



# Paly's Jr. TA Parent Night

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March 11, 2009



# WELCOME!

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



# 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 next year
  - Ask questions to help them make choices.
- Best preparation is self-assessment. Students should own the process to develop confidence. Explore!



# 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



# 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?

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- 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*
- 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
  - 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

# 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
- Student should complete the Post High School Planning survey on Naviance and then make an appointment in the CC&C
- Research colleges (websites and guidebooks)
- Visit colleges; go to college fairs
- Get organized
- Keep life in balance –time for self, activities and sleep
- Focus on academics – most important part of application
- Use support system – parents, T/A, friends, teachers
- ENJOY!!

# Naviance Family Connection – Demo

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Naviance Family Connection website for Palo Alto High School. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=pahs>. The website header includes the school's name, address (50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto CA 94301-2321), and phone number (650) 329-3710. The main content area is green and features a welcome message, a registration form for new users, and a sign-in form for returning users. The registration form includes a text input field and a 'Register' button. The sign-in form includes input fields for 'E-mail' and 'Password', a 'Sign In' button, and a checkbox for 'Remember my e-mail address'. A link for 'View FAQ' is provided under the 'Need Help?' section. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button and several open applications, including an email client, Internet Explorer, and Google.

Family Connection  
powered by NAVIANCE

>Welcome to the college  
and career  
Family Connection  
for Palo Alto High School

**New User?**  
If you have been given a registration code by your counselor, you can begin the registration process below.

**Sign In for Returning Users**  
E-mail:   
Password:   
  
 Remember my e-mail address  
If you forgot your password, click [here](#) for help.

**Need Help?**  
[View FAQ](#)

Palo Alto High School  
50 Embarcadero Road  
Palo Alto CA 94301-2321  
p: (650) 329-3710



# Remember

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