### Making Your College Application Stand Out



### The Holistic Approach

### **Holistic Approach**

- Academics
- School & community involvement
- First in family to attend college
- Ethnic background
- Where you live
- Interests
- Personal Qualities Essay
- Field of Study



### Academics

- GPA importance
- GPA calculator https://gpacalculator.io/cumulative-gpa-calculator/
- Overcoming a poor grade
- Taking advanced classes (IB, college, honors)



### **ACT/SAT Standardized Tests**

- Importance & Relevance
- ACT vs SAT
- Retakes



### **Activities**

- Sports school or club
- Clubs
- Scouts
- Church
- Musical instruction or performance
- Work



### Internships

- Saturday Academy
- ACE Architecture, Construction & Engineering
- OHSU Research Internships
- Girls & Boys State
- Summer Camps
- Finding others



### Volunteering

- Interest & Passion
- Field of Study Interest
- Finding opportunities TuHS CCC website
- Local Opportunities
  - Spruce up the Library Fri, April 22, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
  - Tualatin Great Camp
  - Team Tualatin
  - Tualatin Put Down the Roots
  - TuHS Packleader



### Tip: Be a leader

- Become an officer in a club
- Lead a community service project
- Lead a one time event in a club
- Class project

## Tip: Record Activities & Community Service Now

#### **Example:**

#### Freshman Year

Track (varsity 400 meter)

Helped at Middle School track meet, April 2019, 4 hours, handed out water

#### **Sophomore Year**

Cross Country (Junior varsity)

Track (varsity 400 meter)

Homecoming - October 2019, 2 hours, made posters

Team Tualatin, July 2020, 40 hours, painted park equipment, weeded, planted trees

#### **Junior Year**

Packleader - 30 hours, attended training, led incoming freshman

Regatta Run - October 2021, 3 hours, helped set up balloon arch

Tualatin Putting Down Roots - November 2021, 3 hours, planted trees

### What if I can't be involved?



- Family responsibilities can count as activities
- Opportunity to explain on college essay

### **Letters of Recommendation**

#### \*Identify 2-3 adults who know you well

- Teacher
- Coach
- Boss
- Club Advisor
- NOT family or friend



\*Brag Sheet - "About Me" in Naviance and find "Surveys from your School

#### \*Tips:

- Give adequate time for recommender to write letter
- Give them specifics academics, specific qualities, challenges or activity involvement
- Thank recommender.

## Information at Your Fingertips! Use the TuHS College and Career Website

Tualatin High Website - Counseling - College and Career

- Home page
- Naviance
- Jobs & <u>Volunteering</u>
- To Do Lists
- <u>Past Presentations</u>
- Connecting with the College and Career Center



### **Upcoming Presentations**

**April 3 Finding the Best College Fit** 

**April 10** The College Application Process

April 17 Writing a Dynamic College Essay

**Apply 24** Paying for College:

**Scholarships & More** 

May 1 Decision Day Celebration!



# TuHS College and Career Center

Kathy Stallkamp kstallkamp@ttsd.k12.or.us 503-431-5652

Jennifer Butts jbutts@ttsd.k12.or.us 503-431-5772

