

## Looking Ahead to High School and Beyond

### **Online Resources:**

Hinsdale Central Website <http://central.hinsdale86.org/pages/default.aspx>

On the left side menu click on "Guidance"

On the left side menu click on "Naviance Link"

Click "Enter as Guest" box on lower right

Choose from menu on left side – try "Scattergrams" & pick out a school of choice from the list

From the "Guidance" menu you can also click on "Documents" where you will find all kinds of information for ex. "College Admissions" has copies of presentations, "General Info" has copies of the Task Force Report on Guidance from 5/08, matriculation data, etc.

Common Application <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

National Association for College Admissions Counseling <http://www.nacacnet.org/Pages/default.aspx>

College Admission and Student Aid Resource Aid <http://inlikeme.com/>

New York Times questions and answers on college admissions

<http://questions.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/12/17/qa-college-admissions/?ref=edu>

College Confidential: Analysis of admission by GPA at selective colleges

<http://talk.collegeconfidential.com/college-admissions/567740-selective-colleges-admitting-students-below-3-75-gpa.html>

ECAE list of college books and lists <http://www.ecae.net/2008/07/college-guidebooks-and-other-college-lists/>

College Reviews by College Students <http://www.unigo.com/>

For athletes: College eligibility information <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/index.html>

### **Books:**

A is for Admission by Michele Hernandez "The insiders guide to getting into Ivy League and other top colleges"

What to Do When for College by Edward B. Fiske & Brad C. Hammond

Preparing for Power by Peter W. Cookson, Jr. & Caroline Hodges Persell "America's elite boarding schools"

School of Dreams by Edward Humes "Making the grade at a top American high school"

The Gatekeeper by Jacques Steinberg "Inside the admissions process of a premier college"

What You Don't Know Can Keep You Out of College by Don Dunbar "A top consultant explains 13 fatal application mistakes and why character is key to college admissions"

College Planning for Gifted Students: Choosing & Getting into the Right College by Sanda Berger

What Colleges Don't Tell You (& Other Parents Don't Want You to Know) by Elizabeth Wissner-Gross "272 Secrets for Getting your kid into the top schools"

What High Schools Don't Tell You (& Other parents Don't Want You to Know) by Elizabeth Wissner-Gross "Create a long-term plan for your 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grader for getting into the top colleges"

How They Got Into Harvard by the Staff of the Harvard Crimson "50 successful applicants share 8 key strategies for getting into the college of your choice"

## **“What is helpful for middle school parents/students to know now?” – An experienced parent’s perspective**

The steps you take now will determine your child’s options later.

### **Specific Suggestion Number 1**

Utilize your child’s natural interests and self-motivation and get him or her involved in educational/artistic/athletic activity he or she is passionate about. It is fun, but also has long-term benefits.

### **Specific Suggestion Number 2**

To help focus interests, goals, and incentives and reduce stress, start looking at colleges earlier rather than later.

### **Specific Suggestion Number 3**

Get to know your high school guidance counselor early on.

### **Specific Suggestion Number 4**

Honors and AP classes are important to selective colleges, so pick appropriately challenging courses.

### **Specific Suggestion Number 5**

Parents should become an educated resource so they can help with college advice that is right for their child.

### **Specific Suggestion Number 6**

Caution your child to watch his or her disciplinary history and digital footprint.

**Goal for parents:** To encourage and inspire your child’s natural interests, so by the time your child applies to the college of his or her dreams, he or she will be very accomplished in his or her field of interest. Ignite and fuel that academic/artistic/athletic passion.