





### *CRUSSH TOUR*

From April 27<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Cieremans had the opportunity to attend the CRUSSH Tour in New York State. This tour gave her the opportunity to visit six colleges in four days where she was able to evaluate each institution and make great connections with Deans of Admission.

Colgate University is located in Hamilton, New York (closest airport is Syracuse). This highly competitive university has approximately 3,000 undergraduate students who can choose from over 50 different majors. The average grade point average is 3.75 out of a 4.0 scale and the average SAT is 1403 (Critical Reading and Math). The average ACT is a composite score of 31. There is Greek Life on campus with 40% of all students joining fraternities and sororities. Approximately 48% of each class is admitted Early Decision. Colgate is NCAA Division I and is a founding member of the Patriot League. The university is set on over 500 acres of beautiful hills. The dorms, common rooms, classrooms, and research facilities are outstanding (some even include fireplaces).

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is located in Troy, New York which is in the Capital Region (near Albany). Rensselaer has 5000 undergraduate students who major in Engineering, Architecture, Humanities, Science, and Business. The average SAT is 1340 (Critical Reading and Math). Approximately 66% of enrolled students are in the top 10% of their high school class. Rensselaer is considered to be a top school of entrepreneurs. The Institute offers internships and coops in most majors. There are 23 varsity sports and the campus is about 2/3 men and 1/3 women. It is one of the few schools that encourage Engineering students to study abroad. There is Greek Life on campus and about 30% of the students join fraternities and sororities.

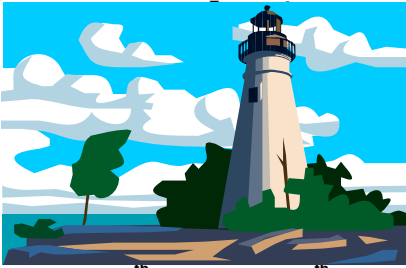
Union College is located in Schenectady, New York (approximately one hour from Albany). Union enrolls 2,100 full time undergraduate students equally split between males and females. The average SAT score is 1270 (Critical Reading and Math). Approximately 40% of each class is admitted Early Decision. Union is also SAT optional (students submit graded pieces of writing instead of SAT scores). There is a balance on campus of approximately half of the students studying Engineering and half studying Liberal Arts. The college was the first in the country to be designed with a master plan and was founded in 1891. There are 23 Division III intercollegiate sports and 2 Division I sports (men's and women's Ice Hockey). The college is very well maintained with a wide variety of housing options and operates on trimesters.

Skidmore College is located in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York (3 hours from New York City, Boston, and Montreal). There are 2,300 undergraduate students (40% male and 60% female). Skidmore is a highly competitive college that enrolls 39% under Early Decision. The average SAT scores are 1320 (Critical Reading and Math). There are 19 Division III sports for men and women. English and Business are the two most popular majors, however, Skidmore is known for its music and theatre programs. There is no core curriculum which allows students to explore many areas of study and create innovative major and minor combinations. The school has a "modern" feel since most of the buildings were built during the 1960's and 1970's.

Syracuse University is located in Syracuse, New York which is approximately a four hour drive from New York City. There are 11,800 undergraduate students in nine different undergraduate colleges. There are 5,000 graduate students on campus as well. Syracuse offers more than 200 majors including Architecture, Communications, Engineering, Visual and Performing Arts along with all of the Liberal Arts. Syracuse has 22 NCAA Division I athletic teams. Admission is selective and the university requires standardized tests. There are many research and internship experiences available. Students have a wide variety of housing options and the campus boasts historical buildings along with state of the art classrooms and research facilities.

Hamilton College is located in Clinton, New York which is 45 minutes east of Syracuse. Hamilton enrolls 1800 undergraduate students of which 87% are ranked in the top 10% of their high school class. The SAT average from Critical Reading and Math is 1420. On campus 98% of the students live in 27 different residence halls. Hamilton is a member of the Eastern College Athletic Conference and hosts 26 Division III teams. Hamilton College prides itself on preparing students to think critically in a constantly changing world. There are many opportunities for designing majors to fit individual student interests. The campus is beautifully maintained with up to date classrooms, dorms, and common rooms. The college offers over 40 different core areas of study and, like Skidmore, there is no core curriculum.





## THE HOOT TOUR

From April 5<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Peterfriend had the opportunity to attend the Heart of Ohio Tour for Counselors. This tour allowed her to visit seven colleges in five days and make great connections at each institution.

**John Carroll University** is located in University Heights, Ohio and is a small Jesuit university with approximately 3,000 undergraduate students. The suburban green campus is located on 65 acres. The admissions staff takes a holistic approach when looking at applicants. The high school course selection is looked at first along with trends over the four years. Since service learning is a big part of the community on campus, extra curricular activities in high school are an important factor, as well. JCU is looking for students with a minimum GPA of 3.34 and Math SAT scores of 490-590, English SAT scores of 480-590 or an ACT composite of 21-26. They have Division III athletics and are part of the Ohio Athletic Conference.

