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**** The Summer of Enrichment is here!**-are you worried your child has fallen behind because of the school changes due to COVID 19? We are offering enrichment this summer to address these deficits including: organizational and time management skills, reading comprehension, writing skills, study and test taking skills, math, and science. (See our completed list of services below.) Our test prep services and college admissions consultation services continue to draw high school students. Act now to ensure your child's readiness for the Fall of 2020!

****Common App Update:** The new essay prompts have been sent to college admissions consultants like us. We are now working with rising seniors on these essays so that they are completed before summer break. Take advantage of this free time and sign up for essay services!

Helpful Links

For info about SAT I, II, and AP Tests go to:
www.collegeboard.com

For info about ACT test go to:
www.act.org

For info about test optional schools go to:
www.fairtest.org/university/optional

For info about financial aid go to:

I don't know where the time is going. Prior to COVID 19, life was going by very quickly. If we were to use an analogy, I would liken it to the remote control on fast forward at 2x. Since the pandemic's onset, I feel as though someone pushed the fast forward button to 6x! How is that possible?

Our family has experienced many challenges during the past five months, many of which I am sure are like those you have encountered. There have been losses and disappointments. Plans have been scrapped, unable to be replaced. We have had to utilize problem-solving skills we never knew we had, nor could we have ever predicted we would need!

On the other hand, there have been silver-linings that we probably would have never had the good fortune to discover were it not for COVID 19. Of all these unexpected gifts, the one I have enjoyed the most is the ability to spend more time with my two boys and my husband. Were there no pandemic, my 18-year-old son would be heading off to college in three weeks. He would have spent the better part of his senior year and his summer hanging out with his friends and traveling. My 15-year-old son would have been out with his friends almost every weekend and he would have been working this summer at a camp. My husband and I would have been flitting from one office to the next, unable to see each other until just before or well after dinner.

Don't get me wrong: I am a huge proponent of instilling independence in my children and I love that they both have a strong network of solid friendships. However, the selfish part of me is lapping up this "bonus time" with my family. Over the course of the past five months we have grown as individuals and as a family unit. We have shared laughter over the wittiest jokes and the dumbest ones as well. We have learned more about ourselves and each other-reflecting on past events and conversations; helping each other through moments of vulnerability; and reestablishing common ground and interests.

We still do not have answers-when is this pandemic going to end? When will we have a therapeutic and a vaccine to treat it? What will the school year look like? How will we manage our own professional and personal obligations while simultaneously providing our children with the support they need? Time will slowly reveal the answers to these questions. In the meantime, taking life one day at a time (to the best of our ability) could be the best course of action during these uncertain times.

www.FAFSA.ed.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.finaid.org

For college search info go to:

www.collegenavigator.gov

www.collegeprowler.com

To take a virtual tour of college campuses go to:

www.youniversitytv.com

To learn about Colleges That Change Lives go to:

www.ctcl.org

The following schools have made the following changes to their testing requirements for admissions:

Albion College Test Optional Fall 2020

Alfred University Test Optional for Spring and Fall 2021

Alma College Test Optional for traditional first-year students between April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

Amherst College Test optional for freshman in 2020-21 admission cycle

Anderson University test optional now

Babson College Test optional for entry in Fall 2021

Baylor University Test Optional for 2021

Bentley College Test Optional Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

Bethany College Test Optional Fall 2020

Boston College Test Optional 2020-21 admission cycle

Boston University Test Optional for first-year students applying for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

Briar Cliff University waving testing requirements for current high school seniors

Brown University Test optional 200-2021

Bucknell University Test optional beginning fall 2020 for 5-year pilot program

Buena Vista University Test Optional for 2021

As AcademicAlly, LLC enters its twenty-third year in business, we pledge to help you and your family to do more than just “get through” this upcoming school year. We will help our students to become more self-aware, patient, and deliberate with their plan of action. We will be your child’s strongest advocate outside of the confines of your home. We will listen to concerns and provide suggestions for troubleshooting and, we will validate our clients’ feelings as they set out on a brand-new uncharted terrain. As our name states, we are your ally and we are here to help your child meet with personal and academic success, in school and at home.

