

# Customizing the College Admissions Process

In today's highly-charged college admissions scene, parents sometimes find themselves urging their teenagers to do things simply because their classmates seem to be doing them.

At Moorestown Friends School, we think there is a better way. Our educational philosophy is rooted in a fundamental belief in the unique value of every single student; respect for the individual permeates our classrooms and informs our college guidance program in several important ways:

**Fostering passions.** The most impressive and successful college applicants are those who have developed their interests in depth. Whether their passion is building robots, running cross-country, or learning to speak Chinese - or all three - students at Moorestown Friends are encouraged to pursue the interests and activities that most engage and excite them. By junior year, when the college search process formally begins, our students have a strong sense of self-knowledge that acts as a steady rudder amid the torrent of well-meaning advice that swirls about them. Moreover, the critical thinking skills they have acquired in our classrooms help them to weigh and evaluate their college options in a thoughtful, mature fashion.

**Individualized guidance.** Our college counselors teach classes, work alongside students on community service projects, travel with them on trips abroad, and serve as their club advisors. When it comes time to discuss college, they work closely with students and their parents to formulate a list of schools that will suit each student's particular interests and goals. They counsel students on course selection and preparation for standardized tests and give them detailed feedback on their college essays. When they write the official School Recommendation, a critical part of each application, they can draw upon a rich store of knowledge and anecdote to build the strongest possible case for the student's candidacy.

**Expert advice.** Applying to college has grown much more complex, competitive, and technologically sophisticated in the past decade. Even well-informed students and parents need an expert to guide them through the process. Our college counselors are seasoned professionals who have worked in college admissions offices themselves and know the scene thoroughly and understand the intricacies of applying for admission and financial assistance. No counselor works with more than 40 students at a time, and their focus is squarely on college counseling ~ not on the host of duties that guidance counselors in many schools are expected to perform.

**Seeking the right fit.** Moorestown Friends School graduates attend an impressive array of colleges, but we understand that the best school for one student might be all wrong for another. Our counselors take the adage "college is a match to be made, not a race to be won" deeply to heart. We are naturally proud of those currently enrolled in colleges like Stanford, Princeton, MIT, Yale, Brown, Middlebury, Swarthmore, and Haverford, and are equally proud of the impressive array of colleges they choose ~ from top engineering schools like Georgia Tech and outstanding public universities like Michigan and North Carolina to schools of visual and performing arts like NYU's Tisch School to women's colleges like Smith, Barnard, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr, and Mt. Holyoke. Our 70 graduates typically attend over 50 different colleges and universities each year ~ each a match made through a careful process of college advising.

Customizing the college admissions process gives students a distinct advantage in making the right match. Only a school that provides a great deal of individual attention and encouragement can provide this sort of crucial support.

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Moorestown Friends School  
*Celebrating 225 years*