

I'm so thrilled to have the opportunity to follow your child and be there 10<sup>th</sup> grade counselor. What matters to me most as a high school counselor is getting to know each student as a whole person. I want to know what makes students excited to learn, what makes them laugh, and what inspires them. We are all aware that colleges evaluate the grades students earn, the way they make academic choices, and the scores they achieve, but the process of searching for and applying to college involves so much more. Colleges want to know what activities students might engage in on campus, what they might contribute to the college community, and what their goals are after college. Finding the right college learning environment involves a great deal of self-reflection and careful consideration on the part of the students. This is why I want students to explore new ideas, become creative thinkers, and participate in activities that will help them grow as individuals. I want your children to pursue meaningful ways of developing their interests, both academic and outside the classroom. The most important thing to remember is quality and commitment matter the most. In addition, there are some practical tasks that 10<sup>th</sup> graders can take on that will help them prepare not only for college, but also search and application process.

- First, all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. The PSAT is a test given to help students become familiar with the format and content of the SAT. The SAT is a test designed to measure your ability to do college-level work. Your PSAT results are an important tool we can use to help gauge how much you should study for the SAT and what kind of preparation will best help you maximize your score. There are three sections: Critical Reading, Math and Writing.
- Second, continue to monitor your student's progress. Check the parent portal for progress and grade reports.
- Third, continue to encourage involvement in community activities, school clubs and organizations.
- Fourth, discuss College options and talk to your students about their interests and abilities in terms of college majors. Make informal visits to colleges. Great information is on the web.
- Fifth, talk to your student about considering taking the ACT/SAT the summer before their junior year.
- Sixth, create a resume listing all honors, awards, and community services.
- Seventh, continue to explore way to pay for college.

I strive to make myself available to the students and parents. Please free feel to contact me at [Christine.rostedt@comalisd.org](mailto:Christine.rostedt@comalisd.org) or 830.885.1050.