



THE STORM KING SCHOOL

Dear Storm King Students and Families,

Amid the challenges associated with the COVID-19 outbreak across the United States in recent weeks, the college admissions landscape seems to be constantly changing. Given such dynamic circumstances, both admitted and prospective students may be finding it difficult to obtain the information they need to make key enrollment and application decisions. The College Counseling Office remains committed to assisting our seniors as they finalize their decisions about where to attend college, and our juniors who are just starting their journey in the college research and application process.

For seniors, April is usually a time to reflect on acceptances and financial aid offers with the goal of choosing where they will go to college by May 1, often referred to as National Signing or Decision Day. However, in recent weeks, given the turmoil associated with COVID-19, many colleges and universities have elected to extend their confirmation and deposit deadlines to June 1 or beyond.

To find out if one or more of their colleges has extended their deadlines, admitted students should reach out directly to the admissions and financial aid offices for information, or if needed, to request a deadline extension. In most cases, colleges and universities will grant a student additional time to confirm their spot in the class if the request is made ahead of the May 1st deadline. If students are unable to connect directly with the admissions office, other resources, such as the list created by the advocacy group Admissions Counselors Cultivating Equity and Peace Today (ACCEPT), might help students and families reach enrollment decisions. ACCEPT's list tracks colleges and universities that have extended their confirmation deadlines in real time.

As I mentioned in my previous updates, juniors traditionally spend their spring semester visiting college campuses, engaging admissions counselors during college visits and fairs, meeting with their college counselor, taking standardized tests, and developing a list of colleges of interest. Please note that these tasks are still on every junior's to-do list! While physical access to many of these resources has been scaled back, juniors can still actively explore college options through virtual college visits, admissions webinars, and online research. They can also schedule a Zoom meeting with the college counselor to jump start their college search and address any questions they have going into the summer.

With College Board and ACT cancelling national test dates in April and May, many colleges and universities have opted to modify standardized test policy for admission for the up and coming application season to accommodate and support affected students. More than 1,000 colleges and universities have announced changes to their testing requirements. Some are opting to drop the requirement permanently, while others are going test-optional for a limited period of time. It is the responsibility of prospective students to carefully research the standardized test requirement for each school they plan to apply to in the fall and plan accordingly.

To help keep juniors on track with their standardized test preparation, The Storm King School has arranged for an online practice SAT on May 5, 2020. The test will be conducted with live proctors who will monitor the timing, sequencing, and setting of the SAT, using a College Board approved version of the test. Once they have their results, students can tailor any additional preparation to their strengths and challenges so they are ready to sit an official test in August or October.

In this rapidly changing and dynamic time, it is important that students have the tools they need to make informed decisions surrounding college admissions, application, and attendance. Always remember that the College Counseling Office stands by ready to help! It has been my privilege to accompany the Class of 2020 on their journey thus far, and I look forward to being an enthusiastic shepherd and witness to what lies ahead for the Class of 2021.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marti Kwon, Director of College Counseling
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