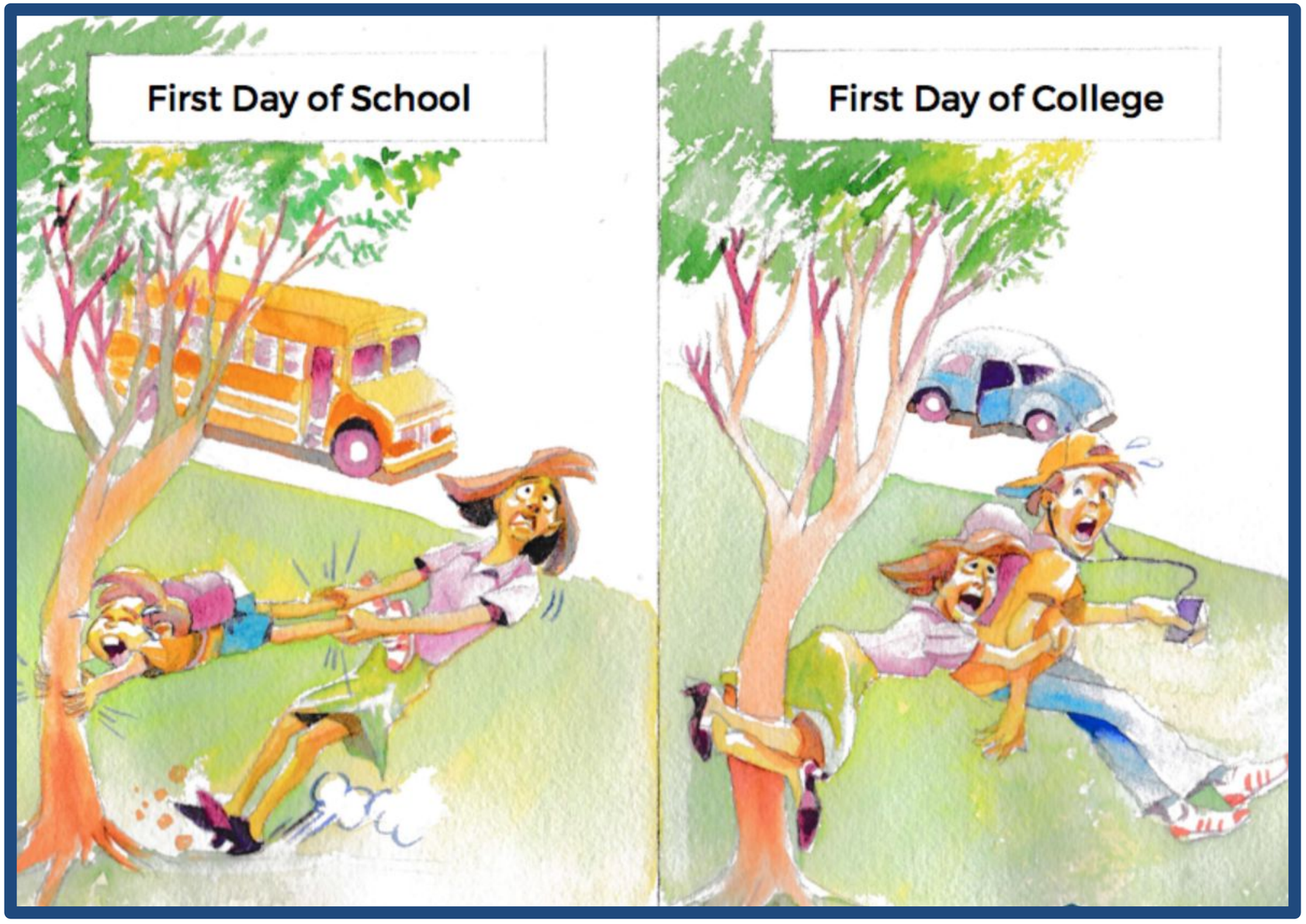
Westford Academy Counseling Department

The College Application Process

September 13, 2022


First Day of School
First Day of College

AGENDA

September 13th: The College Application Process

- Students had presentation today: College list & Deadlines, SAT & ACT, Student/Counselor/Parent/Caregiver Roles, Rep Visits
- *Tonight's presentation will cover similar information. We invite you to speak with one of the counselors following the presentation if you have any questions!*

