

Postings
From The New Trier Post-High School Counseling Office
Or Members of the 2020 Graduating Class and their Parents

September, 2018

Welcome to Postings, the monthly newsletter designed to keep you informed and on track with the post-high school process at New Trier Township High School. This newsletter will be emailed to you each month, posted as a message on student Naviance accounts, and listed under the “Junior Newsletter” section of New Trier’s post-high school planning webpage.

Students are not expected to know where they want to go to college or what they wish to study yet. New Trier’s program for post-high school counseling is unique across the nation; students work individually through the process from developing a list based on their interests to investigating college options to completing the application process to deciding where to enroll.

Following the process at New Trier will provide students with the time and structure necessary for sound high school curricular decisions and for individualized help throughout the next eighteen months.

One of the first items on the agenda is taking the PSAT at New Trier on Wednesday, October 10, 2018.

The October testing provides New Trier juniors with the chance to take a PSAT, or Preliminary SAT for practice. Scores from these tests are only sent to the student, New Trier, or forwarded for National Merit Scholarship consideration.

The PSAT NMSQT screens the scores of all junior PSAT examinees for the National Merit Scholarship Program, the National Hispanic Recognition Program, the National Achievement Scholarship Program, and the Telluride Association. These programs screen test results for potential honor or potential scholarship money offered by the program itself or by some, but not all, colleges.

In order to qualify for NMSQ consideration, an index is calculated which is two times the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score added to the Math score, or $2(\text{EBRW} + \text{M}) = \text{Selection Index}$. For the Class of 2018, for instance, the index necessary to be in the top one-half of one percent in Illinois is a 221. Additional information regarding the National Merit Program can be found here:

<http://www.nationalmerit.org/s/1758/start.aspx?sid=1758&gid=2&pgid=61&cid=160>

As of 2016, the state of Illinois changed their contract from the ACT company to the company that offers the SAT as a high school graduation requirement. This year’s state-sponsored SAT will take place at New Trier on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 for all current juniors, and may also be used for college admission purposes.

All colleges will take either an SAT or an ACT. We encourage students to have at least one ACT with the writing section. Students have multiple chances to register on their own for an ACT in December, February, April, June, and July; the New Trier district is paying for an ACT for all juniors in school on Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

This bears repeating: all colleges accept either and ACT or SAT without preference for college admission purposes.

Junior year events

Here is what to expect this fall from post-high school counseling:

- ✓ This Thursday, September 27th at 7:00PM in the Cornog Auditorium of the Northfield Campus, New Trier hosts Director of Admission Scott Seibring from Illinois Wesleyan University. While Mr. Seibring will be discussing the process of applying for need-based college financial aid for the seniors, juniors and their parents are welcome to attend to obtain an overall picture of the process.
- ✓ The National Association for College Admission Counseling hosts a huge college fair from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Saturday, September 29, at McCormick Place, 2301 South King Drive, Chicago, 60616. Over 300 college representatives will be there to distribute information and collect prospective students' contact information. This year, there will also be sessions regarding choosing a college, financial aid, and arts admission, among other topics.
- ✓ For students interested in pursuing the arts in college, the National Association for College Admission Counseling is hosting the Visual and Performing Arts Fair on Thursday, October 25, at the University of Illinois Chicago Forum, 725 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, 60608. It begins with a workshop entitled "Bang for your Buck: Maximize your time at tonight's college fair" in the Forum at 6:10PM Details may be found at: https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/pva/chicago-performing-and-visual-arts-college-fair/#tab_WorkshopInformation
- ✓ New Trier's initial publication, *Four Steps to the Future*, should arrive in your home sometime in mid-October. Please read through this and keep it as a reference; it will have three-hole punches on its side to be integrated into a post-high school counseling binder distributed to parents in November.
- ✓ Students interested in maintaining their disability services may wish to attend CHOICES, a college fair specifically designed to highlight disability services offices at the college level. This year's fair is scheduled for Monday, October 22, 2018, at Deerfield High School, 1959 Waukegan Road, Deerfield, and begins at 6:00 PM. Arrive by 5:30 to check in. For more information, check the website: <http://www.postsecondarychoices.org/choices-fair-2018.html>
- ✓ Shortly, parents will be invited to an evening meeting with other advisory parents – no students - to meet and learn about the post-high school planning process at New Trier. You will be invited through your advisory

