family nearby, or experience life in an entirely new part of the country?

Location: Do you see yourself attending college in a small town where the campus is the center of activity, or a major metropolitan area where you’ll enjoy the benefits of city living? Also decide if you want to be in a certain geographic area or climate.

Type of College: Private, public, religiously affiliated, single-sex or co-ed there are many types of colleges and all offer benefits and drawbacks. Weigh the pros and cons and decide what type is right for you.

Size: A tiny liberal arts school and a huge state university will give you two very different college experiences. Visit colleges at both ends of the size spectrum and a few somewhere in the middle to see where you feel most comfortable.

Student Body: Do you want a college where you’ll be surrounded by students similar to yourself, or one where you’ll meet people from a variety of backgrounds? Check out student demographics for colleges you’re considering, such as male-to-female ratio, average student age, and geographic, ethnic and religious diversity.
Cost: Don’t limit your college search because of costs financial aid and scholarships can do a lot to offset cost differences between two colleges. But do think realistically about how you plan to pay for college, and find schools that work within your financial circumstances.

First Impressions: No matter what, you should visit the top two or three colleges you are considering. Talk to students, take a long walk through campus, sit in on a class and grab a cup of coffee in the student union. The best way to get a real feel for a college and decide if you belong there is to go there. And if you’re like many students, you’ll visit one college that just feels “right.” Go with your instincts and believe in first impressions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Length</strong></td>
<td>3 hr, 45 min</td>
<td>3 hr, 25 min</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sections</strong></td>
<td>10 sections: 3 Math, 3 Critical Reading, 2 Writing, 1 essay, 1 experimental (not graded)</td>
<td>4 sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading</strong></td>
<td>Sentence Completion and Passage Based Reading</td>
<td>4 Passages, 10 questions per passage</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Science</strong></td>
<td>NONE</td>
<td>Problem solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Math</strong></td>
<td>Up to Algebra 2</td>
<td>Up to Trigonometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Essay</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Optional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Score Composition</strong></td>
<td>Each section is worth 800 points</td>
<td>Each section is worth 36 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scoring</strong></td>
<td>Aggregate of 3 scores 600-2400</td>
<td>Average of 4 sections 1-36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Penalties</strong></td>
<td>¼ of a point for wrong answers</td>
<td>No penalty</td>
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College Visits: What to Do, What to Ask

Students often say visiting the campus of a potential college is one of the most important factors in determining which college they want to attend. So you’ve got to get on campus. But when do you visit and what should you do when you get there?

**When to visit**

Anytime is a good time to visit a potential college. Your summer break is a great time to take an extended road trip to see some campuses, though there will be fewer students on campus than usual. Weekends in the fall, winter and spring work great, too.

Some students prefer to visit a college before sending in an application. Others will apply to several colleges, see which they are accepted to and then take visits to decide which one fits best. Both are correct.

Colleges only want to admit students who are seriously considering attending. If you plan on meeting with the college’s admissions staff you may want to visit before you apply. Visiting a campus and speaking with the staff, or even a formal interview, may help your chances of admission by showing expressed interest.

Contact the college’s admissions office to see if they have any special visitor days or events planned. These special events might offer more resources to potential students.
What to do  All college campuses have students and buildings. To see what makes each unique, and to see if you might be a good fit with this college, you’ve got to mix it up on campus. Here are 16 things you should do before you conclude your visit.

Talk to professors
Talk to students
Visit the library
Visit student housing
Tour campus
Tour the city around campus
Read bulletin boards
Sit in on a class
Check out recreational facilities
Check out student activities
Eat at a cafeteria
Talk to the admissions office
Eat at an off-campus student hang-out
Read the college newspaper
Check out computer labs
Picture yourself living there
What to ask Your trip isn’t all about sightseeing. Here are the six questions you should ask a current student at the college.

What is the best part about this college?
What is the worst part?
What is a typical day like?
What do students do on weekends?
How are classes structured?
Why did you choose this college?
Forms that need to be completed before the end of the year:
- Parent Brag Sheet
- Senior Evaluation Questions
- Senior Resume

Forms that need to be completed before the start of the year:
- College Tracking Document (first draft)
- Letters to teachers asking for letter of recommendation
- ALL forms that were due by end of year if not handed in

Forms that need to be completed before applications go out:
- Transcript Release form (If schools are NOT Common App.)
- SAT/ACT scores requested to be sent directly to the colleges through the testing website. (CollegeBoard.com or ACT.org)
Senior Year Application Timeline

**September:**
- All seniors will be asked in advisory to fill out a sheet stating what their plan is for after graduation.
- Counselors will meet with all seniors after the add/drop period is over, beginning with the students who indicated 4 year college as their post graduation choice.
- Students should request letters of recommendation from the teachers they have decided to ask.

**October/November:**
- Students should be working on their college applications and essay(s) and meet with their counselor to go through their application, edit their essay and get assistance on all aspects of college application process.
- The goal is to have ALL college applications submitted *PRIOR* to Thanksgiving break.
Important Facts:

There is a vast amount of information on the guidance website
http://www.nhs.nssk12.org/guidance

The Guidance Department is open every Tuesday all summer long and staffed with a guidance counselor each Tuesday. Please make an appointment with Mrs. Pratley at 792-9406.

All counselors can be reached by email even on the weekends so students should not be at a standstill in their process at any point.
Graduation Requirements – Class of 2020

- 25 Credits
  - 4.0 credits in English
  - 4 credits in Mathematics (Algebra I)
  - 3 credits in Social Studies (Government, US History & Civics & Senior Project)
  - 3 credits in Science (Earth & Physical Science & Biology)
  - .5 credit in Fine Arts (Art, Music, Theater)
  - .5 credit in Computers
  - 2 credits in Physical Education/Health (4 years)
  - 7 – 11 Elective credits

- 30 Hours of Documented Community Service
- Graduation Portfolio
- Senior Project

Note: Additional College Entrance Expectations
  - 2 years of Foreign Language
  - 2 Lab Sciences
Postgraduate Plans

What are the options?

- Career Training Schools
- Apprenticeships
- Military
- Volunteerism
- College
- Career Exploration
Scholastic Achievement Tests

PSATs
   Scores were distributed to students

Registration for the SATs
   On-line
   Offered 3 times in the spring Junior Year
      April (RIDE), May, June
   Offered four times in fall of Senior Year
      August, October, November & December

Practice
   Collegeboard.org
   Khanacademy.org