

# Paly' s Jr. Parent/College Advisor/TA Night

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March 16, 2011



# WELCOME!

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- Kim Diorio, Assistant Principal, Guidance
- Christina Owen, Career Advisor
- Sandra Cernobori, College Advisor
- Alice Erber, College Advisor
- Ann Deggelman, Co-coordinator of TA program





## Assumption:

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- Student is ready for college
  - They may need a break (e.g. Gap Year)
  - Might not be mature enough to manage own time and self-advocate
- There are other options



# Post High School Options

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- Community College
- Four Year College or University
- Vocational School
- 13<sup>th</sup> Year Programs (a.k.a. Post-Grad Year)
- Take a year off (a.k.a. Gap Year)
- Military
- Work
- Travel



# Your Junior & The College Process

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- Time of Transition
  - Upperclassmen, drivers license, academic rigor, decisions about their future
- Can be a time of high anxiety for both parents and students
- Ultimately, your child is going to end up in a great school
- There are so many colleges in this country (and even outside the US!)



# College and Career Center Philosophy

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- We are here to guide students through the search process
  - To listen
  - Direct students to resources
  - Advise them how to prepare for eligibility
  - Support with application and essay review
  - Ask questions to help them make choices.
- Best preparation is self-assessment. Students should own the process to develop confidence. Explore!





# CA Public Universities

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- California Community Colleges
  - Education: theoretical and applied
  - Emphasis: career/vocational programs, general education, certificate programs, associate degree, and transfer preparation
- California State University
  - Education: theoretical and applied
  - Emphasis: teacher preparation, career employment/pre professional skills, and preparation for graduate school
- University of California
  - Education: theoretical
  - Emphasis: research and preparation for graduate school

For information about eligibility, please refer to: [http://www.paly.net/guidance/parent\\_night/JrParentNight.pdf](http://www.paly.net/guidance/parent_night/JrParentNight.pdf)



# Out-of-State Public and Private Colleges & Universities

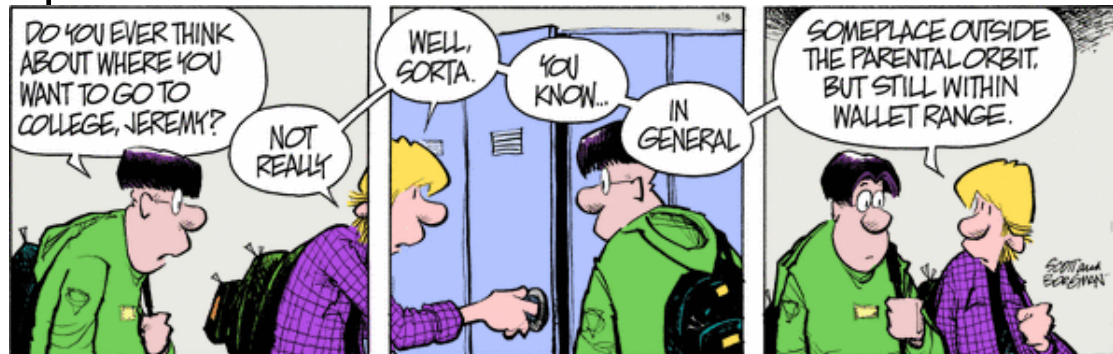
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- Over 3,000 campuses
- Emphasis and eligibility: Varies by campus
- Types:
  - Liberal arts colleges  
literature, language, science, math, history, social sciences
  - Cooperative or “co-op”  
hands-on learning, “learn by doing” via internships for pre-professional programs
  - Specialty schools  
e.g. engineering, business, art, technical/vocational, music conservatories
  - Research universities  
resources focused on graduate education and research

# How will you evaluate colleges?

## What kind of environment fits?

- Fast paced or laid back
- Conservative, liberal, religious
- Diversity: Ethnic, gender, economic, viewpoints
- Campus pride and school spirit
- Small (<2,000); Medium (<12,000); Large
- Residential vs. Commuter
- Location: Urban, suburban, rural
- Distance from home
- Climate
- Weekend activities
- Public transportation vs. car
- Core curriculum vs. no general education requirements





# Selecting Colleges

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- Very Important!
  - The most selective schools can NEVER be considered “target” colleges
  - If your student’s college list consists primarily of “reach” schools, this will be a very stressful process and the outcome could be disappointing
  - If the student really looks for schools that fit him/her well (e.g. individual needs, values, interests), this should not be a problem
- Useful tool to estimate chance of admission and tracking chart available in Naviance: under the “From Your School” in left navigation > Document Library > College-related documents > How to Estimate Chances of Admission



## How are college applicants evaluated?

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- Course Requirements
- GPA and course selection
- SAT/ACT scores, *if applicable*
- Personal Essays, *if applicable*
- Extra-curricular activities
- Teacher Recommendations, *if applicable*
- Teacher Advisor Letter (a.k.a School Report), *if applicable*



# Parents' Role

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- Let the student drive the process
  - Help organize materials and deadlines, Naviance
- Plan College Visits
  - Visit colleges with a range of selectivity!
  - 5 excused absences this semester & next year
- Discuss parameters for the college search
  - Expectations, geographic location, and financial/travel restrictions



## Parents' Role cont' d

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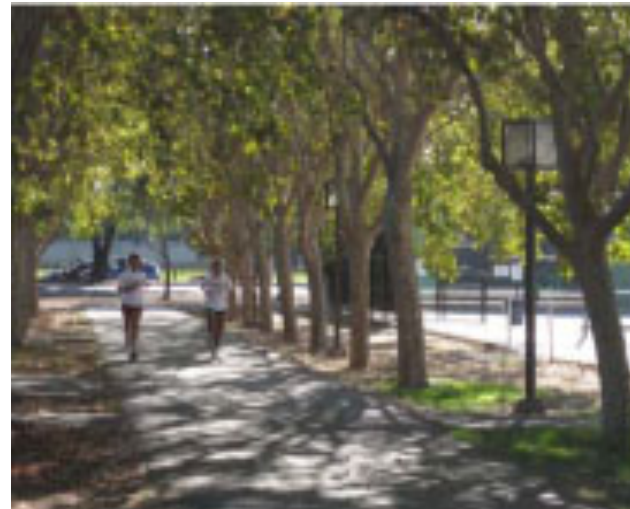
- Be informed; be flexible
- Resources: \*Viking Guide, Naviance, Paly Link, C&CC Facebook Page
- There are many roads to higher education
- There are more than 3,000 colleges in the U.S.
- Some colleges are test-optional
- Students are not required to declare a major right away

\*Viking Guide can be found at: [http://paly.net/college/viking\\_guide.pdf](http://paly.net/college/viking_guide.pdf)

# Parents' Role cont' d

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- Be Supportive
  - Stressful and emotional time; pressure
- Listen and offer advice
  - Be a sounding board
  - Ask questions and let your child supply the answer





# What's next for your student?

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- Attend advisories
- Sign up for SAT/ACT
- Complete the Post High School Planning survey on Naviance to make an appointment in the CC&C
- Research colleges (websites and guidebooks)
- Visit colleges; go to college fairs
- Read the Viking Guide
- Find and pursue interests (community service, job, career exploration survey in Naviance etc...)
- Get organized
- Keep life balanced—time for self, activities and sleep
- Focus on academics – most important part of application
- Use support system – parents, T/A, friends, teachers
- ENJOY!!

# Remember

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**“College is a match to be made,  
not a prize to be won.”**