September 19th-21st:

- Senior seminar in English classes to review the CommonApp and SCOIR

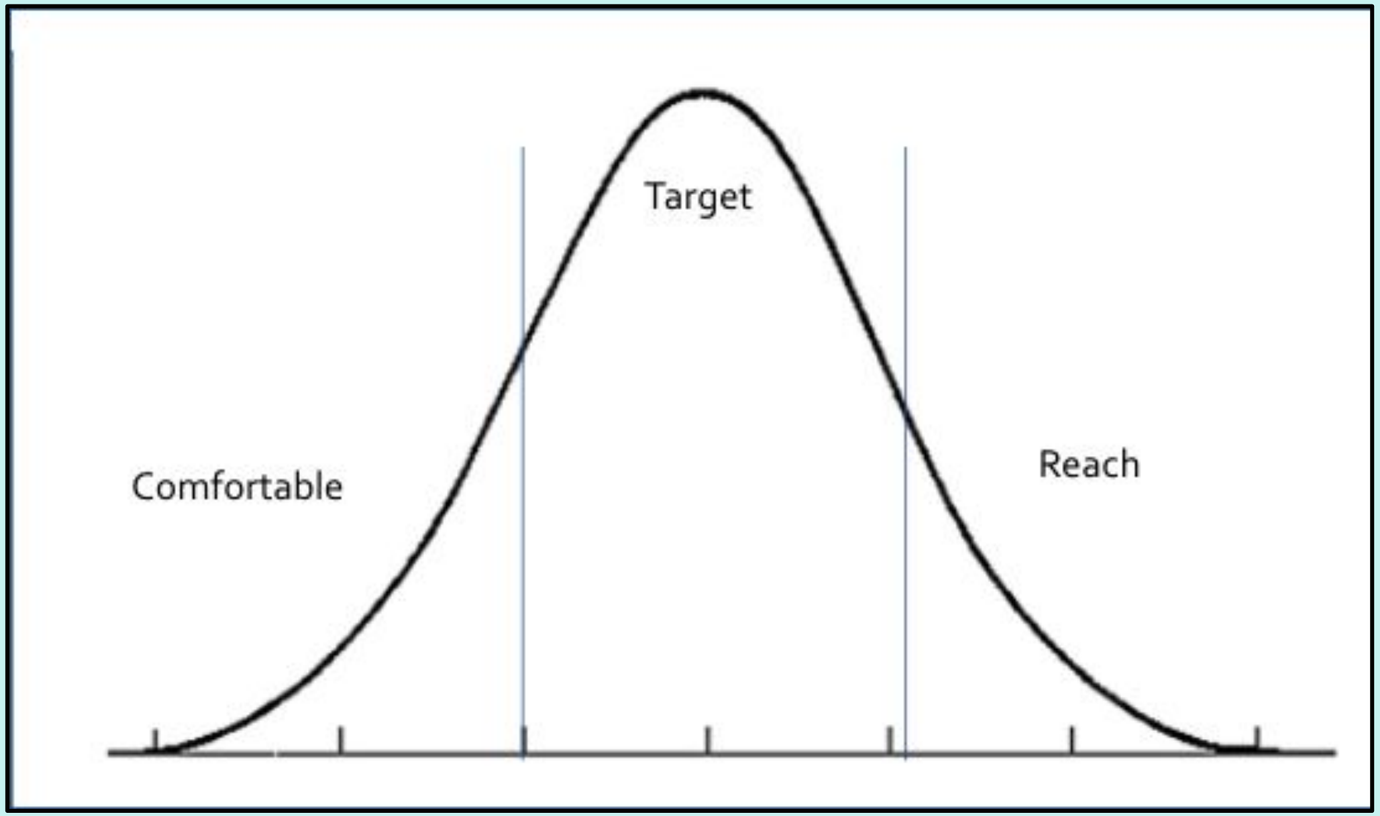
October 11th:

