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Klein gives advice on the 'waiting game'

by Megha Jain

For Joel Barlow High School seniors it is probably one of the most nerve-racking and anxious times of the school year, waiting for news from the colleges to which they applied.

College counselor Stephanie Klein describes it as a "waiting game."

Seniors often have a hard time and are left unsure of how to handle a college's response, whether it is a rejection, deferral, or even an acceptance letter. Ms. Klein owns and has run her own college counseling business, Winning Applications, in Redding for the past three and a half years and counsels high schoolers from all over

Fairfield County and as far as New York City and Maryland. Ms. Klein knows firsthand what colleges look for, as she has worked as an admissions officer at Northwestern University and completed her undergraduate studies at Brown University.

"There are ways to deal with all three possibilities: deferrals, rejections and acceptances," said Ms. Klein. "With deferrals, see why there are pauses with your application, write follow-up letters and make contacts with the specific college to let them know you're interested."

Ms. Klein said to take the deferral as a "maybe" and stressed that you need to be pro-

active.

"When dealing with contacting colleges, make sure you do everything you can to make yourself stand out," said Ms. Klein.

In terms of rejection, Ms. Klein advised, "Make sure not to take it personally. Nobody likes rejection but it can't get you down."

When making decisions between two acceptances or narrowing down your choices, Ms. Klein recommends that students look at what they like about their high school, such as class size, student body, teaching style, environment, etc. Looking at high school as a microcosm, one

can see what he or she wants in a college education.

"It is now the time for juniors to start to step up and get themselves started in the admissions process," Ms. Klein said. "It is important to definitely start early and it will help manage your stress ... Make sure you seek and get help if you know you need it and make sure you know the type of person you are because it will greatly help your admissions process if you start early," she said.

Visit Ms. Klein's Web site, winningapplication.net, for more information.

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