

COLLEGE PLANNING Information for Juniors - Winter 2022

We want to assure you that having a disrupted and somewhat non-traditional high school career due to COVID is not going to take away all your hard work and planning for college. We have compiled this list of resources that we hope will be helpful as we all navigate these next months. And while it is good to plan for life after high school and the next few pages lay out great resources and information, **it's more important to take care of your mental health.** If this is too overwhelming right now, come back to it when you are ready. [Click here to check out some resources for mental health on the guidance page of the KPRHS website.](#)

We recognize that there is a lot of uncertainty right now - economic, social, academic, and logistical. If we can do one thing for you, if we can communicate one message, it is this: We will get through this together!

Stay healthy and talk soon!
KPRHS School Counselors

ACADEMICS

It is important to stay on top of your academics. If you are struggling with an assignment or organizing your workload, reach out to your teacher or counselor; we are here to help! You can access your transcript through your Infinite Campus account by looking under the Documents tab. Be sure to check that you are on track to graduate by checking your graduation requirements! A full list of graduation requirements can be found in the [Program of Studies](#).

NAVIANCE

You can research potential colleges, college majors, and careers through your Naviance account. If you need your log-in information reset, email your counselor. [You can access KP's Naviance site here.](#)

STANDARDIZED TESTING UPDATE

The good news is that many colleges have already gone test-optional (at least temporarily) for the Class of 2021 and possibly beyond due to ACT/SAT test cancellations: Tufts, Boston University, all University of California universities, and Davidson College to name a few. Click [HERE](#) for a chronological view of colleges that have gone test optional. For a complete list of test-optional colleges please refer to this website - <https://fairtest.org/university/optional>

[ACT updates are here](#) and [SAT updates are here](#). Please plan to check for updates regularly, as things have changed very recently.

AP TEST UPDATES

Please refer to this website for all AP tests updates - <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/news-changes/coronavirus-update>

STUDENT ATHLETES:

The NCAA Clearinghouse is updating their policies during the COVID-19 crisis. For the most updated information please refer to their website:

<http://www.ncaa.org/sport-science-institute/coronavirus-covid-19>

To register as a student athlete click here: [NCAA Clearinghouse](#)

RESEARCHING COLLEGES REMOTELY

COVID-19 has caused some campuses to cancel classes, tours and admitted students' days. There is no substitute for visiting a campus while it is in session, attending a class, and talking to current students. However, there are a lot of online resources available to learn as much as you can in the meantime. You can find a list of sites and ways to research colleges below.

What about demonstrated interest?

Many (but not all) schools use demonstrated interest as part of their decision-making process. Demonstrated interest is how a student signals they are interested in the college such as visiting the school, opening emails, clicking the links in an email, spending time on the website, and crafting well-written school supplemental essays. Since college visits are not an option right now, the other measures are likely to become more important. Rest assured, however, that everyone is in the same situation.

What you can do now from home:

- Sign up for college newsletters and updates
- Open every email from the colleges you are interested in
- Click on the links
- Spend time on the school's website (cookies can track how long you spend on each page)
- Reach out to your admissions officers to establish contact and get any questions you have answered
- Attend Upcoming Virtual College Admission Events including tours and information sessions
- Utilize the online resources listed below for your college search process:

The College Website: The college itself is a great place to start, and spending time on the website helps with demonstrated interest. You can learn about programs, majors, and extracurricular activities. Many will have videos of current students. Keep in mind that this is a curated view of the college, and you are unlikely to get a complete picture of the negatives associated with each school. Admissions Blogs: These can provide a wealth of information. Some have posts from students about their experiences.

Virtual Campus Tours

- Explore virtual campus tours through specific college websites
- YOUniversity -<https://www.youniversitytv.com/>- College Video tours provided
- **YouTube:** There is an abundance of information both official and unofficial posted on the web. All you have to do is search "Your favorite college + you tube" or "Your favorite college + your favorite topic." Colleges and students post about everything on YouTube. If you want to know about the food in the dining halls or what the dorms look like, you can find it online. You can get unofficial campus tours, rants about what students like and do not like, info about specific classes, and much more.

ADDITIONAL FAQs

How do I pay for college?

Every college is federally required to have a net price calculator on their website. This tool allows you to input general academic and family financial aid information and a financial aid award, unique to that college/university, will be generated. Easy access to those net price calculators can be found by searching your college here: <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>

[Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority \(MEFA\)](#) is a great, FREE, resource for all things financial aid.

We hope these ideas will inspire you to think in compassionate and creative ways that can actually strengthen your extracurricular experiences down the road. While we certainly are in uncharted territories about what colleges will be looking for, the best thing you can do is stay active and busy doing things that are important to you and your communities.

Lastly, a final insightful article from the Tulane University Director of Admissions on how to cope during the time of COVID-19:

<http://tuadmissionjeff.blogspot.com/2020/03/coping-in-time-of-corona.html>

*Some of the information above is adapted from <https://www.advancedivyprep.com/>

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