

# THE DOANE STUART SCHOOL

## September 2017 College News

### College Meetings

This fall, nearly 90 colleges will visit Doane Stuart to meet with our students. These take place during the school day, in my office. I strongly encourage sophomores, juniors and seniors to take advantage of these meetings. It is a real compliment to our students that so many schools want to recruit them.

Why are these so important?

- They provide an opportunity to learn about a variety of schools without leaving our campus. These meetings cover everything from academics to admissions. There is valuable information presented.
- They will also help students become comfortable interacting with admission counselors. The admission counselors who visit Doane Stuart are the same people who will read applications and make decisions.
- These meetings allow students to demonstrate interest in a formal way. What does this mean? Most colleges closely track student interest as a way of gauging their likelihood of enrolling. If a student wants to be seriously considered for admission, it is critical to show each college that he or she is genuinely interested in the school. These meetings are part of how colleges evaluate interest (along with official tours, interviews, email contact, and more).

A calendar of all the visits is posted publicly at: <http://www.doanestuart.org/academics/college-counseling/>

Students should login to Naviance (see below) and register for the meetings in advance.

Please encourage your child to attend. If he/she will be missing class, make sure he/she has a conversation with the teacher beforehand.

If you have any questions, or would like some suggestions about which meetings might be helpful to your child, I am happy to assist.

### Naviance

Doane Stuart uses the Naviance College Counseling software. This web-based tool is available to students and parents in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up. If you have not yet used Naviance, please email me and I will be happy to activate yours. Each student and parent has an individual account (so a parent can view information for multiple children).

Here's a link to Naviance: <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=doanestuart>

Naviance is an incredible tool. Among other features, you can:

- See which schools will be visiting Doane Stuart, and register to attend.
- Track the colleges in which you are interested. If a college is on a student's list, he/she will receive emails about future visits.
- See data about colleges.

- Build a resume to help you keep track of extracurriculars/honors/awards. You may forget things from freshman year by the time you are a senior, so tracking this information will be helpful when you are completing your applications.
- See scattergrams – anonymous graphs (by GPA and test scores) of students from Doane Stuart who have applied for admission, and the result of their application.

Example of a scattergram (school is New York University):



## PSAT on October 11

All sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT on **Wednesday, October 11**. It is important for students to arrive on time to school that morning, with #2 pencils and an approved calculator. Doane Stuart covers the cost of the test for all students. Practice tests are available in Ms. Bracken's office. All sophomores and juniors should pick these up. While the PSAT is not used in college admissions (in fact, colleges will never see a student's PSAT score), it is a helpful way for students to gain familiarity with a standardized test. Juniors who score exceptionally high may be eligible for National Merit recognition. Extensive prep for the PSAT is not necessary, but students should take the time to review the practice guide and familiarize themselves with the test format.

Seniors will spend the morning of October 11 working with me. Freshman classes will meet on a regular schedule.

### **SAT Class for Juniors**

The SAT class will again be part of the schedule for all juniors. Families were emailed a schedule of practice tests. The class will meet for a double period on Tuesdays, with students being assigned to either the first or second semester.

Sophomores will also have time built into their schedules for supervised preparation using Khan Academy online.