



College Planning in the Junior Year

Presented by

January 5, 2016

Something to think about...

“Research demonstrates that the ultimate success in life will be determined by your child and not by the institution from which he or she receives a diploma”

www.challengesuccess.org

Tonight's Goals

- Understand what counts in the college application process
- Understand the tasks between now and start of senior year
- Develop a partnership around the college process

Our Goal for Each Student: A “Good Match”

- Grades and SAT or ACT test scores fall comfortably within the range of the college’s recent entering class.
- Size, campus atmosphere, setting, and distance from home seem right.
- Affordability with or without financial aid.

The Folder You Just Received

- Left side pocket: Read soon!
 - Instructions for this year
 - Essential information for counselor to create a great recommendation
 - Please be mindful of guidance deadlines
- Right side pocket: senior year and other information

Student, Counselor, Parents – A Partnership

- Good communication between student, counselor and parents makes for smooth planning and leads to a successful outcome
- Each of us have tasks that together make the application process come together

Student Tasks

- Work with counselor-
 - Sm Grp mtg are Jan 25th, 26th, 28th
- Research & visit colleges
- Take SAT or ACT
- Narrow list of colleges
- Request Teacher Recommendations- April
- Write college essays over summer
- Decide which applications are Early Action/Early Decision/
Regular Decision- Sept
- Apply for financial aid and scholarships- Starting Fall
- Manage Stress

Counselor Tasks

- Meet in small groups & individually to:
 - Go over application steps & college list
 - Review application
 - Manage stress
 - Discuss strategies
- Write Recommendation

Counselor Small Group Meetings With Juniors This Year

- Reviewed college tools in Naviance
 - Jan 25, 26, 28 during history classes
- Review of graduation requirements and course requests for senior year
 - Mar. 7, 8, or 10 during English classes
- A meeting to help students request teacher recommendations
 - April 4, 5, or 7 during Social Studies classes
 - Do not request ahead

Parent Tasks

- See sheet in folder for detailed list
- Help visit colleges
- Help keep track of deadlines
- Offer emotional support
- Discuss family finances
- Fill out FAFSA, maybe CSS Profile

New Program at BHS

- Dual Enrollment
 - Middlesex Community College
 - Economics/Psychology course being offered
 - Requirements
 - 2.0 GPA
 - 10th grade reading level and be able to complete 5 paragraph essay
 - Take Accuplacer- March 9th at BHS
 - Fill out MCC application and Dual Enrollment Form
 - Cost per class \$261- possible scholarships

The Application Landscape Has Changed – Earlier Deadlines

- 70% of BHS seniors applied early action/decision this year
 - Oct. 15, Nov. 1 or 15 deadline
- In response to this, we have moved the whole planning process up
- Counselors must prepare materials earlier
 - Please pay attention to deadlines! (March 10th)

College Fair Date Designed to be Helpful to Juniors

- March 15, 6:30 – 8:00
- BHS Cafeterias
- Over 100 colleges represented
 - A great chance to ask questions of college reps,
broaden your college list

Two Time Periods of the College Application Process

1. Second half of junior year

- Create list/visit colleges, take SAT/ACT
- Request teacher recs through Naviance

2. Fall of senior year

- Apply to colleges, retake tests, research and apply for scholarships
- Apply for financial aid using FAFSA and/or CSS Profile beginning Oct, 2016

Important Factors for College Acceptance

- Colleges have become so competitive, academics aren't the only factor now
 - looking for a well rounded student
- Transcript
- Scores on the SAT/ACT unless test optional
- Essay
- Recommendations
- Activities

Recalculating GPA

- Most colleges recalculate
 - based on the 5 “core” academic subjects of English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language.

