**October Peer Parent Meeting**

**Summary of the Q&A with Seniors Students Regarding How They Survived Junior Year**

Senior Speakers:

Malaika Bhayana (IB)

Anna OKeefe (IB)

Jeremiah Sullivan (AP and MSP)

**What advice would you share with juniors and parent of juniors?**

* Time management is key – make lists of upcoming events, assignments, and due dates so as to plan ahead and be organized
* Get sleep!
* Plan balance between school and activities/be careful not to overschedule with rigorous courses and too many activities

**What resources did you lean on for help?**

* TAP – this resource is not just important for getting help with classwork –very important to build relationships with teachers , and to demonstrate interest and motivation
* These students also went to teachers during lunch
* These students are peer partners (tutors), which they said helps them to review their basic understanding of foundational classes
* Outside assistance such as Prep Matters was also helpful in matching students with tutors based on specific needs
* Kids felt Miss Parmelee is an excellent resource
* College tracks also helpful

**Do the students have any thoughts one whether it is better to schedule in school and on campus college visits junior or senior year?**

* Consensus seemed to be that it is better to get started early (junior year), to try to spread things out – you don’t want to miss too many classes or too much of the same class, so plan ahead which you want to see

**Various questions asked the students to compare and contrast on campus visits versus in school**

* Benefit of in school visits are smaller group size than on a typical campus tour. In school allows more personal/face-time with the regional admissions officer.
  + They noted regional admissions officer can influence success of application ; noted you can send email to regional officer expressing interest if unable to attend in school visit.
  + They also noted that Naviance provides guide to how important “demonstrated interest” is to each individual college
* Campus tour gives sense of the school, the student body , the “vibe” ; cautioned that too many visits at once can be overwhelming (take notes!) , and cautioned that they “burnt out” after too many official tours. They also noted that not everyone has experience of knowing “the one” school for them.

**How did you narrow your focus for schools?**

* Identify type of school you are interested in (small, medium, big; near city vs rural; academic specialization); then look mainly at schools meeting that criteria
* Collegeniche.com helps screen schools on various criteria
* Naviance, but all kids cautioned beware of Naviance scatterplots! (scatterplots plot the likely application success based on grades and SATs, based on other BCC student experiences) They suggested scatterplots caused them a lot of stress, scatterplots aren’t fully predictive, so don’t let your kids overly focus on scatterplots.

**Final note from students**

* ACT/SAT process stressful. Don’t pressure kids (there is enough of that from peers)
  + Aside: College Advisory Committee Hosts a mock SAT (11/17) and Mock ACT (10/20) , for lower pressure practice. Tests sell out, so register early (see toolkit for information)
* Emphasized that relaxation is as important for doing well as actual test preparation – kids “overpracticing” experienced “burn out.”
* These kids felt taking the tests multiple times can improve scores (these kids seemed to take test 3 times)
* These kids seemed to take outside preparation courses like Prep Matters.
* Their big advice - ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS.