



GROSSE POINTE  
COLLEGE  
CONSULTING

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## STAYING ON TRACK A NEWSLETTER FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS APRIL 2006

### PREPARING FOR A COLLEGE CAMPUS VISIT

Spring break is a time when many families visit colleges their teenagers are considering. For a successful visit, I recommend:

#### *Research the colleges*

Before you go, read the informational bulletins that have been mailed to your home, look at college reference guides in the counseling center and surf college websites for information. As you do this, write down questions you want answered as you visit the campuses.

#### *Scheduling the trip*

Pick a time that is good for you, but it is best to visit a campus when classes are in session. This allows you to see the students, visit a class, eat in a cafeteria or stay overnight in the dorm.

Contact the admissions office by phone or on the web to learn when tours are given and to make a reservation if necessary. Try to make a

reservation one to two weeks in advance. Directions to the campus meeting point generally are posted on the website.

Determine if you need or want an interview with an admissions person, faculty member or coach while there. It is also appropriate for you to meet with a financial aid officer if you desire. For these meetings it is best to make arrangements beforehand.

Pack a camera and notebook to help you remember details that you observe on the tour.

### *During the visit*

Attend the information session given by the admissions staff member and take the student lead tour

Attend a class, if possible

Look at bulletin boards and pick up a copy of the student-run newspaper to see what is happening on campus.

Take notes of what you learn about the campus. You will find that after several visits to different schools the information begins to blur.

After several visits you will notice factors that you like and do not like at the various schools. Make note of your reactions to help you narrow your list of schools to which you will apply.

## **FRESHMEN**

- Continue to study hard to maintain good grades
- Finalize your course selection for next year with your counselor
- Finalize your summer plans by planning to take a class, have a job or volunteering

## **SOPHOMORES**

- Review your junior-year class selection with your counselor making certain that your program is a challenging college-prep program
- Concentrate on making good grades this last quarter
- Plan your summer so that you are developing talents through employment, school or volunteer work
- Consider leadership positions in the organizations in which you have participated

## **JUNIORS**

- Prepare to take AP tests and/or SAT Subject Tests that you intend to take this spring
- Register for and prepare to take the spring ACT and/or SAT tests([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and/or [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org))
- Meet with your counselor to discuss your senior-year program making certain that you are meeting all graduation requirements and taking appropriate college prep classes
- Plan to take leadership roles in your extra-curricular activities next year
- Discuss with your counselor your tentative college choices in an effort to learn how students with profiles similar to you have fared at various universities and colleges.
- Continue to make campus visits with your parents to colleges that interest you

## **SENIORS**

- Order graduation announcements
- Respond to admissions letters that you receive
- Prepare to visit schools you are still considering
- Send in housing and financial aid forms to your selected school
- Make arrangements with the high school registrar to have your final grades sent the university you will attend

## **PARENTS**

- Review with your senior all financial aid materials received from the university
- Send in all requested fees to the university
- Help your teenager make summer plans
- Review next year's course selection with your child and his/her counselor
- Help your junior arrange campus visits to schools that are of interest

### **INTERESTING TIDBIT**

According to Rob Killian at Common Application, Inc.

Percentage of Common Application users who submit more than 10 applications: 3.1%

Average number of applications submitted by Common Application online users: 3.6%

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