**Kent State University** is located in Kent, Ohio and offers 281 undergraduate programs. The tour started in their journalism and mass communications building which is one of the most high tech and all digital in the country. Many students who apply into Kent's journalism program also apply to UNC, Ohio State, Syracuse and Penn State's programs. The average GPA for the freshman class is 3.16 with SAT scores of 1017 (on the 1600 scale) and ACT scores of 22. The university uses unweighted GPA's on a 4.0 scale and will recalculate an applicant's GPA. Kent has 18 intercollegiate athletic teams and over 210 student organizations and activities, including a student-run web site.

**The Ohio State University** is located in Columbus, Ohio and is one of the country's largest universities. It is located in the center of the state in the state's capital and takes one hour to fly to the NY/NJ area. OSU has 175 different majors and describes themselves as a public research university in an urban setting. On the campus, they have 38,000 undergraduate and 12,000 graduate students. They are looking at a freshman class for the 09/10 school year to be about 6,300 students. OSU is looking for students who are in the top 10% - 25% of their class with average SAT scores of 1225 (on the 1600 scale) and ACT composites of 25-30.

**Otterbein College** is located in Westerville, Ohio and is a small liberal arts college. The core-integrative studies bring the college community together to connect diverse aspects of life, culture, and experience through cross-study in the arts, sciences, and philosophy, while emphasizing critical thinking, reasoning, and communication skills. They have a good theater arts program with strong internship opportunities and ties to the theater community in NYC. Otterbein also offers a new equestrian program and has beautiful facilities for that program. There are approximately 670 freshmen on campus. Of the 3,500 applications, 2,700 were offered admission to the college.

**Ohio University** is located in Athens, Ohio and was the state's first university. There are approximately 16,600 undergraduate students on the suburban campus. Athens is a classic college town that doubles in size when school is in session. There are nine colleges within the university; this includes more than 250 diverse academic programs with an average class size of 24 students. OU has 16 Division I athletic teams and is part of the Mid-Atlantic Conference. OU is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for graduation rate and is designated a research university. They are looking for students with a GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale with SAT averages of 1000 (on the 1600 scale) and ACT averages of 21. OU has rolling admissions and offers a six week turn around on completed applications.

**Marietta College** is located in Marietta, Ohio and is a small liberal arts college where Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society was founded. The campus sits on 90 acres and is located two blocks from downtown historic Marietta, which is Ohio's first city. Marietta just added a new state of the arts planetarium, which is used by many majors within the college. Their new library is also very impressive. The admissions office is looking for an average GPA of 3.45 and average SAT's of 1100 (on the 1600 scale) and average ACT's of 24. Of the 2,564 applicants, 1,959 were offered admission. Marietta is a member of the Ohio Athletic Conference and NCAA Division III.

**Case Western Reserve University** is located in Cleveland, Ohio and is a leading private university offering more than 75 programs in the liberal arts, sciences, engineering, business management, and nursing. Case is a mid-sized urban campus located within University Circle, the cultural district of Cleveland. Of the 7,295 students who applied to Case, 5,445 were offered admission, with 1,133 enrolling. Case is a competitive university with 72% of their students falling into the top 10% of their class; SAT scores in Critical Reading, 600-710; Math 650-750; and Writing 600-700; and ACT of 27-32. Case looks for students who are excited by education and take classes outside those required by their high school for graduation. Case is also looking for students who have challenged themselves in high school by taking a rigorous curriculum over the four years.

## Middle School News

As the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter begins and the weather turns to sunny days and warm nights, staying focused is the key for a successful fourth quarter. Talk to your sons or daughters. Don't let their focus get clouded. Be there to push them, challenge them, and hug them. They need you there, showing them how to be successful and responsible and good things will happen.

### PARENT QUIZ

Will you prevent the "summer slide"?

Most children experience a loss of learning over summer vacation when they're not in school. Answer the following questions yes or no to see if you will be helping your child keep his mind engaged this summer.

Will you encourage your child to read every day?

Will you let your child plan at least one family outing?

Will you have your child prepare meals for the family or help with budgeting?

Will you ask your child to keep writing, such as keeping a journal and writing long letters and e-mails to family and friends?

Will you urge your child to be active through running, swimming, walking or another outdoor sport?

Will you find time to talk with your child about his/her hopes and dreams, thoughts about friendship, growing up, and the everyday sorts of problems that might arise?

Quote: "The most wasted of all days is one without laughter." ee cummings



### Rowan University

On April 21, Mrs. Van Syckle and Ms. Kida had the opportunity to spend the day at Rowan University. Rowan is a comprehensive public university with 7,600 undergraduate students. Rowan is two hours south of West Essex. Although Glassboro is a somewhat rural area, students enjoy being close to Philadelphia, New York City and Baltimore. Students are also happy to remind you that the beach is only 45 minutes away! Rowan offers 58 different majors organized in 6 different colleges – Business, Communication, Education, Engineering, Fine & Performing Arts and Liberal Arts & Sciences. Freshman applicants who have not chosen a specific field of study can apply to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as "undeclared." Rowan prides itself on offering a practical education. Along with a rich selection of academic opportunities, students can seek real world experience through internships and employment at nearby corporations and organizations such as NASA. Recent construction projects have enhanced campus life. The Colleges of Engineering and Education have new, state-of-the-art facilities. New residence halls with suites and apartments for upper classmen are nearing completion along Rowan Boulevard – a college town-type setting that also includes stores and restaurants. Rowan is not a "suitcase college;" this is an active campus community with over 100 student clubs and organizations. Rowan fields a number of championship Division III teams for both men and women.

