






VOLUME I  
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## Thayer Students Only: College Information Sessions

As you are beginning an essential summer ramping up for your senior year, it is vital to continue learning about colleges and determining which places might be a good fit. With this in mind, we have added more college admission meetings for Thayer students for the week of June 22. This list includes some of the most popular places for Thayer students; please attend the sessions that appeal to you.

MONDAY, JUNE 22	TUESDAY, JUNE 23	THURSDAY, JUNE 25
10:00 a.m. Northwestern University	10:00 a.m. American University	2:00 p.m. University of Michigan
		
Representative Shep Shanley Zoom meeting <a href="#">link</a>	Representative Jesse Monroe Zoom meeting <a href="#">link</a>	Representative Jenna McCormack Zoom meeting <a href="#">link</a>

## Other Virtual Learning Opportunities: webinars, podcasts, panel discussions, and tours

**Boston College** is offering live virtual campus tours at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Two current Boston College students will take you on a live virtual tour of campus. Explore the Heights in real-time and engage with your student tour guides in an interactive Q&A.

Advance registration is required.

To sign up for their virtual offerings, [click here](#).

**Kenyon College** Student Roundtable on June 25 at 7:00 p.m. Spend time with Kenyon students as they share their experiences in a virtual chat and answer your questions about what it's like to live and learn in Gambier, OH. [register here](#)

### Meet the College Admissions Deans: Panel Discussion

June 24, 8:00 p.m.

Admission Deans from Tufts University, Southern Methodist University, Wesleyan University, and the University of Wisconsin will be discussing - among other topics - updated policies on standardized testing and application requirements; campus visits; and how students and parents can successfully navigate the rest of high school. [register here](#)

### The Road to College and Going Beyond the Tour: Tips & Tricks to Optimize Your College Visits

Wednesday, June 24, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Admission officers from Ohio Wesleyan University will be talking about how to get the most out of your college visit experiences, a topic we addressed in last week's *Virtual Brickyard*. [register here](#)

### The Search: A Guide to Navigating College Admissions

(a Podcast brought to you by Dartmouth College)

The Search podcast is a conversation about college admissions for stuck-at-home high school students. It's sponsored by Dartmouth and it sometimes draws on Dartmouth's community as guests but it's decidedly not about getting into Dartmouth. It's about helping you see a path forward in your own college search, wherever that path might lead you. This podcast is a discussion in 12 parts, a 30-minute blast of advice and reflection drawn from the Dean of Admissions' resources at Dartmouth as well as friends and colleagues from other schools and colleges who also love their work. [learn more and access here](#)



## HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

## The Personal Statement

August 1 is the deadline to submit a draft of your Personal Statement, the main college essay required by colleges, to your college counselor. Some of you have already worked on your essay drafts thanks to the College Essay Guy's bootcamp in early June. Others will be embarking on this journey with members of Thayer's English and College Counseling Departments starting on June 22. Regardless of the method you use to compose your first draft, take a look at following ideas from the Personal Statement section of our **College Counseling Handbook** and keep them in mind as you start to write:

There is no template for writing an impressive college essay, no format that will guarantee that your personal statement will have a positive impact on an admission committee's review of your application. The key, though, is to let your voice and perspective emerge clearly, to stand out among the crowd of other applicants. Don't think of the personal statement as a cover letter for a job, in which you must demonstrate all your strengths and skills, but rather a chance to show the admission committee what makes you human – your values and interests. *It is a slice of your life.* You do not need to show yourself as flawless; indeed, the more you try to cast yourself as a saint, the less honest and revealing the essay will seem. Let the colleges catch you in the act of thinking and feeling and expressing, so that they can get a glimpse at your depth.

As you are writing, here's a checklist to keep you focused on making it an engaging and memorable expression of your identity:

- **It has a point** (a theme, a thesis, an argument, an insight).
- **It reveals your personality** (values, passions, ideas, goals).
- **It is interesting, perhaps even entertaining.**
- **It shows depth of thought** (reflective, analytical, insightful).
- **It has a distinct, personal voice** – use your own!
- **It refers to people other than you; you don't want to come across as too self-centered and we can learn a lot about you from how you see others and interact with them.**
- **It has an engaging beginning; it grabs our attention!**
- **It has colorful and relevant examples; provide details and examples, steering clear of broad generalizations.**
- **It ends on a satisfying, appropriate note.**
- **It uses standard English and is grammatically correct.**  
Be sure to proofread meticulously to avoid typos.
- **It satisfies the length requirement** (650 words).

**Johns Hopkins University** is offering a **Personal Statement Workshop**, Wednesday, June 23, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Whether you have a bounty of ideas or don't know where to start, this workshop will help you make sense of writing the personal statement. By analyzing and comparing excerpts from personal statements, admissions officers will provide an inside view on the role of the essay within the college application and tips on how to start writing or improve on your first draft. [register here](#)

## SAT School Day Survey

Dear Rising Seniors and Parents:

We are writing to inform you that Thayer has recently been approved as a "School Day SAT" administration site. This means that we should be able to administer the SAT to students on Wednesday, September 23 and Wednesday, October 14 at Thayer. We are still in the midst of figuring out our fall scheduling, but seniors would be allowed to miss classes, if necessary, to take the test at Thayer.

We need to gather some information from you to plan for the proper space and proctoring to offer the tests. Please fill out the survey below indicating if you are interested in taking one or both tests (or if you are not interested). If you are interested in one test, you will be asked to decide which test date you are planning to take the SAT. This is solely for planning purposes - we will follow up with registration information later in the summer once we have the plans in place. [to take the survey, click here](#)



### THAYER ACADEMY PULSIFER COLLEGE COUNSELING CENTER

Mr. Thad Robey, Director of College Counseling, [trobey@thayer.org](mailto:trobey@thayer.org)

Ms. Nellie Brennan Hall, Associate Director of College Counseling, [nbrennanhall@thayer.org](mailto:nbrennanhall@thayer.org)

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## THE SMARTIES CORNER

In previous editions we listed the top six colleges where recent Thayer graduates have matriculated. Since then, many of you have asked, "so *who comes next?*"

Here are numbers seven through ten:

- 7. BOSTON UNIVERSITY**  
13 students
- 8. BENTLEY UNIVERSITY**  
11 students
- 9. BROWN UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**  
**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**  
**TULANE UNIVERSITY**  
tied with 10 students
- 10. GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES**  
tied with 9 students