Each college has its own system for recalculation
AP/Honor classes are considered

The U.Mass. And State College System Recalculates GPA

- The goal for admission is a 3.0 recalculated weighted average or higher
- Below a 3.0, SAT scores can make up for the lower average, to some degree, on a sliding scale
 - Ref sheet in folder

Test Scores: SATs & ACTs

- Take SAT or ACT in the spring
- Test scores are ways colleges can compare across applicants
- For students on IEP, Mass State schools can waive test scores-must submit most recent testing
- List of test optional colleges
 - www.fairtest.org
- Fee waivers are available

Comparison of SAT and ACT

• <u>SAT</u>	<u>ACT</u>
Reading	English
Writing/Language	Reading
Math	Math
Essay (optional)	Science
	Writing (optional)
400-1600 points	1–36 points

New SAT

- First given March 2016
- 3 hrs long/ essay is optional (+50 min)
 - Score 400 to 1600
 - essay score reported separately
- Evidence based reading/writing
 - no obscure vocabulary
- Right only scoring
 - - no deduction for wrong answers
- Free test prep through Khan Academy

Studying for the SAT or ACT

- Preparation
 - Buy/Borrow from Library prep books
 - Go on line to Collegeboard/ACT
 - SAT Up Ipad App (on all Ipads)
 - Research local classes, tutoring, apps
 - Khan Academy free test prep
- If unhappy with spring score, study and retake

Activities

- Colleges look for consistent commitment over time
 - May include both in-school and out-of-school activities
 - May also include paid or volunteer work
 - Put all this in resume in Naviance for reference

Tasks for Spring/Summer of Junior Year

- Work your way through College Process checklist
- Sign up for and take SATs, and if applicable, 2 or 3 Subject tests; or sign up for and take the ACTs
 - SAT: collegeboard.org
 - ACT: actstudent.org
- Use Naviance and other sources to begin to create a college list
- Visit local, representative colleges

Tasks for Spring/Summer of Junior Year, Continued

- Take AP tests, if applicable
- Plan to take 5 academic majors senior year
- Create Common App Acct- record Username/PW in Naviance Journal
- Do something productive in the summer
- Start draft for college essays
 - Reference Common Application essay prompts

Visiting Colleges

- Consider visiting different types of colleges
 - Large/small
 - Urban/suburban/rural
 - Near/far
 - Try to visit when classes are in session to get a feel for campus life
- 4 days excused absences for visits
 - Bring note from College rep for excused absence

Narrow the College List

- 6-8 colleges is about right
- Categories
 - Safety – 2 colleges
 - Likely – 4 colleges,
 - Reach – 2 colleges
 - Look at Naviance statistics to determine
- Cost
- Size and composition of student body
- Distance from home;
- urban, suburban, rural
- majors

If You Have Learning Differences

- Once college meets other “fit” criteria...
 - Check for the right kind and level of support
 - Can look on college’s web site, contact college’s Office for Disabilities
 - Visit to assess “comfort” factor
- Book available in guidance office
 - Details colleges’ levels of support

Accessing Naviance

- Each student has own account
 - Forgot password?- reset yourself
- Student shares password with parents
- Or enter as guest for college searches:
 - Bedford Public Schools; High School; Support; Guidance; Click on Naviance “star” logo