- SAVE THE DATE: MEFA Financial Aid presentation in the PAC for senior families at 6:30pm

Counselor Assignments

Leah Birnkrant	A - Chen
Karen Halloran	Cho - Four
Susan Lynch	Frem - Juve
Brian Doherty	Kaga - McEl
Samantha DeMagistris	McKe - Poov
Tracy McLaughlin	Prak - Sing
Heidi Hider	Siva - Wang
Lauren Clark	Wars - Z

Let's Review... The College List



Everyone's Reach

Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Columbia, Georgetown, MIT, Cornell, UPenn, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, Tufts

UVA, UC Berkeley… and others

Almost Everyone's Reach

Vanderbilt, Boston College, NYU, Northeastern, Middlebury, Bowdoin, Colby, University of Michigan, Georgia Tech and others

Application Plans & Deadlines

Early Action - (non-binding)
Oct 15- Dec 1

Early Decision - (binding)
Oct 15-Nov 15

**November 1 deadlines: If Q1 grades are required, notify your counselor because they are not sent automatically

Regular Decision
Jan 1 or later
Q1 & Mid-year Grades

Rolling Admissions

Test Optional

- Huge shift over the last three years towards test optional
  - e.g. UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, Boston University, Boston College, UConn, UNH
- Approximately 80% of schools are now test optional
- Listing of all test optional schools: www.fairtest.org

SAT Dates

October 1 - Late Registration September 20

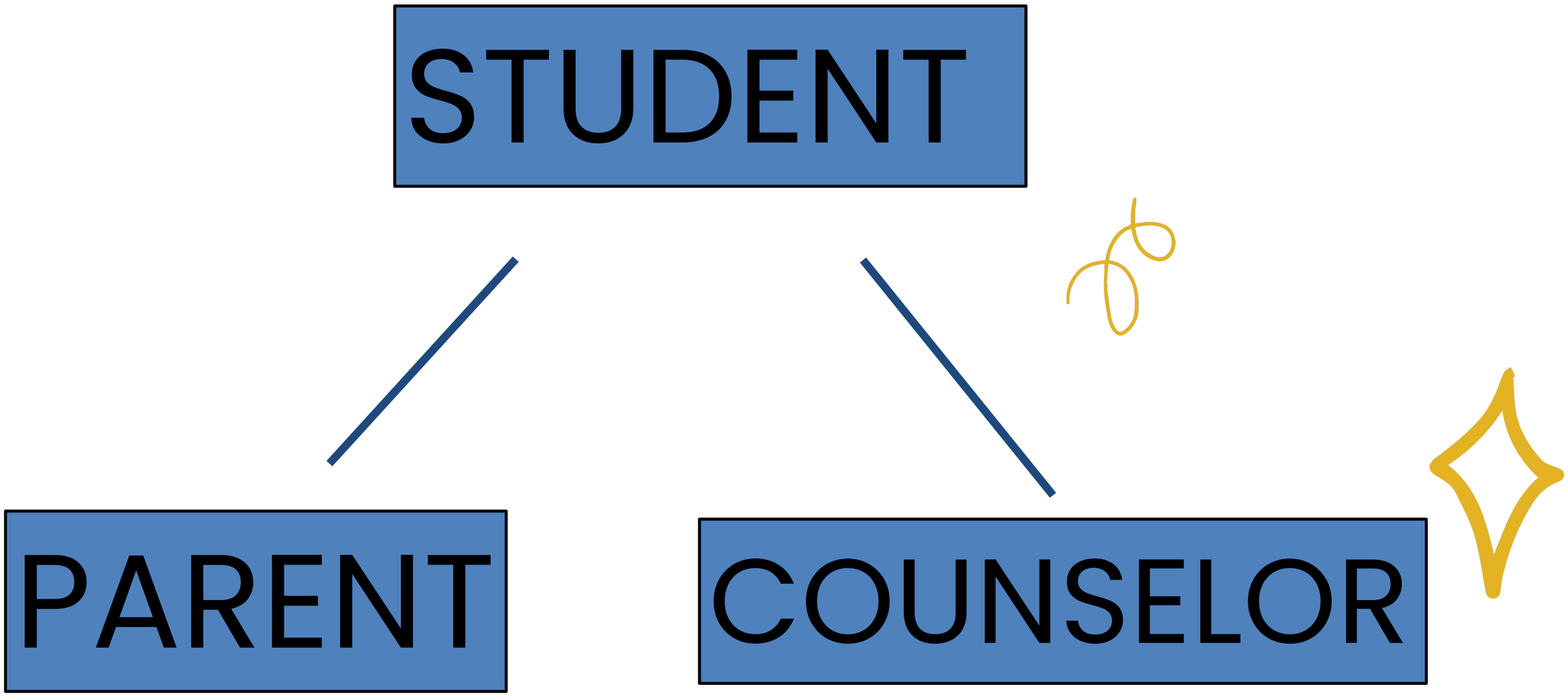
November 5 - Register by October 7
- Late Registration October 25

