

THE CREO GRUNCH



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"Even though you might not feel like you're in the right place or the right spot, give it your all in all that you do."



[PODCAST EPISODE 138 LINK](#)



Apply to College

It's decision time! Many of your seniors will be receiving regular decisions over the next few weeks. This will be a time to celebrate and show case how hard your seniors have worked. Consider creating social media posts or a display on campus that celebrates the college acceptances your students are receiving.

College News

Completing the FAFSA has been challenging for many students and their families. Unfortunately, the Department of Education has not provided concrete dates for when all glitches with the new form will be fixed. This month, plan ahead and consider scheduling a follow up Financial Aid drive for families that either have not started the process or who are struggling with the form. While we may not have all the answers right now, it's important to assist families however we can.



How do seniors start narrowing down their college choice?

COUNSELORS

The final college choice should be strategically made, with data and all the facts laid out in front of the student and their family. This decision can very easily become an emotional one. After all, the student may have had their sights set on that college since they first sat in an information session. Or, perhaps mom or dad are alumni and the student feels the pressure of attending.

As counselors, this is where we coach our students to look at the facts first. This is where the numbers matter most! If possible, during a classroom presentation, talk to seniors about not only college fit, but also the fiscal or financial fit of a college. The college they elect to attend should, ideally, meet their financial needs. Share information about what it means to borrow responsibly, as some families will strongly consider the option to borrow. Whether or not we personally agree with an undergrad borrowing to attend college, it is in every student's best interest that we provide, at the least, a foundational education on responsible borrowing.



PARENTS

This time of year for your senior is crucial. They have navigated the college application process and are now sorting through financial aid and scholarship applications. At this point, you may be exhausted! As a parent, you have been supportive and as visible as possible. Perhaps your job is flexible and you have been an active part of the journey. Perhaps, the opposite is true because you have a demanding job and you find that your time with your senior is limited. Regardless, now is the time to discuss the non-negotiables. While your senior is waiting for the last admissions decisions to come in, if you have not already, begin discussing what, as a family, you have decided are non negotiables and what you will be flexible about. For example, your family may feel it is important for your child to live on campus the first year of college, so the price of a dorm and meal plan will need to be taken into account for every college you are strongly considering. Or, perhaps, you have already determined that financially, it will only be possible for your child to travel home on major holidays, so the location of the college will be a crucial factor to consider. Having these discussions before all decisions come in will allow your family to confidently move towards a final college choice.



Visit these **RESOURCES**
with your Senior.

[College Affordability Guide](#)

[Self Survey for the College Bound](#)

[Coursava](#)

[How Do I Decide What College To Attend](#)

[FAFSA Forecaster](#)

[College Board Net Price Calculator](#)

[Scholarships.com](#)

[Financial Aid Data Spreadsheet](#)