Welcome S.H.S. Parents!
College 102

For Parents of
Incoming 12th grade students

I. Introduction and Thank You’s
II. Application Trends
III. Application Strategies
IV. Turning the Tide
V. Guidance Resources
VI. Next Get-Togethers
Application Trends


- U.C. has tripled the % of out-of-state/international admit offers in five years…33% of 2015 admit offers at UC went to non-CA residents

- Stanford accepted 5% of the total applicants for 2015. Students with a 4.0 g.p.a. or higher had 7% admit rate. Students with an 800 SAT Math score had 9% rate.

- SHS STUDENTS HAVE BROADENED APPLICATIONS:
  * 2008: 7.5 college apps/student  2015: 12.5 college apps/student
  * Vast majority of students applying early: 61% in 2015...68% in 2016
  * Graduates choosing private colleges more often than U.C. and out-of-state public colleges equally as often
Application Strategies- A Different Approach to the Admissions Challenge

From Julie Lythcott-Haims, Author & Former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford:

“The mountain of opinion about (college) status, prestige and worth makes us feel- fear- we can only really be proud of our kid- and perhaps ourselves- if our kid gets into one of the most highly selective schools. This feeling, this fear, becomes a set of blinders we give our kids to wear so they can stay focused on the checklisted childhood we set out for them.”
Application Strategies- A Different Approach to the Admissions Challenge

From Julie Lythcott-Haims, Author & Former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford:

“We have to pull back those blinders and widen our kid’s perspective and our own, or most of us are going to end up at the end of the process, exhausted, dejected, feeling like failures- making our kid feel like failures when instead they should be incredibly excited about this next phase of their lives.”
Application Strategies- A Different Approach to the Admissions Challenge

From Julie Lythcott-Haims, Author & Former Dean of Freshmen at Stanford:

“Let’s pull back the blinders at least far enough to see the full hundred (as opposed to top 10) most selective schools. These schools attract very strong faculty and students who are very talented, motivated and interesting. They are well resourced. Their alumni make a good living, have rewarding jobs, find friendship and are happy. Isn’t that what matters?”
Application Strategies- A Different Approach to the Admissions Challenge

Use a Source Other Than U.S. News and World Report

The Alumni Factor: rankings based on alumni survey responses in terms of:

- Intellectual Development
- Social and Communication Skills Development
- Immediate Job Opportunities
- Preparation for Career Success
- Willingness to Recommend the College
Application Strategies- A Different Approach to the Admissions Challenge

The Harvard Law Class of 2016 enrolled 540 students representing 171 colleges including...

American University  Brigham Young University
Arizona State University  Cal Poly SLO
Baylor University  Case Western Reserve
Biola University  Colorado State
Boise State University  Columbia University
Turning the Tide-
A broad coalition of colleges calling for widespread change in the college admissions process

- Promoting more meaningful contributions to others, community service and engagement with the public good.
- Assessing students’ ethical engagement and contributions to others in ways that reflect varying types of family and community contributions across race, culture and class.
- Redefining achievement in ways that both level the playing field for economically diverse students and reduce excessive achievement pressure.
Turning the Tide

Video Clip:

Turning the Tide Video
Buzzworthy from Guidance

Click here for SHS Scholarship Application Form online application

11 Common FAFSA Mistakes
For students applying for federal financial aids, utilize these tips!

How to Bring Playfulness to High School Students
As a school, we continue to discuss ways to decrease student stress. Would one such possible way include increasing student play?

Why I’ve Stopped Doing Interviews for Yale
One interviewer’s experiences on doing alumni interviews for college applications, and what we can take away from his reflections.

SHS Alumni Interviews!
Hear from past SHS students about their college path and choices.

UC Application Tips!
UC Davis offers these hints on how to complete the UC application well, as well as some personal statement tips.

Guidance Calendar
Important Spring Dates

Supporting High School Teens

**March 10, 9:00 a.m., Cafeteria**  
World Cafe- Community-Wide Discussion

**March 23, 6:30 p.m., Gym**

Private School Application/Scholarship Workshop for Students

**May 20, 9:25 am (tutorial), McAfee**  
Incoming Senior Parent Q&A

**May 25, 2:40-4:00 pm, Library**
Common App Essay Prompts (Private College Applications)

- Some students have a background, identity, interest or talent that is so meaningful that they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
- The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what lessons did you learn?
- Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
- Describe a problem you’ve solved or a problem you’d like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma- anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
- Discuss an accomplishment or event, formal or informal, that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.