Yours in partnership,
Hannah Bookbinder, LSW, M.Ed.

In keeping with the theme of preparation, we thought it would be helpful to include an article that outlines suggestions for making the return to school a smooth one:

TIPS FOR PARENTS ON MANAGING THEIR CHILDREN’S TRANSITIONS BACK INTO THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

July 27, 2020

Samantha Brady, LCSW, a Senior Social Worker with Metropolitan’s Adoption Support and Preservation program, shares advice for parents on transitioning children back to their school routines amid the pandemic

As we know, parenting is one of the hardest and most patience-testing jobs we will ever do.

For most of us, we rely on school so we can take break to recharge and prepare for the mornings, nights and weekends. What do we do when sending our children back to school is not possible, or if they will only be there part time, or if school provokes anxiety due to the current Covid-19 pandemic?

Many of the summer break activities, play dates, and camps we rely on for our breaks and to be able to work were canceled, so we are all ready to get our kids back into school. As we enter into this unknown chapter of school, how do we survive the day-to-day life and continue to provide our kids with the balance of

Butler University Test Optional for Fall 2021 and beyond, though some programs may still require standardized tests

California State University suspending use of SAT/ACT requirements for school year of 2021-2022

Carnegie Mellon University: test optional fall 2021

Case Western Reserve University Test Optional for students entering Fall 2021

Centre College Test optional for the following cycles: 2021, 22, 23

Carolina Coastal University Test Optional for Fall 2021 applicants with minimum 3.5 high school gpa

Colgate University Test Optional for students entering in fall 2021

College of Charleston Test Optional Fall 2021, home-schooled students must submit scores. Pilot program to be reevaluated next summer to determine its future.

College of Wooster Test Optional for 2021 and beyond

Columbia University Test Optional for first-year applicants to Columbia College and Columbia Engineering 2020-2021

Concordia University Texas Test optional for entering classes in 2020 and 2021

Cornell Test Optional for 2021 applicants

Dartmouth College Test Optional class of 2025

Davidson College Test Optional for three years, starting in 2021

Drury University Test Optional for Fall 2021 applicants and beyond

Duke University Test Optional 2020-2021

Eastern Michigan University Test Optional for Fall 2020, only for first-year domestic students.

Eckerd College Test Optional for two year pilot program Fall 2021-Fall 2022

Elizabethtown College Test Optional Fall 2021

Elon University Test Optional beginning Fall 2021 in a three year pilot program

Emory University Test Optional 2020-2021 academic year

Fordham College Test Optional for two year period beginning with fall 2021 class

structure and nurture? How do we use self-care when we cannot even take a shower without interruptions? How do we help our kids engage in eLearning or attempt to teach them when we have no education background?

Here are some tips to manage the transition back into this upcoming school year.

First things first, we need to remember to be playful. Not only does it help our kids avoid becoming dysregulated, or prone to overreaction, it also teaches them at the same time – and keeps us in a good mood as well! The more we are able to keep the train on the tracks, the more in control we will feel; this tends to help us as parents stay regulated as well.

Be as consistent with your routine as possible, and prepare your kids to be flexible when something does not work out. Have your calendar printed where everyone in the house can see it (if you are really on top of it and plan ahead, try adding what you're having for each meal throughout the week). Have discussions about the unknown of this year. For example: "The school is doing a trial to see if they can keep kids and adults safe in school, if they cannot we might be doing eLearning again. Our schedule will change, but we will get it worked out as quickly as possible."

Make sure your kids know what they are responsible for, and that you, as the parent, are consistent about enforcing the responsibilities. This will help with your kids with consistency and routine, which is something they thrive on, but they lose when they are not in school full time or doing all eLearning. Even if they complain about it, it helps their brains stay organized. If you are unsure of how to engage your kids in eLearning, or successfully show their achievements, try working with your school. Ask questions! You are not in this alone; the school staff also want your kids to succeed.

