

Profile of Darien High School's Class of 2017 and Post High-School Plans

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The summary of Darien High School's senior class of 2017 is an extremely positive one. Along with increasing positive trends in the college application process, the class itself has been recognized for its service, intelligence, and accomplishment by Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Darien Public Schools, and Mr. Paul Ribeiro, Director of Guidance at DHS.

The college application process underwent changes when guidance seminars were introduced, Ribeiro said. Guidance seminars allowed for a collective meeting with students that allowed their questions to be answered at once, instead of many different students asking the same questions.

Ribeiro said there was in "increasing trend" in early decision applications, with 138 applications and 94 being accepted. He expects this number to increase, which means the guidance department will be more accountable for their students earlier on in the college application process.

Some of the most popular schools students applied to were University of Connecticut with 66 applicants, University of Michigan, 47, Boston College and Villanova, 42, and University of Vermont, 38.

One of the surprises to many of the counselors and Ribeiro himself, he said, is the surge in popularity of Santa Clara University, which had 32 applicants.

One of the lesser known schools compared to big names like U Michigan, Villanova, and BC, Santa Clara University had the longest line for students asking questions and expressing interest during the college fair at the high school.

This year, nine students will be attending Santa Clara University — by far the most students for one college.

In the college application process, one of the most beneficial items for students are the college visits. The class of 2017 will be attending 146 different colleges. Of these schools, 91 of them have actually visited DHS at one point in the year.

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Ribeiro said that the "open-door policy" DHS has with colleges really helped students gain clarification and determine what schools to go to. Students were able to ask college representatives what the admission process was like for that specific school, tips for application(s), statistics, and what college was like in general.

Some students have even said that certain schools were never on their radar to begin with, but the college visits opened their eyes.

In Ribeiro's report, he noted that the applications for state schools decreased compared to previous years. The popularity of certain schools this year most likely contributed to such.

Ribeiro and Dr. Dan Brenner, Superintendent of Darien Public Schools, are incredibly proud of the accomplishments and sacrifices of the Class of 2017.