

Innovative Partnership

Revolutionizes College Counseling



One School's Experiment With Stretching Bandwidth Through Creative Partnerships

In a time when helping students through the college application process is more challenging than ever, the college counseling staff at Episcopal High School forged a unique partnership with an outside college counseling service. In doing so, they expanded their bandwidth significantly with an investment of just a few thousand dollars a year.

Many independent school students select private high schools with college firmly in view. But first-generation students and those on financial aid often are so overwhelmed by the transition to school that they are not positioned to work on next steps.

✓ Reflection Sparks Creativity

Keith Wilkerson, a first generation college student, overcame challenges to lead CollegeThoughts, a college advising firm outside of Philadelphia, aiding over 8,000 families with early college prep, inspired by his journey guiding students.

✓ The Idea was Born

CollegeThoughts and Episcopal High School collaborated on the Episcopal Scholars Program (ESP), aiming to provide early college support. The program targets high-potential freshmen and sophomores, engaging 16 students in monthly sessions focused on college readiness.

✓ Humble Beginnings

The Episcopal and CollegeThoughts team meet with students each month and plan a dynamic and collaborative curriculum. The club is also described as a safe space for students to voice their concerns surrounding the college application process.

✓ The Journey Continues

Episcopal Scholars Program addresses the importance of communication, self-advocacy, and goal setting. Beyond the College Club meetings, students were able to schedule sessions with the CollegeThoughts counseling team or the consultants to ask questions about their individual journeys to college.

Learn More Information about
CollegeThoughts or the College Club!



(610) 601-9010



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What Does the Future Hold?

The CollegeThoughts team is working to spread this valuable program to other independent schools. Our mission is to encourage more counseling offices to have early conversations about college, especially with their under-resourced students, to decrease student stress and increase college success—all without breaking the college counseling office budget.

Together, the CollegeThoughts and expanded team will help to inform students about course decisions, extracurricular involvement, and other ways to thrive in high school. The blended team and our cumulative conversations serve as the foundation for informed junior and senior year application and enrollment decisions.

If you would like more information about CollegeThoughts or the ESP Pilot, please feel free to reach out to the team at (info@collegethoughts.com) or visit (<http://collegethoughts.com>).



CLASS OF 2028

Elliot Kim - Cornell University

I was accepted Early Decision into Cornell University as a communication major. CollegeThoughts pushed me to start thinking seriously about the college process from as early as sophomore year, a push that benefited me greatly when my senior fall finally rolled around. From college tours to essay workshops, I was able to find my future home for the next four years through CollegeThoughts and the ESP program. Thank you so much to Keith, Lily, and everyone on the CollegeThoughts team as well as the Episcopal College Counseling team and Mr. Hodge for aiding me on this journey!



CLASS OF 2028

Leo Melton - Stanford University

ESP was transformative at Episcopal, redirecting my focus from MIT to finding the right fit. Discussions with Keith, Lily, and counselors at CollegeThoughts clarified my college priorities. While Stanford awaits, ESP ensured I'd be content with any outcome, nurturing both personal growth and confidence. Through open dialogue, I evolved into a more articulate and confident leader, enriching my college essays with authenticity.



CLASS OF 2028

Hiya Mussie - Brown University

After securing Early Decision admission to Brown University for neuroscience, I realized ESP at Episcopal has been instrumental in my college readiness since sophomore year. It provided comprehensive preparation, from test readiness to essay crafting, fostering proactive planning in a supportive environment. ESP's initiative in molding intentional high schoolers creates a supportive atmosphere, ensuring students have the resources for successful college pursuits.



BROWN



CLASS OF 2028

Alexa Parchment - Yale University

In the past four years I've grown significantly thanks to Keith, Lily, and the CollegeThoughts team. From a shy student lacking confidence, ESP transformed me into a leader with strong communication skills and self-assurance. Through ESP, I learned to embrace challenges and advocate for myself, preparing me for college and beyond. Their guidance not only alleviated stress in the college process, but also equipped me with invaluable advice to stand out among peers.