Fort Lewis College Test Optional for 2021

Franklin College Test Optional for current high school seniors

Georgetown College Test Optional for Fall 2021

Gonzaga University Test Optional for 2021 applicants

Grand Valley State Test Optional for Fall 2021

Greenville University Test Optional 2021 and beyond

Hamilton College Test Optional for 2021-2022 academic year

Harvard University Released letter to current high school juniors stating that applicants entering in Fall 2021 will *not* be penalized if they do not submit AP test scores or SAT Subject Test scores. Juniors should not be concerned if they are unable to take the SAT or ACT multiple times

Harvey Mudd College Test Optional for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Haverford College Test Optional for first year and transfer applicants for three-year trial beginning with students entering Fall 2021

Illinois State University Test optional beginning 2021

Indiana University Bloomington Test Optional beginning in 2021

Indiana University Fort Wayne Test Optional beginning with Spring 2021 and beyond

Indiana University Kokomo Test Optional for Fall 2020 admission

Indiana University Northwest SAT/ACT scores requirements waived for students entering Fall 2020

Indiana University Southeast Test Optional for Summer and Fall 2020 enrollment

IUPUI Test optional beginning 2021 and beyond

Johns Hopkins University Test Optional for fall 2021

Limestone College Test Optional for students entering Fall 2020. Students who have SAT and ACT scored are still encouraged to submit them

Loyola Marymount University Test Optional for Fall 2021 applicants

Loyola University New Orleans Test Blind fall 2021

Mansfield University Test Optional for students entering Fall 2020. SAT/ACT scores are preferred for admission to

Plan for fun activities that cannot be lost if your child has a bad day. Once a week, plan a (safe) outing. It does not have to be a big extravaganza or even cost any money. Some examples: a scavenger hunt at the park with silly prizes, family bike rides, bake your favorite dessert together and take it out for a picnic, drive around in the car and play Pokémon Go or the license plate game. If your child is struggling on the day your fun activity is planned and cannot handle it that day, tell them it is okay, we can reschedule for tomorrow or the next day. Have fun at-home activities hidden away for rainy days, like silly string fights, a new puzzle, ingredients to make slime, shaving cream drawings, sand art, castle building, a new movie, or baking ingredients.

Save screens for times that you need a break. If our kids have access to screens all the time, they do not work when we feel like we need time to pull ourselves together. It will be especially difficult to engage them in screens if they are eLearning for five hours a day. Kids' brains need a break from screens to play with toys or their siblings, or even to do chores.

Expect your child to have difficulty transitioning from their summer routine to their school routine. This time period is going to be challenging, and what is happening in the world is traumatic for both kids and adults. Help them understand that is okay to feel dysregulated during these times. Be proactive; teach your child how to do the magic mustache, chair sit-ups, or a breathing activity to help them regulate their emotions. Let them know that you will be there for them.

Remember, it is normal for our kids to have a bad day or a bad couple of days. It is also normal for them to be defiant or want to be in control. Allow them to have control over parts of their schedule, or plan meals together. Look at your child as just that, a child, who is learning, growing and becoming independent. See what is causing their behavior, and then attempt to help them

certain programs, such as the B.S. in Nursing program. Admitted students who did not submit SAT/ACT scored (1) may need to take placement tests during orientation and (2) are eligible for a narrower range of merit awards

Marietta College Test Optional 2021-2022

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Test Optional for 2020-21

McMurry University (TX) Test Optional for Fall 2020

Mercer University Test Optional for first-year applicants for Summer or Fall 2020

Middlebury College Test Optional policy for at least 3 years, through Fall 2023, on a trial basis

Midway University (KY) Test Optional for Fall 2020

Millersville University Expanding its Test Optional policy to *all* students entering Fall 2020.

Minnesota State University Moorhead Test Optional for Fall 2021

NCAA Eligibility Center Waiving SAT/ACT requirement for student-athletes entering Division I and II colleges in the 2020-2021 academic year. The Eligibility Center will also adjust its approach to pass/fail grades received in spring/summer 2020 by students at all grade levels

Northeastern University Test Optional for prospective students for the 2021-2022 academic year. Includes undergraduate and graduate students

Northwestern University Test Optional 2020-2021

Ohio University- Athens Campus Adopted a permanent Test-Optional policy

Oregon State University Test Optional for undergraduates entering Fall 2021 and beyond

Ouachita Baptist University Test Optional for the 2020-2021 recruitment cycle

Penn State Test Optional Summer and Fall 2021

Pomona College Test Optional for first-year and transfer students entering Fall 2021

Princeton University Test Optional 2020-2021. Will move to one application deadline (January 1, 2021) for that admission cycle

Purdue University Northwest Test Optional for Summer and Fall 2020

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Test Optional for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

work through it. The more we empathize with our children and avoid becoming irritated with them, the happier everyone in the house will be.