### *AS We Wind Down . . .*

**Seniors**, your post graduation plans are being made; your tuition deposit fee is handled, or you have a job secured, or the military may be in your future . . . All the best in whatever path you've chosen to journey.

**Juniors**, it's your turn to get the college process clearly organized. Your standardized tests are in place, you have visited colleges. You'll begin to narrow down your list of target schools where you can view the application, and work on your essay this summer. It's also a time to think about internships, courses to take, volunteer work, working; things that will enhance your resume in an impressive manner. Be prepared for the application process

**Sophomores**, time to think about possible community service activities, courses you can take in fields you would like to investigate, or to further your knowledge. Take some road trips to different colleges or inquire about certain career paths. Do your investigative homework to prepare yourself for your future.

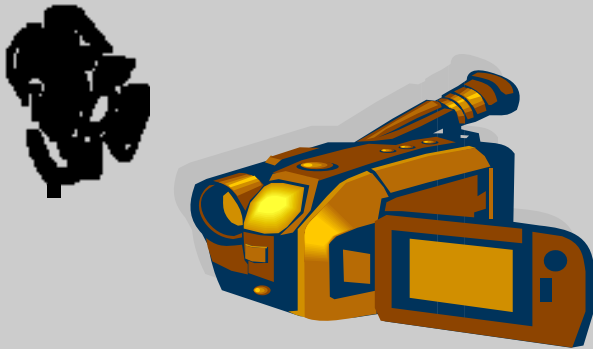
**Freshmen**, be sure that the final results of your first high school year is the best it can be. Plan ahead with the courses that will benefit your future at West Essex. Volunteering is important. Giving back to the community is noteworthy!

**Seventh and Eighth Graders**, it's never too early to begin focusing on your future. What are your talents and skills? What careers interest you? Whatever path you may take, it's always important to keep up your grades.

*Have a great summer ! .*

## *CALLING ALL STUDENTS INTERESTED IN VIDEO PRODUCTION*

As seniors leave for Senior Service, it's time to audition students interested in doing our morning announcements. Taping is each day after school for approximately 20 minutes, and each duo is on a rotating schedule. Any interested talent needs to come to the Video Production room on Thursday, May 14th for a chance to audition in front of the camera. We look forward to meeting some new announcers.



### GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

**DIRECTOR**  
Ms. Kelly Peterfriend

### COUNSELORS

#### High School

Dr. Barbara Cieremans  
Mrs. Linda Grancagnolo  
Ms. Erin Kida  
Mrs. Patricia Pawlikowski  
Mrs. Janet Van Syckle

#### Middle School

Mrs. Theresa Imhoff  
Mrs. Valerie Robinson

Visit us at:

[www.westex.org](http://www.westex.org)

**FAMILY VOLUNTEERING** Summer is a great time to spend valuable time together by volunteering.

You can find volunteer opportunities by typing your zip code into the United Way's Web site: [www.liveunited.org](http://www.liveunited.org). Or <http://www.volunteermatch.org>

There are many reasons to start volunteering:

- To help others
- To learn about an activity or organization that interests you
- To gain valuable job skills
- To make a difference in your community
- To share your expertise and passion
- To make professional contacts
- To have fun

Your reasons for volunteering are as individual as you are, but no matter what your reasons you can get a lot out of volunteering.

Quotes:

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank

"If you think about what you ought to do for other people, your character will take care of itself" Woodrow Wilson

## National Honor Society Offers Final Exam Tutoring Services

*It's that time of year again! The National Honor Society will be hosting the **ANNUAL FINAL EXAM REVIEW TUTORING SESSIONS**. Students will have the opportunity to receive one on one and group tutoring in any subject from an NHS member. Services will be available from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the high school cafeteria.*

**Dates are:**

*Tuesday, June 9th*

*Wednesday, June 10th*

*Thursday, June 10th*

# *Final Exam Schedule*

## **Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>: 1:05 p.m. Dismissal & Bus Service**

7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Period 4 Exams

9:40 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Period 3 Exams

11:35 a.m. – 1:05 p.m. Period 9 Exams

## **Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>: 1:05 p.m. Dismissal & Bus Service**

7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Period 5 Exams

9:40 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Period 6 Exams

11:35 a.m. – 1:05 p.m. Period 1 Exams

## **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>: 1:05 p.m. Dismissal & Bus Service**

7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Period 7 Exams

9:40 a.m. – 11:10 a.m. Period 2 Exams

11:35 a.m. – 1:05 p.m. Period 8 Exams

1:20 p.m. (make up Exams/Extra Time) Room 514 – **NO** 2:35 p.m.  
Bus

***HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!***