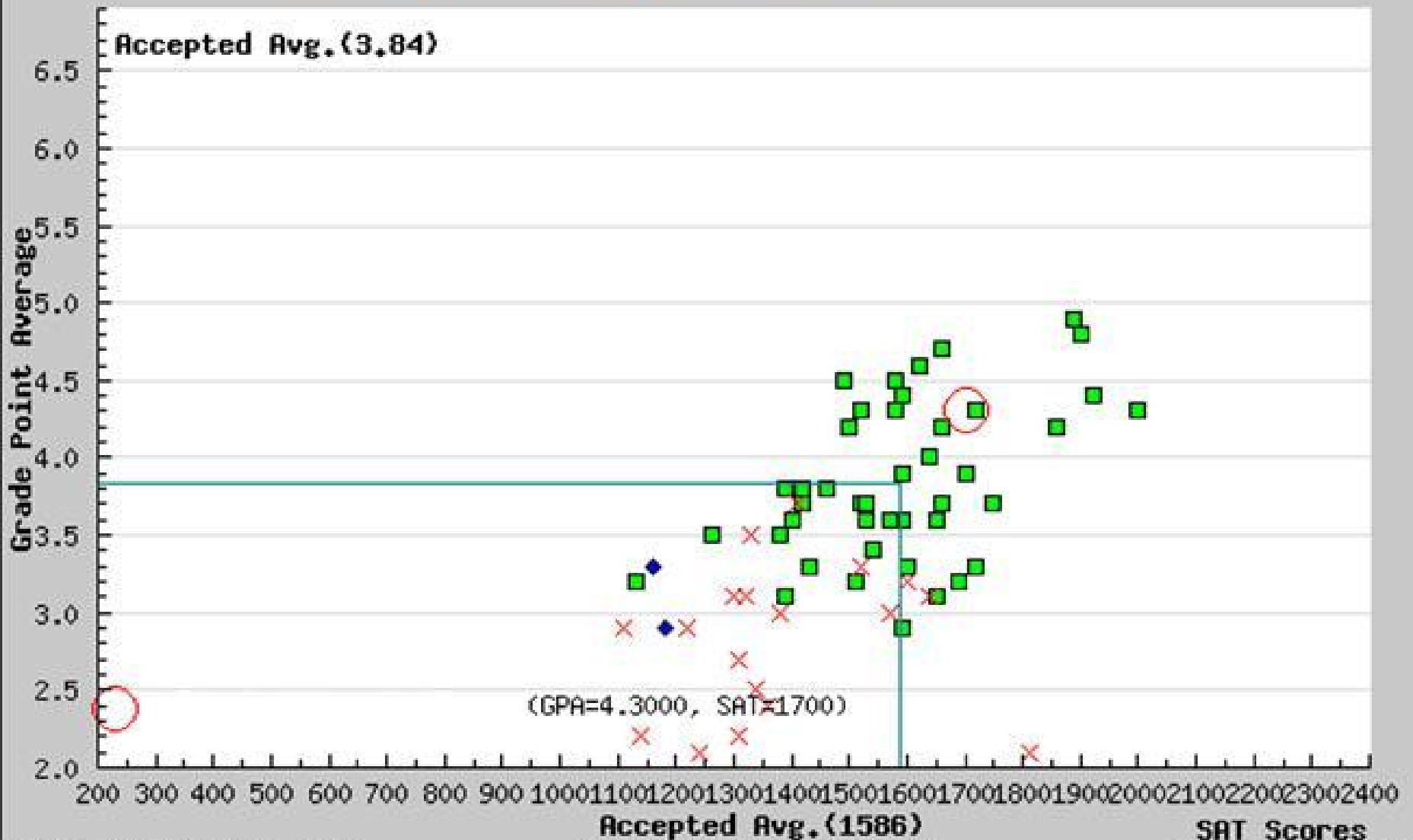
Scattergrams

- Favorite Naviance tool
- Determine reach/possible/safety schools
 - See past 5 years' weighted gpa and SAT scores of (anonymous) BHS students for each college, and acceptance/rejection