Updates on college list

Trends for colleges that we know



AcademicAlly, LLC has launched the Summer of Enrichment 2020. We know academic gaps have widened or developed for many students as a result of C19. We also know there is a strong likelihood that schools will return to a virtual model of learning next year. We want to help students and their families by offering them customized programs to bridge gaps and prepare them for the fall. We are focused on the areas listed below.

We will continue to offer distance learning until the CDC grants clearance for in-person sessions to take place. Take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

Summer of Enrichment 2020

With our **individualized** programs, your student can still have a great summer AND keep those academic skills fresh.

Summer is the perfect time to **strengthen** academic skills, **get ahead** of the college admissions process, or **prepare** for classes this fall. (And we promise to make it fun!)

Organizational Skills:

- Establish time management strategies to better organize academic and personal responsibilities
- Create personalized set of tools to better manage time
- Implement a system to affectively access, submit, and store assignments in a digital format
- Learn techniques and tools to organize personal space and belongings
- Establishment and maintenance of a homework protocol
- Effective self-advocacy and communication skills
- Self-accountability strategies

Rhodes College Test optional for 3 years, which will serve as a pilot project to determine if the Test Optional policy should continue

Rice University Test Optional 2020-2021

Rochester Institute of Technology students can submit self-reported scores for Fall 2020. Students must submit official scores if admitted and they decide to enroll. Some programs are test optional for Fall 2020, Fall 2021, and beyond. RIT will be test optional.

Rowan University Test Optional 2021 Exceptions include home-schooled students, those seeking admission with a GED, and applicants to the 3+4 medical program through the Medical School or the School of Podiatric Medicine

Rutgers University Camden Test Optional Fall 2020

Rutgers University Newark Test Optional Fall 2020 and Fall 2021

Rutgers University New Brunswick Test Optional Fall and Spring 2021

Saint Louis University Test Optional for 2021-2022 academic year for most programs

Santa Clara University Test Optional for a two-year period for first-year and transfer students beginning with students entering Fall 2021. Will reassess whether to reinstate the testing requirement after the two-year period

Scripps College Test Optional for students entering in Fall 2021 and beyond. Homeschooled students are strongly encouraged to submit SAT or ACT scores

Seattle University Test Optional starting Fall 2021, GRE and GMAT will be optional for non-law graduate programs for the 2020-21 academic year

Southern Methodist University Test Optional for Spring 2021 and Fall 2021

Southwest Baptist University **Temporary** changes include:

- Test-optional
- Self-reporting of high school GPA
- May take online Classic Learning Test (CLT) to improve academic scholarship eligibility

Stanford University Test Optional fall 2021

State University of New York SAT/ACT requirements suspended for 2021-2022

Stephen F. Austin State University Test Optional for 2020-2021 academic year

St. Edward's University Test Optional for undergraduate applicants for Fall 2021 and beyond

Writing Skills:

- Learn the value of pre-writing in order to organize thoughts and flow of a written piece
- Fine-tune editing skills, being mindful of proper punctuation and grammar
- Understanding how to effectively conduct research using key search words and appropriate resources, guided by strong essential questions
- Develop writing skills needed for creating a comprehensive paper

Reading Comprehension:

- Learn how to identify and record important information
- Create a personalized system for organizing facts from the reading.
- Learn how to effectively research sources for research-based assignments
- Utilize strategies to break down readings into smaller more manageable chunks

Math Skills: up to Calculus

Science Skills:

Whether you are taking biology, chemistry, or physics, we can help you master this material!

