

Salisbury Academy launches Jaguar Tracks alumni and college prep support services

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The high school years are an exciting time of growth, finding independence, and self-discovery. Yet along with these positives, the process of preparing for and applying to college during this time can be a source of frustration for high school students and their families.

“Knowing how, when, and where to apply, and even how to prepare in the years leading up to that point is often overwhelming,” said Allison Doby, director of admission and alumni support for Salisbury Academy.

In answer to these needs and providing support for Salisbury Academy alumni and students from the larger community, Salisbury Academy is pleased to launch Jaguar Tracks: an alumni

support program offering resources and college counseling in individual and group sessions open to both alumni and non-alumni.

“Through Jaguar Tracks programming we can reduce the stress that students and parents feel during this time and allow high school students to enjoy what should be a very happy time in their lives,” said Doby.

Individual help sessions have begun at Salisbury Academy with each session tailored to the high-schooler’s needs, whether it be help with the application, essay writing, finding the right college, understanding the different majors and programs that colleges offer, or other key steps.

The Academy recently held a coffee and conversation session on financial aid led by Kelli Hand, director of financial aid for Catawba College, as well as the first of a series of group ACT prep sessions.

Salisbury Academy alumni Greysen Smith attended the ACT session and walked away a believer in the program, he says.

“Greysen has already asked to sign up for more sessions,” said Laura Smith, his mother. “I’m so grateful that Salisbury Academy has the resources to help us navigate the college admission system.”

With 11 years of experience in college counseling in Rowan-Salisbury high schools and at UNC Charlotte, Doby has witnessed the breadth of need that exists for help in this process, she shares.

“Students put a lot of pressure on themselves and feel pressure from their surroundings to distinguish themselves and do all the right things,” said Doby.

And as for parents, unless they've had an older child recently go through the admissions process, searching for scholarships and financial aid, helping with high school resume and college essay writing, and deciding which colleges to visit can all leave you at a loss, Doby says.

"Even when you figure all of these things out, they change quickly. If you haven't gotten your information in the past year, unfortunately it's likely not current anymore," said Doby.

Beverly Fowler, head of school for Salisbury Academy, shares that relieving the anxiety of college prep for students and families of the community allows students to focus on what is most important.

"Students with a strong four-year plan in high school can invest their energy in finding out who they are as a person, gaining hands-on experience through volunteering and internships, and building a foundation on which their post-secondary plans become achievable."

Families interested in learning more are invited to contact the office of admission at Salisbury Academy and visit the Jaguar Tracks page at salisburyacademy.org/alumni/support.cfm.

"The addition of Jaguar Tracks further enhances the Salisbury Academy tradition of preparing leaders and children who love to learn," said alumni parent Laura Smith.