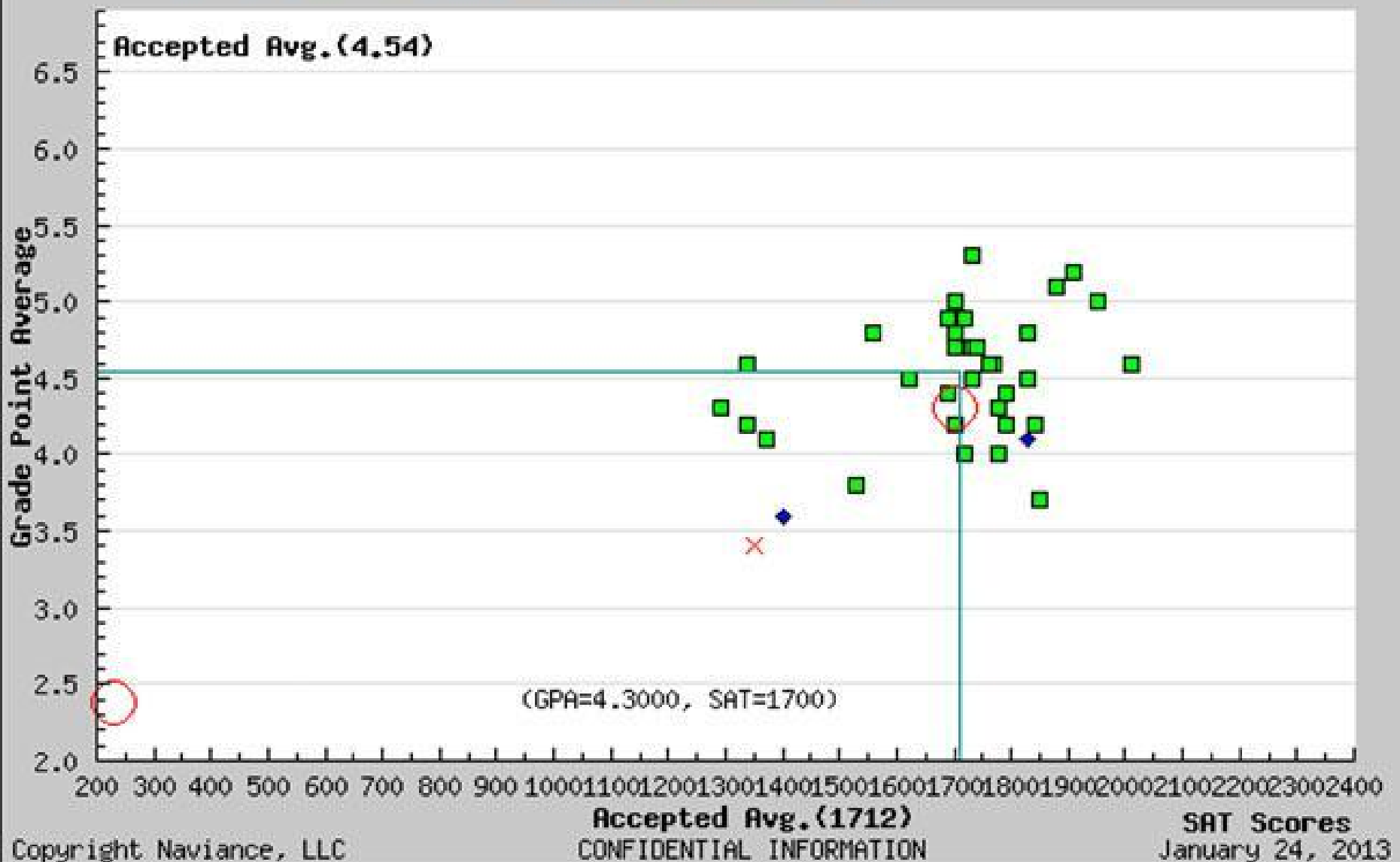
Salen State University

Bedford High School

