

ROBERT FROST MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL - PARENT BREAKFAST

J. Darius Greene

Assistant Director of Student Affairs

University of Maryland

Topics of discussion

- Current state of higher education
- Admissions criteria
- Year-by-Year steps
- Funding opportunities
- Tips for successful applicants

Current state of higher education

- Various options
 - ▣ Traditional face to face
 - 4 year colleges/universities
 - Community colleges
 - ▣ Online campuses
 - ▣ Specialized
 - Music Conservatories, Graphic /Interior Design, Fashion, Culinary Arts,
- Competitive admission standards
- Tuition increases
- Attainable!!!

Admission Criteria – What most colleges consider

- Academic performance
- Quality of coursework
- Standardized test scores (ACT or SAT)
- Progression of performance
- Class rank (if applicable)

Admission Criteria – Example list of all factors

High School Achievement	Extracurricular Activities
Grades in Academic Subjects	Special Talents or Skills
Progression of Performance	Community Involvement
Rank in Class (actual or percentile)	Community Service
Written Expression of Ideas (Essay)	Demonstrated Leadership
Gender	Academic Endeavors Outside the Classroom
SAT I or ACT Scores	Quality of Coursework
Work Experience	Residency Status
Recognition of Special Achievements	Race
Extenuating Circumstances	Ethnicity
Socio-Economic Background	Family Educational Background
Geographic Origin	Learning Differences
Breadth of Life Experiences	English as a Second Language/Language Spoken at Home

Admission Profiles – Fall 2009 freshmen class

- North Carolina A&T State University (www.ncat.edu)
 - ▣ 5,713 applied
 - ▣ 3,728 admitted (admit rate: 65%)

- Towson University (www.towson.edu)
 - ▣ Admit rate: 63%

- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (www.unc.edu)
 - ▣ 23,047 applied
 - ▣ 7,342 admitted (admit rate: 32%)

- Columbia University (www.columbia.edu)
 - ▣ 25,427 applied
 - ▣ 2,496 admitted (admit rate: 10%)

profiles for 2009 only; subject to change

What to do Year-by-Year – Middle School

- Begin to stress the need for challenging coursework
 - ▣ Example: foreign language; develop strong math and science foundation
- Enroll in university summer academic programs/camps
 - Get a feel for college environment
- Visit campuses for ‘community days’
 - Example: University of Maryland’s ‘*Maryland Day*’ – April 24, 2010

What to do Year-by-Year – 9th Grade

- Begin taking rigorous curriculum
- Join clubs/organizations to develop leadership skills
- Community service involvement
- Research several college/university websites

What to do Year-by-Year – 10th Grade

- Continue challenging curriculum – more college prep/honors classes!
- Take PSAT
- Strengthen relationship with guidance counselors
- Narrow college search
 - Define ‘type’ and setting of college/university
 - public vs. private; urban vs. non-urban campus
- Contact colleges for information
- Participate in academic summer camp(s) of desired major

What to do Year-by-Year – IIth Grade

- Enroll in as many College Prep/Honors/AP/IB classes as possible
- Meet with guidance counselor to discuss application process
- Identify teacher(s) to write strong recommendation letters
- Prepare and take SAT
- Visit colleges (Campus Tours, Open Houses, etc)
- Enroll in academic summer camps – possibly for college credit

Very important academic year!

What to do Year-by-Year – 12th Grade

- College Prep/Honors/AP/IB classes! Do not get Senioritis!
- Meet with guidance counselors and teachers to define strengths to highlight in recommendation letters
- Meet all application deadlines (admissions and financial aid)!
 - Early Decision – binding; if admitted, must attend; very selective
 - Priority Deadlines – for best consideration for admission
 - Regular Deadline – typically later in year
- Schedule personalized visit with faculty of colleges/universities

Funding Opportunities

- Start researching scholarships now!
- Research college website for funding opportunities
- Apply and meet deadlines for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for each institution!
- Meet with financial aid counselors to develop financial plan

- Useful websites:

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.nextstudent.com

www.finaid.org

www.scholarships.com

www.petersons.com

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.college-insight.org

Successful applicants...

- Are globally aware, critical thinkers, creative, and effective communicators
- Meet **all** application deadlines (admissions and financial aid)!!!
- Tell their story in the application
 - ▣ Articulate the value/meaning of each experience
 - ▣ Helps the reviewer make a connection with applicant
- Visit campuses and maintain contact with college representatives
- Participate in dual-enrollment programs or take summer courses at local community college



Questions?

J. Darius Greene,
Assistant Director of Student Affairs
University of Maryland
arhu-admit@umd.edu