

March Spirit - Guidance

Spring is the season for college planning! Juniors are well on their way to selecting colleges for visits and applications. In junior advising class, students have recently completed a series of assignments on career exploration and are completing a draft version of the Common Application in preparation for next fall. Spring is also the time for standardized tests for college. Students at FRCS are prepared for the SAT in a variety of ways beginning in freshmen year.

1. All students in 9th and 10th grade spend three weeks in Achievement Teams preparing for the PSAT in late September and early October
2. All 10th and 11th grade students take the PSAT at school in October
3. All juniors participate in junior advising class and receive periodic updates about SAT preparation, scheduling, and test strategies
4. An FRCS math and English teacher provide a free, eight to ten session SAT prep course in February and March during Academic Enrichment time (in-school)
5. FRCS hosts a free Princeton Review SAT/ACT test administration in March
6. FRCS is a SAT test center in October and June each year

Spring is also the season for college decisions. Some have already heard back from the Early Action applications. Many seniors are in the midst of getting their regular application decisions and financial aid awards from colleges. April is the month for final college decisions in time for the May 1st commitment deadline. Students at FRCS are encouraged in a variety of ways to aspire to college, especially four year programs.

1. All juniors and seniors participate in junior and senior advising class and complete a number of activities and exercises focused on finding colleges and preparing applications.
2. The high school guidance counselor meets with juniors and families in the spring to discuss individual college goals.
3. Our College/Career Planning Portfolio requirements for senior year, and for graduation, includes "completion of at least two post-secondary education applications" among other items.

For the class of 2010 (through mid - February)

1. 31 of 34 seniors have submitted applications to college
2. 19 of 34 seniors have received acceptances already (most from Early Action applications)
3. 3 have been accepted into one or more Honors programs
4. 9 have received merit awards to at least one college of \$10,000/yr or more

5. 9 have received merit awards to at least one college of \$10,000/yr or more
6. 3 more have received merit awards to at least one college of between \$5,000/yr and \$10,000/yr
7. Overall acceptance rate from 56 decisions returned from colleges to date is 93%

Acceptances include Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Stonehill College, Colby College, University of Vermont, Ohio Wesleyan University, Juniata College, Simmons College, Seton Hall University, Northeastern University, UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, UMass Dartmouth, Framingham State College, Bridgewater State College, Bentley College, Baldwin-Wallace College, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, Assumption College, University of Rhode Island, Keane State College, Emanuel College, and Drew University.

Congratulations to the senior class for their opportunities thus far! There will be many more in the coming weeks.