Phase III - The Application Process

During the late spring, summer and early fall, rising Class I students will continue to immerse themselves in the shopping process. Summer will be an important time for each student to visit and, when necessary, interview at prospective colleges and universities, testing the assumptions that he or she formulated during the previous six months of research. Although the shopping process continues, late spring and summer will be a time when we will begin to talk with students about essays and applications.

During the summer, we will conduct essay writing and interview workshops, and meet with individual students and families to review lists, debrief visits and discuss application options. Our expectation is that each student will return to school in September having completed the Common Application and two essays.

Summer will also be the time when we will talk in earnest about selectivity. With junior grades and standardized test results in hand, the college counselors will meet together to place each student’s prospective colleges and universities on a selectivity curve ranging from “Far Reach” to “Likely.” This updated list is sent to each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) by the end of June. While this list can change based on fall performance, this annotated list offers invaluable feedback and substance for summer and fall discussions.

This brings us to the fall of senior year, the time when students will file applications. Please be assured that our office is very busy during these months, working to tailor a college process to each individual student right through the fourth and final Decision Making Phase.