

Postings

From The New Trier Post-High School Counseling Office
For Members of the 2019 Graduating Class and their Parents

December, 2017

The post-high school counselors thought this would be a good opportunity to describe the program and services of the office in detail. New Trier's program is unique in the nation in the comprehensive services delivered on an individual basis.

Right now, counselors are visiting junior adviser rooms to help students see what Naviance can do to help with the college search and selection process. In January and February, counselors will visit adviser rooms again to discuss the importance of enrolling in a solid senior-year program to meet the expectations of college admission offices, but more importantly, to help students better prepare themselves for success in college classrooms.

Individual meetings begin in the second semester of the junior year. The initial meeting is with a student and parent(s), and lays the groundwork for the relationship the student will have with the counselor. Right now, your student is completing information sheets in daily advisery so that the post-high school counselor will be able to have materials and ideas ready for the initial meeting. Both the student and at least one parent attend the initial meeting.

Pink brochures with dates to call for the initial meeting were distributed at the junior parent meetings in November, are posted on the NT post-high school website, on page six of *Four Steps to the Future*, and will be mailed to junior homes at the end of next week.

Beyond spring break, students will meet with the assigned counselor approximately every three weeks during the school day to accomplish the tasks associated with the process. Students will have homework for each meeting in order to move the process along. *The better a student lets the counselor get to know him or her, the better the counselor can not only represent the student with college admission officers, but can also offer appropriate choices for consideration.*

Because counselors plan to meet with students individually throughout the remainder of the junior and the senior year, we are able to address any and all issues that might arise with each student on a one-to-one basis.

Counselors visit junior and senior advisories on a regular basis to address the general process. These newsletters are also forwarded to each student and parental email addresses, and listed in the student's individual Naviance message center.

After the initial meeting, counselors will enter a list of schools to investigate on the individual student's Naviance account. Students are expected to update this list and to check their emails regularly for any updates from New Trier's post-high school counselors. *Postings* newsletters will also show up in the student's message center on the student's Naviance homepage.

The New Trier post-high school counselor provides:

- A structured program of meetings designed to help students identify colleges and any other post-secondary options as well as continuing to complete the tasks associated with applications and required materials.

- An evolving list of post-secondary options to investigate, including “ball-parking” the student’s chance of admission at each, as appropriate. The final list of options should match the student’s values and wishes.
- Multiple academic and financial “safety” schools that the student would be proud to attend.
- Specific suggestions as to how to investigate colleges prior to making campus visit arrangements.
- Assistance for students with special circumstances including students with disabilities, student athletes, and students who will be required to submit portfolios or arrange for auditions.
- Help with senior course registration decisions.
- A review of all applications before they are submitted.
- Essay and Common Application seminars throughout the summer after the junior year; actual essays for the Class of 2019 will be provided for the Common Application and many other popular schools, including the University of Illinois, the University of Wisconsin, and the supplemental questions for the University of Michigan and the University of Colorado.
- Brainstorming and review of college essays and supplements.
- Monthly newsletters to students and parents to keep everyone up-to-date.
- A yearly “College Application Processing” night to review the process of applying through New Trier and any updates in admission.
- An annual “Gap Year Fair,” the largest in the nation, for students interested in researching year-off opportunities between high school and college. This year’s fair is Saturday, January 27, 2018 at noon on the Winnetka Campus.
- A “Financial Aid Planning Night” in September for the October 1 release of the need-based core document, the FAFSA.
- Co-sponsorship of CHOICES, a regional college fair specifically designed for the needs of college-bound students with disabilities.
- Assistance with any individual scholarship and financial aid searches.
- A written counselor or school letter of recommendation for each student.

- Assistance with making sure the proper required paperwork gets to every college and university admission office.
- Help with the decision-making involved with the application and selection of post-secondary options, including employment, gap years and military service.
- Assistance to any district student who is transferring between colleges or who seeks other options.

The philosophy of the New Trier post-high school guidance experience centers on the student taking increasing responsibility for his or her future. Parents remain an integral part of the process, and will be encouraged to help their students become self-sufficient advocates for themselves in preparation for their independence in the college or other adult setting. In fact, after the process begins, we recommend that parents and their student schedule at least an hour a week to talk all things college – and that they do not intermittently pepper one another with college-related questions the rest of the week. That way, the student-parent relationship is maintained and both parties are up-to-date on what is happening.

Your assigned, individual, post-high school counselor is here to help with every step of the process, from assisting with junior year course options to providing summer enrichment opportunities to consider in the career center. Next year your counselor will suggest college options and listen as you process impressions of campus visits, review your essays and applications and help you make sure all required documents arrive on time.

New Trier counselors have also implemented a number of evening presentations available to offer general guidance information about college, gap year options, financial aid and transitioning to college.

Arranging for the initial, parent-and-student post-high school meeting:

You may already have a copy of the pink brochure which details how to arrange this meeting. One was handed out to parents at the fall parent meeting, one was included in the publication, *Four Steps to the Future*, another posted on the post-high school website, and one more will be mailed to you this month.

Please follow the steps to find days of the week that work for you and your student before you call in January. Based on suggestions from the parents' association, calling for the appointment is done on a day assigned to your particular post-high school counselor.

Although there is no assignment for parents before the meeting, parents will be asked to complete a parent recommendation form to help the counselor get to know the student. This information is designed to help the post-high school counselor prepare for a meeting specifically geared for your student and his or her needs and wishes for the future.