



FAMILY PROGRAMS 2026-27



Grade 12: College Meeting for Senior Parents – Required

Tuesday, August 25, 6:00-7:30pm in Leipold Recital Hall

- Application deadlines are rapidly approaching! Join us for a detailed overview of the college application process.



Grade 12: Succeeding in the Financial Aid Process (Webinar)*

Tuesday, September 22, 6:00-7:00pm via Zoom

- The FAFSA and CSS Profile can be stressful. This webinar offers seniors and their families a clear understanding of the entire process ahead.



Grades 9-12: Mock Admissions Case Studies – Required for Grade 11 families

Monday, November 16, 6:30-8:00pm via Zoom

- You've heard rumors about how colleges evaluate applicants and what matters most to them. Here's your chance to discover just how complex it truly is!
- Explore the behind-the-scenes process and evaluate sample applications alongside experienced admissions officers from top institutions across the country.



Grades 11-12: Evaluating Loans and Borrowing for Your College Investment (Webinar)*

Monday, November 30, 6:00-7:00pm via Zoom

- Students need to understand how borrowing affects their college choices. This workshop advises students and families on the student loan landscape, the personal finance principles to consider when taking out loans, and how to appropriately manage their borrowing.



Grade 11: College Meeting for Junior Parents – Required

Thursday, January 7, 6:00-7:30pm in the Leipold Recital Hall

- Your student's college search has begun! Join us for a detailed overview of the process.
- Grade 9-10 parents are also welcome.



Grades 9-10: Navigating College Pricing and Financial Aid (Webinar)*

Tuesday, January 12, 6:00-7:00pm via Zoom

- Families must be realistic about aid eligibility and award potential. This webinar shares various college financial aid policies, giving equal emphasis to both need-based and merit-based approaches.



Grades 9-10: Informational Evening for Freshman and Sophomore Parents

Wednesday, February 3, 6:00-7:30pm in the Leipold Recital Hall

- Are you wondering what you and your student should be doing and when? Bring your questions, meet the college counselors, and learn more about our 4-year college counseling process.

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*Prairie's educational programming around how families pay for college are marked with an asterisk and dollar sign icon. All programming is facilitated virtually by our partner [College Money Method](#) from 6-7:00pm on the listed date. All webinars are recorded and will be available after the fact through Prairie's high school portal.

 Grade 11: Building Aid Generosity and Affordability Into Your School Lists (Webinar)*

Tuesday, March 2, 6:00-7:00pm via Zoom

- Considering costs is essential in finding a college that fits well. This workshop helps students adopt a data-driven method for researching the financial aid practices and policies of various colleges – both need-based and merit-based – to make evidence-based decisions regarding financial fit.



Grades 9-11: Prairie School College Fair

Thursday, March 4, 12:00-2:00pm in the JAC

- Visit with representatives from a wide array of colleges. Explore options and opportunities, gather information, and ask personalized questions as you start or continue your college search process.
- All Upper School students and parents are encouraged to attend.



Grade 12: Evaluating Financial Aid Offers and Considering Appeals (Webinar)*

Tuesday, March 9, 6:00-7:00pm via Zoom

- Confusing financial aid letters can leave students and families uncertain about their actual costs over four years. This workshop assists families in standardizing and comparing different financial aid awards and offers guidance on when to appeal.



Grades 9-10: Understanding How Colleges Assess Your Aid Eligibility (Webinar)*

Wednesday, April 14, 6:00-7:00pm via Zoom

- This workshop supports families by providing in-depth knowledge of how the applications' (FAFSA and CSS Profile) formulas assess their income and assets, enabling families to make decisions earlier in high school to increase their eligibility.



Grades 9-11: The Ins and Outs of Playing Sports in College

Wednesday, April 21, 6:30-7:30pm in the Leipold Recital Hall

- Being a college athlete has long lasting benefits, including access to scholarships, skills gained from balancing sports and academics, and having an instant community of friends and life-long supporters in coaches.
- This presentation develops an understanding of the different levels of competition and what you should be thinking about right now as you consider your interest more deeply.