We hope you are doing well and staying safe! I wanted to reach out with lots of information about college and postsecondary planning. All information and steps included in this newsletter are actionable items that students can be working on now to prepare for college applications in the fall. We are so excited to have our founding class thinking through their plans after graduation, and look forward to partnering with you in this process. Best,

Mr. Clifford Kocian  
Director, College & Career Counseling

**Naviance**  
Naviance is our home base for all graduation, college, and postsecondary items. Students will need to be able to access their Naviance accounts regularly to request teacher recommendations, complete college applications, engage in college searches, and complete self-assessments. Our Riverside Naviance page can be reached at this web address:  
https://student.naviance.com/riversidehigh

During e-learning, students were asked to complete several assessments on Naviance. **Students should complete these as soon as possible if they have not done so already.** I would encourage students and families to review results, explore associated careers, and use this information as a platform to inform college/major/career choices. All assessments can be found under “About Me”.

1. **StrengthsExplorer**: helps uncover talents and potential strengths. StrengthsExplorer identifies areas of natural talent—ways in which we naturally think, feel, and act, and then associates them with potential careers.
2. **MI Advantage**: provides intelligence profile by asking about abilities and preferences in different areas. Results are ranked through Gardner’s Multiple Intelligences. Students can associate areas of strength with related careers.
3. **Career Interest Profiler**: identifies interests, which are then categorized into types of occupations. Students can then explore specific careers in areas in which they showed a strong interest.
4. **Senior Survey**: the way to provide important information to those who are writing letters of recommendation. **Teachers cannot write letters of recommendation until this is complete.** Find directions and more information here: tinyurl.com/2021seniorsurvey

Students who cannot access Naviance should email Mr. Kocian to have their login reset.

**Register for Upcoming SAT & ACT**  
We strongly encourage all students to take the SAT or ACT at least once. While many schools are moving towards test-optional admissions, a good test score is likely to increase admissions chances. Here are the upcoming fall test dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• August 29</td>
<td>• September 14</td>
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<td>• September 26</td>
<td>• October 26</td>
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<td>• October 3</td>
<td>• December 14</td>
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<td>• November 7</td>
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<td>• December 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT</td>
<td>ACT</td>
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Fee Waivers

Students who qualify are eligible for fee waivers for the SAT and ACT. Because of disruptions caused by Coronavirus, ACT and SAT are updating their guidelines regarding waivers. We will send out more information when we have it. For right now, Riverside can provide a fee waiver for the SAT for qualifying students. Email Mr. Kocian for details.

**Build Your College List**

A college list is a list of colleges and universities that could be a great fit for you. Ultimately, this will be the list of schools that you apply to. To start, this list should be every school that the student is considering for any reason. The list will then be paired down further along in the process.

**How to build a strong list?**

Consider colleges that match your interests, goals, and what’s important to you. Search by location, majors, campus life, athletics, or any other criteria you can imagine. There are two great search engine options:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Naviance</th>
<th>College Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| - Log on to Naviance  
- Click on “Colleges”  
- Under “Find your Fit”, click on “SuperMatch”  
**This will be your official application list. Even if you use other platforms, make sure to have your official list in Naviance.** | - Click on this website: [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search)  
OR  
- Go to collegeboard.org  
- Under College Planning, click “college search”  
**Students should all have a College Board account. With this, they can register for the SAT and view their SAT/PSAT scores.**  
Click here for more info: [https://pages.collegeboard.org/pdf/how-build-college-list.pdf](https://pages.collegeboard.org/pdf/how-build-college-list.pdf) |

As students are developing their list, they should find schools that fit into three categories. Students should ultimately apply to at least one school in each category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Reach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Schools for which your test scores, GPA, and extracurricular accomplishments exceed those of a typical applicant by a significant amount.  
**Schools you are highly likely to be admitted to.** | Schools in which your student profile is generally similar to that of the typical admitted student.  
Schools that make sense based off your data. You are a competitive applicant. | Extremely competitive schools, or schools in which the average admit exceeds you to some extent.  
Schools that receive so many qualified applicants that even those who meet standards get turned away. |

For tips on how to begin building your list, check out these articles:  
[https://blog.collegevine.com/seven-tips-for-creating-your-college-list/](https://blog.collegevine.com/seven-tips-for-creating-your-college-list/)  
[https://blog.collegevine.com/10-considerations-for-making-your-college-list/](https://blog.collegevine.com/10-considerations-for-making-your-college-list/)
Earn Scholarships for College Planning
Sign up for the Opportunity Scholarship on College Board. Students can earn a $500 scholarship simply by building a college list. Students can also earn $1,000 for completing SAT practice on Khan Academy. Find info and details here: https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/?prid=cp-section2-cbos

Explore Careers
Students should explore careers associated with their Naviance assessment results. Students can also explore careers and interests under the “careers” tab. Saved/liked careers can then be tied into college search criteria. College Board also has a career finder than can be located here: https://roadtripnation.com/edu/careerfinder?utm_source=cblandingpage&utm_medium=cb620-landingpage&utm_campaign=covid_college_planning_juniorCareerFinder

Understanding Financial Aid
Click on the link below to start planning and educating yourself on financial aid. The FAFSA goes live in October, so it will be important to have everything ready to complete it at that time. https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid/how-aid-works

Summer Meetings
Mr. Kocijan will be available to meet with students and families on Thursdays throughout the summer to talk through college planning. If you would like to sign up for a meeting time, click here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4FA8AA2CA3F49-college

Social Media
Follow Riverside Counseling on social media for news and updates!
Instagram: @riverside.counseling
Twitter: @ArgoCounseling