

**Bayport-Blue Point UFSD  
Bayport-Blue Point High School**

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Counseling Center News  
November Edition**

Dear BBP Community;

It is college season and we are all very busy processing college applications. It is very important that you stress the need for your child to apply as soon as possible to college, especially if it is a state institution. As you are aware, the economic climate has made state universities and colleges very popular so some colleges may fill up quickly.

We would also like to remind you that the Counseling Center will do its best to send out all material to colleges in a timely manner. The time should be within a week. We ask that if your child has special deadlines, that this is communicated to us in the Counseling Center.

We are here to assist you and your child through this exciting process. Please feel free to email us or call if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

The Counseling Staff

**Counseling Center Events and Dates**

***On-site College Application Day...***

The Counseling Center will sponsor a College Application Day on November 16, 2009. St. John's University, St. Joseph's College, Five Towns College, Briarcliff College, Suffolk Community College and Farmingdale State College will attend and conduct a formal application interview at BBP High School. Your child will receive *on the spot* notification of their application. Please urge your child to register for this event by November 9, 2009. Even if your child does not plan on attending any of these schools, it is a great experience to be involved in this process. You never know!

***SAT, ACT Scores...***

And other college entrance exams will not be sent by the Counseling Center. Please make sure that you or your child sends their scores through the appropriate testing agency (SAT or ACT).

***BOCES Orientation...***

It is hard to believe that we are already thinking about next year. With that in mind, we remind those students who are interested in attending BOCES that there will be an orientation during the first week in December. Interested students should listen to the morning announcements or stop by the Counseling Center to follow-up with their counselor.

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***CoreCourseGPA.com...***

For prospective Division I and II athletes, we have instituted a new program to help them track their core courses for the NCAA Eligibility. Just follow the instructions mailed home in a recent letter or call the Counseling Center for assistance OR you can go to CoreCourseGPA.com and create an account in the New Member Account Creation Box. The School ID is 330345 and the School Code is 724805050.

***Counseling Center College Materials...***

The Counseling Center has an abundance of college materials. We ask you to remind your child that they can find a complete listing of scholarships, college open houses, college applications and related college information. These materials are up to date and are a good way of getting a visual of the college's requirements and programs.

***Visit, Visit, Visit...***

Families neglect to utilize the best resource in the college selection process, the College Visit. Without getting an actual view of what the college has to offer, it will be extremely difficult to realize what the campus has to offer. We urge you to visit before applying. It will save you money in application fees.

***Electronic Application***

It is highly recommended that your child apply to college electronically. Most colleges make this process extremely user friendly. Applying in this manner also expedites the college application and starts a file at the college. Once the file is started, the fun begins. So get a jump by applying electronically.

***College Week Live...***

*Want to have fun, log into College Week Live to take a virtual tour of a college fair. You can actually hear admission and financial aid specialists speak on the process, as well as college admissions personnel speak on behalf of their colleges. So log on to <http://www.collegeweeklive.com/>*

***Freshman...***

*By now you should know where your locker is and all your classes and we are sure that you have met many new friends. Since that is all behind you now, it is time to reach out and get involved in the many school activities BBP HS has to offer. Remember that colleges want to see a well rounded student...one that has made a commitment to a cause. So look around, try a few, then pick the one that fits you best. Have fun!*

***Postage on College Application Envelopes***

*Parents are reminded NOT to place postage on college application envelopes. The school district will provide this expense. In most cases we will have to void your postage due to weight or size. Sooooo... save your stamp money. Thank you.*

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***SAT Coaching Websites...***

Need help with some SAT review? Check out some of the following sites for assistance:

[www.number2.com](http://www.number2.com) , [www.howstuffworks.com/sat.htm](http://www.howstuffworks.com/sat.htm), [www.testu.com](http://www.testu.com) , [www.freevocabulary.com](http://www.freevocabulary.com),  
[www.freesat1prep.com](http://www.freesat1prep.com) [www.highscore.com](http://www.highscore.com), [www.mysatreview.com](http://www.mysatreview.com), [www.studyhall.com](http://www.studyhall.com)

***How to conduct a college search on the College Board Site...***

**COLLEGEBOARD.COM COLLEGE SEARCH**

1. Log onto CollegeBoard.com
2. Click on For Students
3. Go to My Organizer and sign in or create a free account
4. Click on Find a College
5. Click on College Search Engine
6. Click on the Start key in the College Matchmaker box
  - a. There are several pages in this section
  - b. Click on all of the criteria that applies to you
  - c. On the bottom, right side of each page is a Next key
  - d. Click on the Next key to go to the next page
  - e. You can click on the See Results page on the bottom left
7. When you have completed the Matchmaker, click on See Results
8. You will get a list of colleges that match your criteria
9. Click on the School to get information

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***Financial Aid Websites...***

***Log on to one of the following to assist you with your scholarship search;***

[www.saliemae.com/index.html](http://www.saliemae.com/index.html) ,[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com),[www.theoldschool.org](http://www.theoldschool.org) ,[www.freescholarships.com](http://www.freescholarships.com),  
[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com) ,[www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com), [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com) ,[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)  
[www.college-scholarships.com](http://www.college-scholarships.com) ,[www.studentrewards.com](http://www.studentrewards.com), [www.discovercard.com/tribute.htm](http://www.discovercard.com/tribute.htm)  
[www.free-4u.com](http://www.free-4u.com), [www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/agencies.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/agencies.html) ,[www.ne-epc.com/aid.asp](http://www.ne-epc.com/aid.asp)  
[www.gocollege.com/goscholarshipsearch/index.html](http://www.gocollege.com/goscholarshipsearch/index.html),[www.hesaa.com](http://www.hesaa.com)

***What can I do with this Major?***

**What is Criminology?**

**Criminology** is the system of law enforcement, the bar, the judiciary, corrections, and probation that is directly involved in the apprehension, prosecution, defense, sentencing, incarceration, and supervision of those suspected of or charged with criminal offenses.

