

## Postings

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

December, 2018

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.

But before we do, here is a reminder for parents!

Please remember to complete and submit to the post-high school counseling office your Parent Recommendation Form; this form not only helps counselors get to know your student better but also greatly helps when it is time to write the student's school letter of recommendation for colleges. Thank you!!

Individual meetings begin in January 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. Prior to the meeting, students should have completed information sheets in their advisories so that the post-high school counselor will be able to have materials and ideas ready for the initial meeting. Beyond spring break, students will meet with the assigned counselor approximately every two to three weeks during the school day to accomplish the tasks associated with the process. *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, the hope is to be 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 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 2020 will be provided for the Common Application and many other popular schools, including the University of Illinois, and the supplemental questions for the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin 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 to provide updates in the admission world.
- An annual “Gap Year Fair,” the largest in the nation, for students interested in researching year-off opportunities between high school and college.
- A “Financial Aid Planning Night” in the fall.
- Co-sponsorship of CHOICES, a regional college fair specifically designed for the needs of college-bound students with disabilities.
- Assistance with any scholarship and financial aid searches, as well as help with the core need-based financial aid document, the FAFSA.
- 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.

Your assigned, individual, post-high school counselor is here to help with every step of the process, from assisting with selecting senior year course options to researching potential colleges to completing applications to making that final decision. New Trier is the only school in the nation, public or private, that can essentially offer each student individualized college counseling.

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.

They are cross-trained to work with student athletes, students with disabilities, international students, and students applying to arts programs that require a portfolio or audition.

**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 November parent meeting, one was included in the publication, *Four Steps to the Future*, another posted on the post-high school website and one more was mailed to you recently.

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. If you are the parent of multiple members of the Class of 2020, you may make all appointments on the first day you are eligible to call.

Although there is no assignment for parents before the meeting we deeply appreciate the Parent Recommendation Form to be completed before we meet. That form was handed out in our November parent meeting and is on the post-high school webpage under "Document Links." Your students are working on their background information in their daily advisery. This information is designed to help the post-high school counselor prepare for a meeting specifically geared for individual student needs and wishes for the future.

*The post-high school counselors look forward to working with your student; we know you want the best for your children, and we do, too. We wish you all a relaxing winter break!*