email; meetings will take place in small group settings on either November 13, 14 or 15, 2018, at a location to be announced at the Winnetka Campus. The white, post-high school counseling binder will be distributed at this meeting, and parents may peruse it for a few weeks, but should hand it over to their student; the binder will be used as a textbook of sorts for the next year and a half.

- ✓ Juniors may meet with visiting college representatives all fall; visits are announced daily, weekly lists are posted in adviser rooms and in the post-high school counseling office, room 201. In addition, the post-high school counseling website and Naviance maintain the entire list of visiting representatives.
Students who wish to meet with representatives should plan to do so during their free periods only as juniors; visiting with a rep is a privilege and should not interfere with the student's learning. Attendance is taken at these meetings. These meetings are typically geared toward seniors. These visits are designed for students, not parents, and provide students with the chance to learn preliminary information about specific colleges. Over 250 representatives visit New Trier each fall. *Attendance at these meetings have no bearing on a student's admission to any particular college or university.*
- ✓ And, speaking of Naviance, students were given a username (email) and password during a sophomore-year career introduction. Parents will be given their account at the evening advisory meeting, but until then, ask your student if he or she will spend some time looking through Naviance with you. If they have forgotten their password, they can reset it online. Please, however, do not focus solely on the college scattergrams and information; you are comparing your student's four-semester GPA to that of New Trier graduates with eight semesters of high school work completed. If your student can't recall their password, have them email their designated post-high school counselor for a password reset.
- ✓ Post-high school counselors will visit their assigned junior adviser rooms regularly; students will be given forms to complete during advisory. These forms are designed to elicit information from each student so that the initial post-high school planning meeting is pertinent to the individual's goals and ideas for his or her future.
- ✓ Pink, informational brochures delineating the process for arranging for the initial post-high school counseling meeting will be distributed at the parent advisory meeting, mailed home in November, and included in the publication *Four Steps to the Future*. Parents call on their designated day in January to arrange the first meeting, which typically occurs from late February to May.

- ✓ After the initial meeting, students meet with their assigned New Trier counselor approximately every three weeks to make sure every aspect of the process is covered to the student's and parents' expectations.

Student drop-in days

During the regular school year, Mondays are reserved for student drop-in. During their free periods, students may come to room 201 and wait in the reception area to see their counselor. This time is ideal to address quick questions that may arise with curricular or extra-curricular issues.

Important considerations for the junior year

It is imperative that students put forth their best efforts during this academic year. College admission officials will expect students to demonstrate their intellectual dedication and talents, and may place additional emphasis on the junior year as the last and most rigorous full year of achievement college representatives can use to assess a candidate's readiness for college-level work.

It is equally important that students demonstrate their best attitudes in the classroom this year as well. Most of our juniors will need to have one letter of recommendation from an academic teacher – someone from English, math, social studies, lab science or foreign language – to complete an admission application next year. The teacher letter of recommendation describes the student as a learner and includes classroom behavior, a description of students' approach to their studies, and their ability to manage challenges, for instance. We encourage students to impress their teachers with their maturity, dedication to learning, and work ethic. Students, please make sure you have at least one teacher to whom you can go for a recommendation at the end of the year as needed. In this area, more is not better; college application readers would rather have one strong letter than having to spend time reading three that say the same thing. Included on the post-high school website is a list of the colleges that require two teacher letters of recommendation for your reference.

We hope that this newsletter helps explain things related to your student's post-high school process in a timely manner. Juniors will develop a relationship with their New Trier counselor naturally through this structure. We look forward to working with you and your student!