December 3 - Register by November 3
- Late Registration November 22

ACT Dates

October 22, 2022 - Register by September 16

December 10, 2022 - Register by November 4


STUDENT
PARENT
COUNSELOR

STUDENT'S JOB

- Finalize college application list
- Schedule counselor meeting
- Fill out and **submit** the applications (INCLUDING writing the essay)
- Move colleges to "Applying" list in Scoir at least TWO weeks prior to application deadline
- Check status of application (many colleges use online portals) regularly
- *Request official test scores (SAT, ACT) from the testing companies*

COUNSELOR'S JOB

- Provide feedback on the college list (is it missing anything?)
- Write Counselor Statement
- Send official transcripts, recommendations (teacher and counselor), and school profile.
- Send additional grade updates to colleges as needed (Term 1, Mid-year, etc)

PARENT/GUARDIAN/CAREGIVER'S JOB

- Support & encourage (leave the pressure and unsolicited advice for another day)
- Hand your child the phone/computer - they should schedule their own appointments
- Prepare your child for disappointment - and reassure if it happens
- Assist with FAFSA & CSS Profile (if needed) - and have an open, honest discussion about finances for college

College Rep Visits

- Rep visits will be offered on open dates from **September 15 - November 10** both in-person (during school hours) and virtually
- All rep visits **offered virtually** will be **OUTSIDE** of the school day at either **2:00 pm**, **3:00 pm** or **4:00 pm** on open dates
- When a college is scheduled to visit, students with that college on their *My Colleges* list will receive an email and an in-app notification, which you can use to register for that visit.

Students must register in advance for visits.

LOOKING FORWARD

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Senior Data Sheet in SCOIR
- Move Colleges to “Applying”

**at least two weeks before the deadline

- Activities & Achievements Section in SCOIR or Resume shared with Counselor
- Make CommonApp account

Resume

- Upload to Scoir or fill out Activities & Achievements Section in Scoir
- WA Counseling website has templates for activities and resume

SENIOR MEETING
(Student & Counselor)

What will we discuss...

- Application timeline
- Review college list
- Recommendations
- Review transcript
- Go over CommonApp
- Any other questions you may have

WA SCHOOL RECORDS

Required for counselors to send

- One-time processing fee of $8 submitted for all applications and alumni transcripts through MySchoolBucks. Use this link to pay this fee: https://www.myschoolbucks.com/ver2/prdembd?ref=ZZHCKVF90G01ERQ_ZZI0CSV1DBWOFLU

**We are unable to send transcripts to colleges until this fee is paid.

- FERPA Release Authorization & Waiver Release signed in Scoir

What does WA send??

