



# **Setting the Record Straight**

**Debunking Common Myths & Misperceptions  
in the College Admission Process**

**BHHS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade College Guidance Night**

# Choose the College or University that is Best for **YOU**



# Myth #1 – It's Better to Get Good Grades Than Take Challenging Courses

- Take the most rigorous courses you can *handle*
- Four years of English, Math, Science, languages – the more the better
- AP/Honors
- **Success** in advanced or accelerated courses shows colleges you seek and can deal with challenging courses



# Myth #2 – Extracurricular Activities Compensate for Low Grades

- Colleges do consider out-of-class activities, BUT
- They look at academic performance FIRST
- Don't expect to catch up for three years of poor grades during senior year



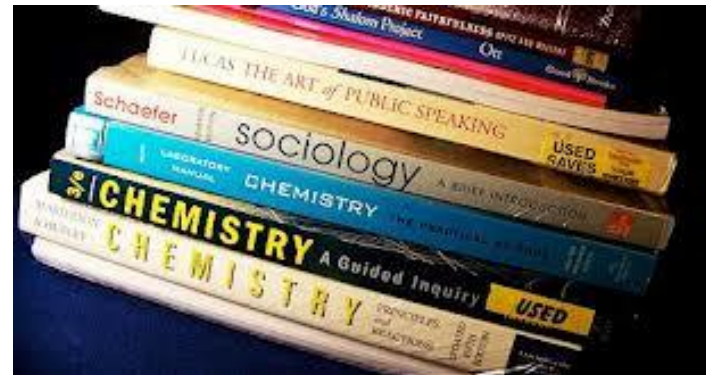
# Myth #3 – Test Scores Are More Important Than Grades



- High school performance is a better indicator of college success
- Colleges use a variety of criteria in selecting students – grades, activities, essays, special qualities you may have
- Some schools are test optional – [www.fairtest.org/university/optional](http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional)
- Some large state schools may use test scores, with GPA, to determine if you are eligible

# Myth #4 – I Need to Decide on My Career Before I Can Choose a College

- About 80% of students change their major at least once according to the National Center for Education Statistics
- College is a time to explore for most students
- Look for a college that has your current field of interest but is also strong in other areas



# Myth # 5 – There Is One Perfect College For Me

- Students often hope to find “true love” in a perfect college for them
- There is no one perfect school
- Develop a list of several schools that best meet your needs



# **Myth # 6 – If I Haven't Heard of the School, It Must Not Be Good**



- Name recognition does not determine a good college
- College athletics are how most colleges get to be known
- College rankings in magazines may not consider what is important to you
- Many of the finest schools do not get this kind of exposure
- Judge a college on its own merits



# **Myth # 7 – My Life is Ruined if I Don't Get Admitted to My First Choice School**

- Thousands of students each year do not get admitted to their first choice
- There are many reasons why a student is not accepted
- Selective schools are receiving more applications than ever, resulting in the majority of applicants being rejected
- Compile a list of good alternatives where you would be happy



# Myth #8 – We Can Only Afford a Low Priced College

- Don't let initial costs determine your future
- Students often rule out schools because they seem to be more than the family can afford
- Billions in financial aid are given every year to students and families
- Private colleges offer significant aid and can be more affordable than less expensive public schools
- Western Undergraduate Exchange provides tuition discount to California students at Western state schools



## **Myth #9 – The Best Time to Visit Colleges is After You’ve Been Admitted**

- Schedule college visits before you apply
- A school you like “on paper” may not feel right in person
- If possible, schedule another visit after admission, especially an overnight stay
- Explore the area around the campus to get a feel for the town
- Make sure to talk to students, eat in the dining hall, and visit a class in your area of interest
- You can visit now



# Myth #10 – There is a Secret Strategy to Get Into Your Chosen School

- There is no strategy that guarantees admission to selective schools
- Disregard people or books that suggest otherwise
- Avoid gimmicks
- Schools admit students who are good fits – they believe the student will contribute to the school



**“TAP Into College Will Get You Into The Best School Possible...  
~~So You Can Get The Best Job Possible...~~  
So You Can Live The Best Life Possible.  
WE GUARANTEE IT!”**

*A Program For Students Looking To Get Into The College Of Their Choice...*