

## STUDENT-TO-STUDENT ADVICE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

For one of the senior PTO meeting at BHS, a panel of recent BHS graduates spoke about their college experiences at Wesleyan, NYU, UMASS/Amherst, Cornell, Brandeis, Endicott, Sienna and Babson. One panelist addressed taking a gap year before attending USC. They praised BHS for the level of preparation with which they entered college, and had the following recommendations:

- \*Get involved in activities as a way to build social connections and to try new things.
- \*Try new things academically. You never know what you might enjoy.
- \*You will need to be organized and balance your time in college. BHS was good preparation. A large wall calendar, and a smartphone are both great tools for staying organized.
- \*There are lots of distractions in college that you need to learn to deal with. Learn to plan out a work schedule. Teachers will not remind you about deadlines.
- \*Don't procrastinate. Prioritize.
- \*Dropbox, Gmail, and G-Calendar are all great organization/productivity tools.
- \*Take advantage of help sessions and study groups.
- \*Be prepared for professors you don't like.
- \*Your professors want you to succeed.
- \*Dorms are a great source of friends your first year, followed by activities.
- \*Remember, all freshmen are in the same boat and are nervous about not knowing anyone.
- \*Keep an open mind to new people.
- \*Get involved to meet people.
- \*The first people you meet may or may not become lifelong friends. Your friends at college may shift over time.
- \*Get use to being on your own, away from home and managing your own life.
- \*Respect your parents' feelings and keep them updated about your life.
- \*If you're nervous about starting school, most have facebook pages or chat rooms where you can talk with other incoming students.
- \*If offered, an overnight visit (staying with students) is very helpful.
- \*Remember, if you end up not enjoying the school you're attending you can always transfer sophomore year.
- \*There are lots of different types of people in the world. BHS is more politically correct than most places.
- \*Even at party schools, the college frat mentality does not dominate.
- \*The gap year student feels he will be entering college energized and focused. There is an academic component to his gap year activities.

### Advice for Parents:

- Give your senior more freedom and responsibility for managing their time.
- Teach your senior life skills: laundry, grocery, banking, etc.
- Give your college freshmen space.
- Try not to worry -- your child will be fine.

*(Thanks to Class 2012 PTO)*