- Find summer programs at the schools your child is interested in. Many more schools are offering summer programs for high school students. It is a great way to see if your child likes the campus and the facilities. Think about having your student attend a summer program at the college as a way to solidify their interest in the school.

- Try to contain your college conversations to one weekend day a week. It gets overwhelming and irritating for all of you to constantly have the college conversation day in and day out over the dinner table. It just gets to be too much. It is a lengthy process and more of a marathon that requires some pacing.

- Have your child choose to apply to at least one school on rolling admissions so that you all do not have to wait until late March for at least one admissions decision. But make sure it is a school your child is really interested in. It doesn't help to apply to a school just to get an admissions decision.

- Pick up a copy of the Fiske Guide, The Insider's Guide and a book called Colleges That Change Lives. To a much lesser extent, rely less on the ratings magazines because the school will be what your child makes of it.

- Use of DHS resources like a student and parent meeting with one of the college counselors, parent AM meetings with the college counselors, student meetings with the college representatives who come to DHS and use of other resources like Naviance (Supermatch and Scattergram). Have your child attend the many, many workshops and programs that we offer at DHS, go on to individual schools' websites and take virtual tours, use the net cost calculator on each school's website etc.

- Talking to DHS grads at various campuses, especially seeing them on campus or talking with students who are not paid by the admissions office. If there is an opportunity for a social visit, please have your child take advantage of this opportunity. Smaller colleges will absolutely facilitate this opportunity. For larger schools, you will need to find DHS alum willing to host your child for a night.