An Early Preview:
Navigating the College Landscape for Middle School Parents

Lauren Lieberman, Director of College Counseling
March 13, 2018
Agenda

I. How this event came to be
II. Landscape of College Admissions in 2018
III. College admissions/college counseling at SSA
IV. Navigating the landscape as a middle school parent - advice
V. Q&A
Almost every question relating to college admissions can be answered by “it depends”

- Is my kid better off playing a sport at school, like soccer, or developing in a less-common activity, like fencing?
- Is it better to do general summer camp or specialized enrichment opportunities or community service or something else?
- As we look ahead towards high school, should I push to have my child in the most challenging classes/path that SSA offers?
- Will athletics/arts/talent/academics/ability to pay/other help or hurt my student’s chances of getting into a college?

Becoming the most authentic, reflective, kind, healthy and whole people they can be is what will help them most
College admissions in 2018: the landscape has changed and continues to each year

National Landscape
• Schools (some) are more selective
• Kids are applying to more schools
  • The Common Application
• New SAT (year 2 of the “new” test, skews higher)
• Competition is fierce
• Good news – every school has raised their level of offerings and services to stay competitive
So many colleges we visit! (this was last year alone)
SSA within the more competitive landscape

Here at SSA

• Students are getting into great schools
• Average number of applications 7-8
• Highly personalized process
  • Touch points at each grade level
  • Layers of advising and support to making the most of Senior School experience
• Students benefit from broad exposure to many opportunities

• Outcome: Students are attending a wide range of schools, diverse as the students and people they are
Advice for navigating this changing landscape as Middle School parents

Help your sons/daughters to:

- Make decisions and be confident in trying new things – big and little
- Talking to teachers
- Joining a club/sport
- Activities, summers, friends
- Get organized
- Develop independence
- Celebrate failure
- Lean into discomfort

Help yourselves to:

- Trust the school and the professionals dedicated to your kids
- Celebrate failure
- Expose your kids to broad definitions and paths to success
Discussion / Q&A