- Official Transcript with Senior Courses
- School Profile
- Teacher Letter(s) of recommendation
- Counselor statement

Westford Academy
30 Patten Road
Westford, MA 01886

Official Transcript for:

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Gender	Student ID#
			Male	

Home Address	City	State	Zip	Home Telephone	Date of Birth	Anticipated Graduation
						2020

Parent or Guardian		Graduated	Total Earned Credits	
		June 5, 2020	137.50	GPA: 3.5740 Based on 8 Semesters

Course	Mid-Year	Final	Credits
Grade 09 2016-2017			
001 English 9 CP		86	5.00
144 Spanish II H		84	5.00
200 World History II CP		82	5.00
322 Geometry H		83	5.00
412 Biology H		82	5.00
501 Management CP		96	2.50
567 Microsoft Cert. App Specialist		100	2.50
881 PE Wellness		97	2.50
887 Health Education		96	2.50
Grade 10 2017-2018			
002 English 10 CP		87	5.00
146 Spanish III H		85	5.00
205a US History I CP		91	5.00
332 Algebra II H		88	5.00
420 Chemistry CP		96	5.00
480a Intro to Engineering I CP		97	2.50
500 Marketing I CP		93	2.50
700 Foundations of Art		98	2.50
881 PE Wellness		98	2.50

Course	Mid-Year	Final	Credits
Grade 11 2018-2019			
003 English 11 CP		87	5.00
147 Spanish IV CP		89	5.00
211 US History II CP		92	5.00
336 Trig & Pre Calculus H		89	5.00
440 Physics H		96	5.00
459 Robotics I H		98	2.50
Mechanical Eng H		100	2.50
505 Accounting I CP		97	2.50
881 PE Wellness		98	2.50
Grade 12 2019-2020			
041 English 12 H	83	CR	5.00
215 Sociology CP		CR	2.50
218 Micro & Macro Economics H	88	CR	5.00
234 Criminal Minds CP	95	CR	5.00
344 Calculus AB AP	84	CR	5.00
454 Physics AP	85	CR	5.00
512 Personal Finances CP	95	95	2.50
881 PE Wellness	100	100	2.50

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second semester of the 2019-2020 school year was based on a credit /no credit grading system to ensure equity for all students. Westford Academy utilized a remote learning system that required students to engage in weekly learning and assignments for each of their courses. Students who met or exceeded these requirements were given credit for successful completion of the course. The second semester of this academic year is not calculated in a student's cumulative grade point average.

What the student sends...

- Completed Application, including essay(s) and fees
  - If using Common App, this will also include the school specific questions
- Official test scores to be sent to each college, if required, directly from the testing company (SAT or ACT)
- Complete Financial Aid forms (FAFSA and/or CSS Profile) - with parental help!

After students apply

- Students should set up applicant portal for application status
- EA/ED results begin to arrive in December (rolling may be earlier)
  - Admit, Defer, or Deny
    - What if I get deferred?
      - Send additional supporting materials (grades, updates, etc) IF NEEDED
- RD results are reported no later than April 1, 2023
  - Admit, Deny, or Waitlist
    - What if I get waitlisted?
      - Student must decide whether or not to remain on waitlist
      - There is no way to determine odds of getting off the waitlist - deposit elsewhere!
- Students/Families compare the options and commit/deposit to one college by May 1

Financial Aid

- Tools and Info on WA website
- Net Price Calculator
- FAFSA studentaid.gov
  (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - **File after October 1, 2022**
  - Can register now for FAFSA ID (pin)
- CSS Profile www.collegeboard.org
  - available Oct 1st
- Check each college's financial aid application deadline
- College Financing Seminar @ WA on October 11, 2022
  - www.mefa.org

Resources

- **Monthly newsletters:**
  - Emailed through SCOIR
  - Friday email
  - WA Counseling website
- **Instagram:** @wa_counseling
- **WA Website**
  - College Planning
  - Financial Aid Information
- **SCOIR**
- **College Essay Guy**
  - Posts on Google Classroom

We will ALL survive this process!

It will be June before you know it!

Graduation

...

Where will you be sitting?