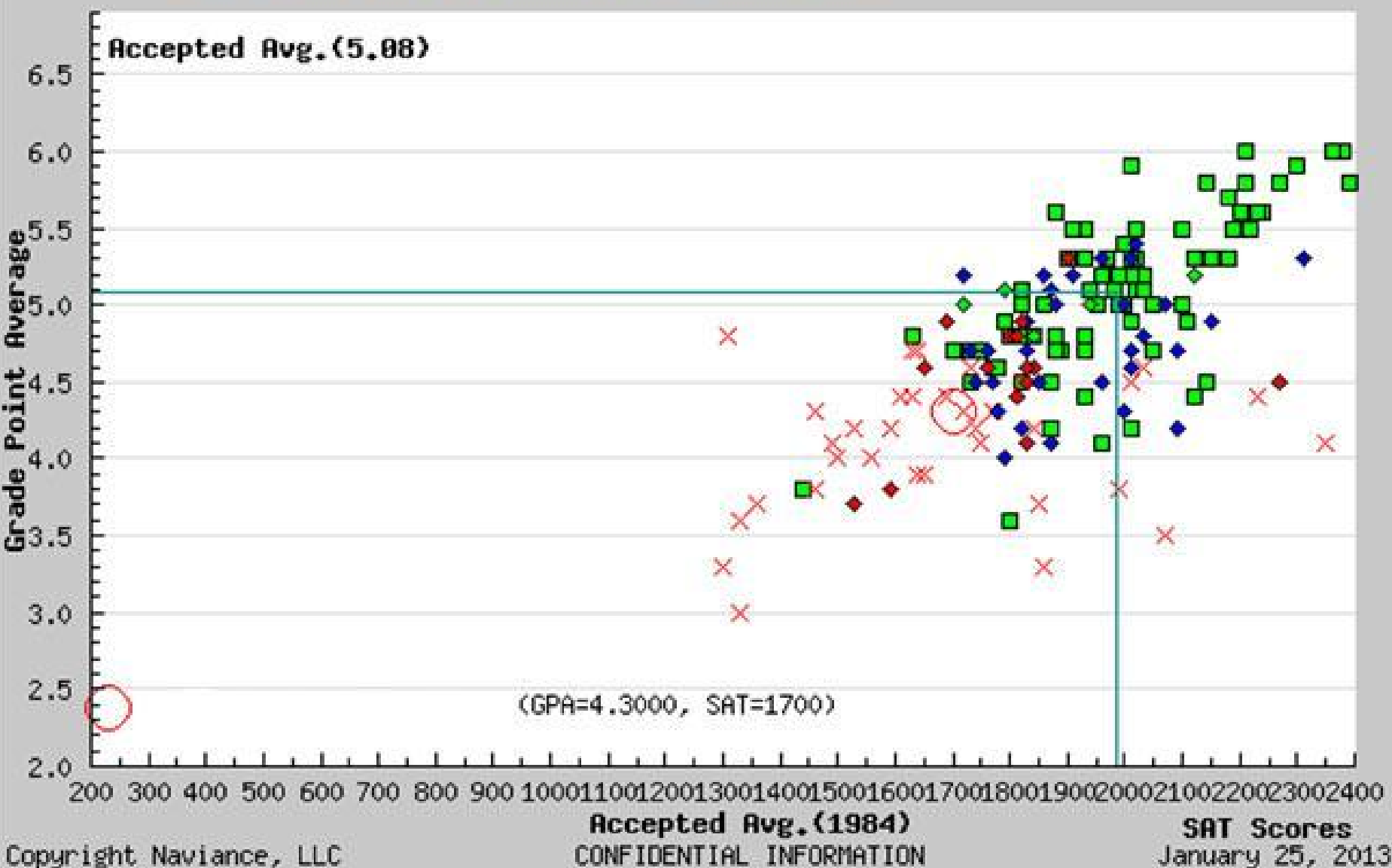
SAT (2400) vs. GPA Scattergram (2006-2013)



