

# MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING NEWS AND NOTES

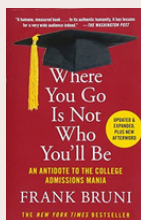
## SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Open and regularly check your applicant portals.
- Complete special program or honors college applications.
- Submit scholarship applications.
- Schedule interviews. NOTE: If you would like interview prep with Elizabeth Schnell, our specialist, schedule that now. (See below for Elizabeth's email.)

Need assistance with any of these items? Contact your consultant.

## TALK AROUND TOWN

Some items we find interesting:  
["College Admission: Things That Make You Go Hmm..."](#), article by Brennan Barnard  
[FutureU Podcast](#): bi-monthly, on every other Tuesday, regarding what's next in higher education.



[Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be](#), book by Frank Bruni

## WELCOME TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to your monthly newsletter, and CONGRATULATIONS on getting through the first rush of applications! This newsletter is designed to provide important reminders and tips to help you navigate your college choice experience.

A few important notes:

- Please check in with your counselor about appointments for later application deadlines. Bear in mind that your high school will probably want all your materials ready before the holidays – and we will be taking some time away from the office when you are on break.
- Keep your grades up. Remember that colleges will request your first semester or first trimester report card.
- Are you checking your admissions portals? This is the time to make sure you look at email every day.
- Your McNeal Sams team is here to support you each step of the way. Don't hesitate to reach out.

## KINDNESS CORNER

Now that your early applications are submitted, we suggest you do the following:

- Take a few days off! Reconnect with people you love and the things you love to do.
- Be patient with and kind to your parents. This process is nerve-wracking for them, too!
- Take a minute and write a thank you note to your recommenders. Hand-written notes go a long way. This does not need to be lengthy ("Thank you for writing my letter of recommendation! I appreciate it!"). The note has nothing to do with outcomes. It simply thanks the person for taking the time to support you.



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# MCNEAL SAMS COLLEGE CONSULTING

# NEWS AND NOTES

## JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Students and Parents: It's time to meet with your consultant regarding suggested schools for you. Check your email for instructions.
  
- Register for your first, or next, standardized test.
  - ACT: December or February
  - SAT: December or MarchNot sure which test to take, what preparation might be best for you, or what role testing will take in your process? Reach out to your consultant.
  
- Plan to visit colleges this spring. Not sure where to go?  
Meet with your consultant to discuss options.

## LAUNCHING YOUR COLLEGE CHOICE JOURNEY

Welcome to your monthly newsletter! Here you will find information on all things related to exploring, applying to, and choosing colleges. This month we want to encourage you to do the following:

- As you near the end of the semester, keep in mind something we will say over and over: your grades matter! Do what you need to do to finish strong this semester.
  
- Attend a variety of college virtual information sessions and take virtual tours to gather information and discover what you do and don't like. Take notes! This will help your consultant identify best fit schools for you and your notes could be very useful when you write "why do you want to attend this college" essays next year!
  
- Think about your summer plans. Explore your interests, volunteer, get a job, do an independent project. Your college consultant will help you put together a summer that is meaningful and fun.



## TESTING

There are different ways to do this successfully! We want to assist you, so please use this information as it is intended (general guidance) and contact us with your questions. While the vast majority of colleges remain test-optional, we strongly recommend that you take testing seriously and plan accordingly.

**WHICH TEST:** Both the ACT and SAT are accepted universally at US colleges. Pick the test that works best for you. Not sure which one to choose? Talk to your consultant.

**PREPARATION:** Clients often ask us what they can do to raise their scores. Preparation is important! Make a plan and execute it faithfully. We can help! Please contact us to arrange a meeting to discuss your plan. For students who would benefit from test preparation, please note that two on-line tutoring services, Arborbridge and Compass Prep, offer discounted rates for McNeal Sams clients. If you prefer in person tutoring, we can help you identify resources in your area.