It is a term used for the series of steps involved in proving any criminal activity like gathering evidence, arresting the accused, conducting trials, making defense, pronouncing judgment after the crime is proved, carrying out punishment.

*Related Major Skills*

Written & presentation skills	Research strategies
Understanding societies' reaction to crimes	Ethics and moral values
Considerations of gender & race	Interviewing skills
Quantitative skills	Strong background in humanities, social science, & natural science
Skills in research and scientific methodology	Broad understanding of criminal law and the criminal justice system
Critical thinking	Computer literacy
Understanding nature of crimes	Ability to identify and analyze social problems and develop solutions
Decision-making	Knowledge of legal structures
Patience	Supervision & management skills

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*Expand Your College Options*

Conversations at summertime gatherings this year seemed gloomier than in years past. Whether people were talking about the economy, the Middle East, or other challenges that our nation faces, discussions were marked by frustration and angst. But when friends visiting from out of state asked me about the college selection process, their anxiety was palpable. Because I've worked in admissions and enrollment at six selective institutions over the past 30 years, the topic is a frequent one when friends and family are in town.

Our former neighbors' oldest, a boy soon to be a senior in high school, was beginning the college selection process, and the whole family was almost paralyzed with anxiety. The crux of their worries? Their son is not a straight-A student. They read *U.S. News*, and because so many of the stories there focus on the increasing and incredible competitiveness of admission to Ivy and near-Ivy institutions, this family seems nearly in panic about the son's chances of getting into the right college.

But as I sat and talked with this young man about his achievements, interests, and talents, I saw a very different picture develop. As we chatted about his academic career, you could see his tension: A C in algebra in his freshman year seemed to him to pose an almost insurmountable obstacle to admission to a good college, even though since that time he has been taking solid courses and earning all A's and B's at a very fine public high school.

When we started to talk about politics, however, this student visibly relaxed. He knew the issues of the current election inside and out, including where each candidate stands on major issues, and could recount many details of the previous presidential election as well. He loves studying about international relations and reads the *Economist* and the *Financial Times*. His knowledge of global geography compares favorably with most students' knowledge of their own hometowns. He writes well and even writes letters—by hand!—to friends and relatives. He seems to have a glorious hunger to learn.

When our conversation all too soon switched from presidential campaigns and the strength of the dollar back to the college search, I was pleased to rattle off to him a few dozen terrific colleges that would read his application for admission carefully. Looking beyond the C in algebra, these schools would focus on his ability to contribute to their institution's sense of community and how he would make that college a better place through his interests, skills, and talents. The smile on his face broadened with each college I mentioned.

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*Expand your College Options...*

**Stand tall.** That conversation reminded me that there are many—too many—families who agonize over the college selection process because they focus too much on what their students lack, as if an A in freshman algebra magically opens doors that otherwise must stay closed forever. These families could instead focus on what their sons and daughters have to offer first-rate institutions. Many families do not investigate, for example, [Colleges That Change Lives](#), a must-read book by Loren Pope, or U.S. News' own "[A+ Options for B Students](#)" to discover the truly wonderful places that love those B+ students with a passion for learning and combinations of interests that might even be called unusual. Too many families base their understanding of the competitiveness of the college admissions process on the few stories that the media publish, even though those stories typically feature only those ultraselective schools that represent just 1 or 2 percent of undergraduate enrollment.

I hope, in this season of college tours, that families will explore broadly the many first-rate colleges to be found across the country—and that, rather than mourn a C or worry about whether their son or daughter will "get in" one of those ultraselective schools, they will celebrate their child's accomplishments and strengths and find the college that will welcome them with open arms because it is the right fit for both the student and the institution.

*Scott Friedhoff is vice president for enrollment and communications at Allegheny College, a private, liberal arts college in Meadville, Pa.*

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*The Top Factors Considered For College Admission By [MyCollegeCalendar](#)*

Tomorrow the National Association of College Admission Counselors will release their findings from the most recent report on the state of college admissions. The 2008 State of College Admission report includes the latest data from fall 2007 and is the most up to date, comprehensive document available on major trends in high school graduation, college enrollment, college applications, admission policies, and much more. However, because available information only includes 2007 data, the Report does not fully consider all impacts of the current economic downturn on college admissions. Nonetheless, it is the “latest and greatest” on current conditions with admissions to colleges and universities.

One interesting aspect of the 2008 Report is the top factors college admission officers evaluate when considering students for admission remain unchanged. As in previous years, the top factors are:

1. Grades in college prep courses.
2. Strength of student academics (difficulty of student’s course curriculum).
3. Admission test scores (SAT® and/or ACT® scores).
4. Overall grade point average (GPA).

Other factors (in order of importance) included in the 2008 Report include:

5. Application essays.
6. Class rank.
7. Demonstrated interest of students in attending a particular college.
8. Counselor recommendations.
9. Teacher recommendations.
10. Interviews.
11. SAT Subject Test™ scores.
12. Extracurricular activities.

The 2008 Report also emphasizes the importance of the above factors 5, 10, 8, 9, 12, 7 and work (employment) for admission to private, smaller colleges and universities. The more selective schools (the more difficult colleges and universities to get accepted to), consider factors 5, 8, 9, 12, 11, and work (employment) to be important in addition to factors 1 – 4.

The 2008 Report makes clear that college-bound students (freshmen through seniors) should work to earn top grades in the most challenging courses. Further, to be considered a top applicant for admission, application essays and recommendations must be stellar; interviews and extracurricular activities should demonstrate maturity and dedication; and students need to show a true desire to attend the colleges to which they apply.