College Admissions Consulting:

- Assistance with creating appropriate list of colleges to which to apply
- Brainstorming and editing college essays
- Admissions interview preparation
- Strategies to maximize college visits
- Knowledge about the changing landscape of college admissions in the face of COVID 19

SAT/ACT Test Prep:

- Learn helpful test taking strategies
- Determine which test is right for you
- Up-to-date information about testing in the face of COVID 19

We work with you to **customize** a plan to ensure your student's success. Spaces are filled on a first-come first-served basis. Act now while space is available.

St. Olaf College Test Optional for Fall 2020

St. Thomas Aquinas College Test Optional for Fall 2020

Swarthmore College Test Optional for applicants during the 2020-2021 and 2022 cycles. Students can now choose to report results from previous tests, including the PSAT and PreACT. In Fall 2022, the college will assess the policy and determine whether to continue

Syracuse University Test Optional for Fall 2021

Tennessee State University Test Optional for Fall 2020

Texas A&M University Test Optional for Spring, Summer, and Fall of 2021

Texas Christian University Test Optional for students entering in Fall 2021. Students should consider their academic record and co-curricular experiences when deciding whether to submit test scores

Texas Tech University Test Optional Fall 2020

The College of New Jersey Test Optional for 2020-2021 admission cycle for a three-year time period. Does not apply to the 7 year medical program or optometry program.

Trinity University (TX) Test Optional for a 3-year period starting with applicants for Fall 2021. Applicants can self-report unofficial test scores via applicant portal.

Tufts University Test Optional for all undergraduates for a three-year period, beginning with students entering Fall 2021. This will determine whether to reinstate the testing requirement at the end of the three-year period.

Tulane University Test Optional for students applying for a spot in the class entering fall 2021

University of California System **Temporary** policy changed include:

- Test Optional for students entering as freshmen in Fall 2021
- No letter grade requirement for "A-G" courses taken in winter/spring/summer 2020
- Admissions will not be rescinded for students who miss the official transcript deadline- admission will be honored from the first day of class until official documents are received by the UC campus
- No cap on pass/fail units that transfer students may put toward the minimum needed for junior standing

University of Central Missouri Test Optional in Fall 2020 for students with a 3.5 GPA or higher. Scores still required to Direct Entry Nursing Program, Education majors,

Keeping on Track: Rising Seniors: Finish up your college admissions essays. The Common App is launching on August 1st. Feeling overwhelmed about the essay or the Common App? We can help you to choose the appropriate prompt, formulate some ideas, and finish with a final draft that captures the essence of who you are! We can also help you to present your best self on your application. Call today to schedule an appointment. Pay attention to the ever-evolving standardized test requirements for the schools to which you wish to apply (see the most recent list of test optional schools in the left margin. This list is updated as of July 28th.) Make sure you have reached out to your teachers about letters of recommendation. It's not too late to do something meaningful with your summer this year. What are your passions? What have you always been curious about but did not have the time to pursue? Take advantage of the extra time COVID 19 is giving all of us and capitalize on this chance to explore, learn, and grow. Complete your summer work to the best of your ability.

****We are helping students with their college admissions essays now! Schedule your appointment today.**

Rising Juniors: You too need to maximize this bonus time COVID has provided all of us. What do you love? What causes are you passionate about? Find a political campaign to get behind. Discover a new hobby or talent you never knew you had. Complete your summer assignments to the best of your ability. Use this time to rest and recover from an intensely crazy second semester.

TEST UPDATES

ACT: Here is the link for the latest ACT information: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html>

SAT: Here is the link for the latest SAT information: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

Pay it Forward: Do you know someone who is struggling with the shift to virtual classroom learning?? Send them this newsletter or forward us their contact information. We want to help!

