



# SELECTIVE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD - COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS



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- 10 years in selective admissions
- Tennessee, Ohio, Houston, & Homeschool



# WHAT QUALIFIES AS “SELECTIVE”?

- **Open Enrollment / Open Admissions:** Non-selective and non-competitive college admissions process
- **Selective:** Accept less than 50% of applicants
- **Highly Selective:** Accept less than 20% of applicants, although some admission rates are as low as 5%

# WHAT MAKES THE SELECTIVE ADMISSIONS PROCESS DIFFERENT?

- # of applications > spots available
- Earlier deadlines, late notification dates
- Early Decision, Early Action, & Waitlists
- Nothing is guaranteed
  - Admissions
  - Merit scholarships
- Holistic admissions
- Test-optional



# DOWN TO THE DETAILS



## ■ Academic Achievement

- Course rigor
- GPA
- Class rank
  - ...If your school ranks!
- Personal circumstances affecting the above

## ■ Standardized Test Scores

- Primary (SAT, ACT)
- Secondary (SAT II, AP, IB)

# DOWN TO THE DETAILS

- Letters of Recommendation
  - Minimum vs. overkill
  - Who do you ask?
  - Don't forget the niceties!
- Extracurricular Activities
  - Depth vs. Breadth
  - Think outside the box
- Essays
  - Answer the prompt
  - Maximize your responses



"I want to show my colleges I'm well-rounded, so I wrote a poem in Spanish about how chess club has made me a better quarterback."

# DON'T FORGET!

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**“I want my résumé to be the one you remember. It’s also available as a music video, interpretive dance, and a haiku.”**

- “Optional” materials
- “Fit”
- Financial aid, merit scholarships
- Do they? Don’t they?
  - Demonstrated interest
  - Need-aware vs. need-blind
  - Auditions or portfolios
  - Demographics
  - Athletics

# FINAL TIPS

- Create your list with wisdom and open-mindedness.
- Be your own advocate.
- Portal, or not portal? That is the question.
- Remember, it is never personal.



**"I want to go out of town so that I can become a fully independent person, but near enough so that I can bring my laundry home."**





# QUESTIONS?

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