



ROAD TO COLLEGE

SEP 1ST 2025

Newsletter

Dear Students & Families,

Welcome to the very first edition of the Road to College Newsletter! Each week, we'll bring you college prep tips, important deadlines, success stories, best practice shares, and motivation to help you stay on track throughout the college preparation journey. Whether you're a middle schooler, freshman just starting to think about your future or a senior polishing applications, we're here to guide you every step of the way.



TO DO LIST

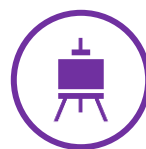
Start strong! Aim for straight A's. GPA starts now and top colleges want to see consistent academic strength. Pay attention to HW deadlines.

Build strong relationships with your teachers, take an active role in class.

Plan for AP Capstone or research-based projects.

Limit your screen time!

AI is Your Assistant, Not Your Author. Use AI for brainstorming, organizing, and improving, not copying!



REMINDERS and DEADLINES

SAT Registration Deadline: Sept 6

ACT Exam Date: Sept 14

College Applications Open: August 1

Start drafting your Common App essay

Talk to your teachers about letters of recommendation

Enroll in school clubs and sports!!!



College Prep Tip: Take one [full-length practice SAT test](#) per month. Review your mistakes carefully and log them in a study tracker. Connect your Bluebook account to [Khan Academy](#).

SAMPLE COLLEGE ESSAY

Being the Handyman

I've been the "handyman" of the house for as long as I can remember. I started out, armed with a roll of duct tape looped around my chubby child arms as I marched about the house, waiting for my mother to call on me. In those days, I didn't know much about the technical details but knew the phrase "duct tape fixes everything." My dad would say it as I helped my mother fix tears in folders, boxes, and even a picture frame.

I picked up sewing around third grade, when my younger sister had started to get a bit too rough with her stuffed toys. I had gotten the gist, practicing on scrap fabric, before opening shop to the slew of well-loved but torn stuffed toys me and my sister shared. My stitchwork became so good, my mother would ask that I mend and alter some of her clothes. I remember the feeling of the pin pricking my finger every time I let the needle slip, but I also know the feeling of accomplishment as the mended toys were returned to my sister, and the altered clothes fit my mother like a glove.

[Continue Reading...](#)

Admissions Committee Comments to Essay

*Sarah chronicles her experience as her household "handyman" and the versatility of skills she acquired over the years. As each dilemma arose, from a torn stuffed animal and damaged fence to a broken hook, Sarah learned how to repair it. By taking us through each skill she developed, Sarah shares personal anecdotes that demonstrate her sense of **community**, **service**, and **family**. We see **adaptability** as she picks up new mediums and an **eagerness** to learn through hands-on methods. In each of these projects, Sarah also shows the **innovation** and **resourcefulness** that can be present in seemingly ordinary tasks. This innate **curiosity** will be invaluable at John Hopkins Uni. where students seek new perspectives, ideas, and solutions.*