Contact Us

<http://www.Academic-Ally.com>

Hannah@Academic-Ally.com
610 647-3959 ext. 105

Honors College, NCAA Athletics, and automatic merit scholarships

University of Cincinnati Test Optional for 2 year period beginning with the 2021 applicants. Scores are still required for the Honors Program, the College of Nursing Direct-Admit BSN program, and the Early Childhood Education program

University of Connecticut Test Optional beginning with the 2021-2022 admission cycles

University of the Cumberland Adopting a Test Optional policy for current and future applicants. Test Optional applicants are still eligible for institutional grants and need-based aid

University of Delaware Test Optional for 2021 applicants

University of Hawaii at Manoa Test Optional for 2021-2022 years

University of Houston Test Optional for Summer and Fall 2020

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Test Optional for Fall 2021

University of Louisville Test Optional for Spring 2021, Summer 2021, and Fall 2021

University of Lynchburg Test Optional for 2021-2022

University of Maryland Baltimore County Test Optional for Fall 2021

University of Massachusetts Amherst Test Optional beginning in Spring 2021 thru Spring 2023

University of Memphis Test flexible policy for fall 2021

University of Miami Pilot Test Optional policy Fall 2021

University of Minnesota Duluth Test Optional starting with applicants for the Spring and Fall 2021

University of Minnesota- Twin Cities Test Optional for 2021

University of New England Piloting a test blind policy for 2020-2021 academic year

University of Mobile Test Optional for Fall 2020

University of New England Test Optional for Fall 2020

University of North Carolina System Change in minimum admissions requirements: 2.5 GPA or 1010 SAT score/ 19 composite ACT score; **applicants must submit test scores** but the system schools may choose to admit based on GPA alone. Each UNC system school has freedom to set its own requirements above these minimums. Effective for a three-year period, beginning with students enrolling in Fall 2020

University of Notre Dame Test Optional for 2020-2021 application cycle

University of Oregon Test Optional for students entering Fall 2021 and beyond. Standardized tests scored will still be needed for certain automatic scholarships

University of Pennsylvania Test optional Fall 2020-2021

University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus Test Optional for Fall 2020

University of Rhode Island Test Optional for 2021

University of Richmond Test Optional for Fall 2021

University of South Carolina Test Optional for 2021-2022 academic year

University of Southern California Test Optional for 2021-2022

University System of Georgia Test Optional for students entering Summer and Fall 2020. Students without test scores must meet specific GPA thresholds. Applies to all USG schools except UGA and Georgia Tech, which have already have fall class waitlists

University of Texas at Austin Test Optional for Fall 2021

University of Toledo Piloting a Test Optional admissions model for Summer and Fall 2020. Test Optional NOT available to:

- Homeschooled students
- Students who attend high schools that do not report grades
- Students applying for majors in the colleges of Nursing, Engineering, and Health and Human Services will use self-reported grades and GPAs to conditionally admit students until final transcripts are available

University of Utah Test Optional for 2021-2023

University of Vermont Test Optional for 2020-2021

University of Virginia at Wise Lifting test requirements for incoming freshmen and transfers with less than 30 credits

University of Washington Test Optional for Fall 2021 and beyond. The change is immediately in effect for the

Seattle campus. The standardized testing policies for UW Bothell and UW Tacoma will be reviewed

Vassar College Piloting a Test Optional policy for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle. Will evaluate after the one-year pilot to determine whether test-optional policy should continue

Virginia Tech Test Optional for 2020-2021

Washington and Lee University Test Optional for 2021 applicants

Washington State University Vancouver Test Optional for Fall 2020

Wellesley College Test Optional for first-year applicants entering in Fall 2021. Suspending the regular Decisions with Early Evaluation option for first-year applicants entering Fall 2021. Regular decision deadline move to January 8 from January 15

Westminster College (New Wilmington Pa) Waiving SAT/ACT requirements for students entering Fall 2020

West Virginia Wesleyan College Test Optional for Spring 2021 and Fall 2021

William Mary Launching a three-year test optional pilot program with the 2021 academic year

Williams College Test Optional for students applying as freshman or transfers during the 2020-2021 admissions cycle. For students who choose to submit test scores, results will be considered as a part of the holistic admissions process. Due to school closings, remote learning, activity cancellations, and temporary changes in high school grading systems, they will grant additional flexibility and are willing to work with students affected by COVID-19 and their school counselor

Yale University Test Optional for 2020-2021. SAT Subject tests will not be considered during the 2020-2021 admissions cycle

Vanderbilt Test Optional Fall 2021