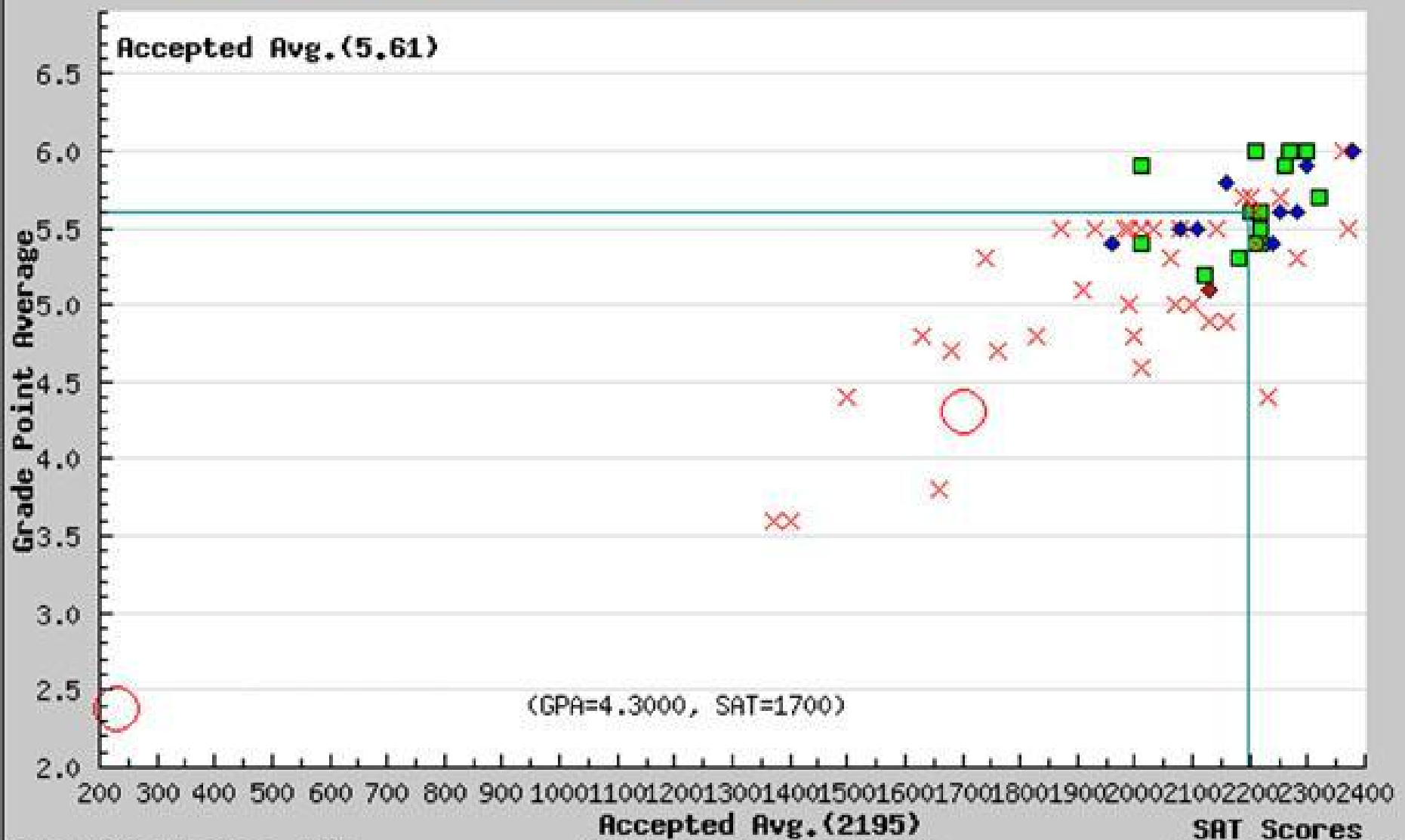
Herrinack College
Bedford High School
SAT (2400) vs. GPA Scattergram (2006-2013)



Northeastern University
Bedford High School
SAT (2400) vs. GPA Scattergram (2006-2013)



Tufts University
Bedford High School
SAT (2400) vs. GPA Scattergram (2006-2013)



Scattergrams

- Use students' weighted gpa
 - More accurate in predicting college acceptances
- Compare your unofficial 2 ½ year weighted gpa when calculated, until official which is next Sept./Oct.

Considering Early Decision/ Early Action?

- Take all required tests in spring of junior year, retake fall of senior year if advisable
- Discuss/develop your plan with counselor this spring or early fall
- Early decision applications - binding
- Early action applications - not binding

Parting Advice: By End of Summer

- Read the materials in this folder...soon!
- Student should work on essays
- Visit colleges
- Create an application list
- Plan to apply to some safety schools “early action” – by October 15, November 1 or 15
- Create a Common App account

Remember the Goal...

- Find a college where your son or daughter can learn and grow, both academically and personally
 - With thought and effort, a good “match” can be found for every student

Conclusion

- Small Group Meetings Jan 25, 26 & 28
 - review college tools in Naviance
- April Small Group Meetings April 4,5 & 7
 - teacher recommendations
- March 10th counselor rec forms due to counselor
 - Student Questionnaire (Naviance)
 - Resume (Naviance)
 - Parent Brag Sheet (blue folder or on website)
- Parents are welcome to join individual meetings (Google Calendar)