Dear Juniors,

We hope you are all adjusting to distance learning and settling into a new routine. Most importantly, we hope you are healthy and safe and continue to wash your hands and take care of yourselves.

Many colleges are adjusting to these challenging times and acknowledging that the admissions cycle for the Class of 2021 will be different. Some colleges are already making announcements about adjustments to their testing policies and we anticipate others will come in the weeks and months ahead.

Tulane University posted "Coping in the Time of Corona", which will hopefully be reassuring to many of you. Harvard also posted a note of reassurance. Many colleges, like Tulane, are offering a wide range of virtual options to get to know their colleagues. This spreadsheet will allow you to see a comprehensive list of colleges and universities around the country along with links to their virtual visit options, YouTube channels, and other resources. You can still take advantage of the spring and also communicate 'demonstrated interest' virtually without stepping foot on campus. Additionally, Georgia Tech just started an Admissions Podcast, which we think could be beneficial for juniors.

Several colleges announced that they would go test-optional for next year - Boston University, Davidson College, Oregon State University, Pomona College, Scripps College, Tufts University, University of Oregon, and Vassar College. And, just this week, the University of California system announced they would suspend standardized testing requirements for the Fall of 2021 admission. It seems clear that several colleges and universities will review more holistically next year and place less emphasis on standardized testing. If you need to re-adjust your testing timeline, please talk to your college counselor. For up to date information, also please bookmark the College Board and ACT update pages. Revolution Prep is offering students the chance to take free online SAT & ACT practice exams. You can sign up to take a live, online proctored practice exam to help you prepare for the official test. You'll get a free official test and answer sheet and will be able to get your score instantly via Revolution Prep's mobile app.

Typically, Menlo college counselors check in with their junior counselees in the spring to talk about the junior questionnaire and college list research and this year is no different. When we get back from the April break, we'd love to schedule a time just with you to talk about your questionnaire, answer any questions you might have about the process thus far, talk through asking your teachers for recommendations, and anything else that might
be on your mind. Your college counselor will reach out to schedule those meetings. In addition to these check-in meetings, Menlo college counseling will continue with the College Admission Seminar (CAS). We will be inviting you to our Google Classroom soon, where we will have online presentations and quizzes (yes, actually!) you can take so you can be as informed about what is coming up in the College Admissions process.

In the meantime, we hope you are all healthy and safe. Looking forward to ‘seeing’ everyone soon.

The College Counseling Team