

APP ADVICE

1. Activities don't define you – it's the opposite. Your participation and attitude define what your experience will be. We care more about the depth of one or two activities than the breadth of a dozen activities.
2. If I were to give 25 essays on the same topic to your best friend, could they pick yours?
3. Bring the teacher writing your recommendation a piece of work of which you're particularly proud. It will help them write a better letter that doesn't just read as a list of your accomplishments.
4. Instead of doing applications all at once in November or December, reserve 1-2 hours a week for the college process where you put all homework and other activities to the side and only focus on college. This will reduce the stress of your fall semester and allow you to work on the application with a fresh mind.
5. Don't list! Listing all the types of music you like, or all of the hobbies you enjoy, in an essay often has the opposite effect from what you're hoping: it actually tells us less about you than if you choose one thing and wrote about its significance in your life.
6. Challenge yourself but don't overdo it. Getting all A's in an easy curriculum won't impress college admissions officers, but neither will low grades in classes that are too much for you to handle. If you want to be an English major, we'll especially look at the rigor and grades in English and history. If you want to be an engineer, then we'll do the same for your math and science classes.