

Stafford Soccer - College Planning Guide Preparation for College



PARENTS - Ten Rules To Live By In The College Search Process:

1. Be respectful of your son or daughter's ownership of the college admissions decision-making process. It is the student who will spend the years on the college campus, and therefore, the decision must ultimately be theirs. Students can gain decision-making skills, improve their self-confidence, and develop perseverance which will help them throughout their lives. Remember, your role is to be supportive.
2. Endeavor to be realistic regarding your child's abilities and talents. While each student is special and has unique qualities and abilities, it is difficult for a parent to be entirely objective about one's own child! Remember that college admissions are extremely competitive (especially within state) and there are many talented young people.
3. Give your son or daughter the benefit of your wisdom and your experience, and tell the student "up front" if there will be restrictions (financial or otherwise) on his/her college options.
4. Remember, the student wants and needs your help in the process but does not need to be overwhelmed with your impressions and ideas. Be available to help when help is solicited.
5. Help with some of the logistical aspects of the college-search process. Plan travel arrangements to campuses, schedule college interviews (where available), and schedule testing. Help to ensure that critical deadlines are met.
6. Be supportive of your child's aspirations, but encourage him/her to be realistic. Help him/her to select the "best" college choices, not necessarily the "top-name" or most prestigious institution.
7. When in doubt, ask. The College Counselor is available to help with your questions and concerns. Also, the university-level counselors can offer their insight. It is natural to have questions during this time period.
8. Prepare your child to be an independent being. Encourage time away from home when your child must be self-reliant. Help establish a checking account, and help your child learn to do his/her own laundry.
9. Realize that the college admissions process is a highly stressful time for the student as well as the parent. Take each part of the process a step at a time, and remember that help is always readily available.
10. Prepare for the transition to college. The summer after high school graduation, as well as the first semester of college, can be difficult periods. As your son or daughter makes the adjustment from high school to college, avoid over-reacting to new situations; try to sort through the conflicts and issues as they arise.