

## **Postings**

From New Trier's Post-High School Counseling Office  
For the Class of 2019  
May, 2018

### **Summer looms ahead!**

As the end of your junior year draws near, make sure to reserve some time to relax this summer. While the post-high school counselors have a lot of opportunities to keep you busy, it is vital to have some down time – some time to get away from the stress of your school obligations and have some fun!

### **New Trier's Summer Seminar Series – Both Programs start at 7:00 PM in the Cornog Auditorium of the Northfield Campus**

On Thursday, June 14, 2018, the post-high school counseling office presents “College Admissions: An Introduction” for students and parents who are interested in learning practical, useable information about the college search and application process. A panel of current admission officers from Case Western Reserve University, The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, The University of Iowa, Loyola University Chicago, and Marquette University will share their expertise and answer many commonly asked questions. Moreover, each panelist will share insights on how their respective college reviews applications for admission. Learn invaluable tips on how to explore college options while clearing up common misperceptions of admissions and discovering how to best represent yourself throughout the process. Additionally, members of the PHSC department will be on hand to answer any questions regarding New Trier's comprehensive, student-centered services, and the departmental philosophy on the admission process.

Then, on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, “The Write Stuff: How to Navigate the College Essay” will be presented. Hear from Veronica Hauad, senior associate dean of admissions at Kenyon College and former admissions officer at The University of Chicago, about writing an effective essay for college admissions. Veronica will discuss how to construct a thoughtful essay and will provide previous examples from former applicants. Beyond that, attendees will gain a better understanding of how an applicant's essay can make an impact on their chances of admission.

### **Once you are rested, let's get some work done for your future!**

The post-high school counseling office will be open this summer. A copy of the schedule for counselors is on the webpage at <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/phsc/> and includes the phone number to call to make an appointment for the summer. If you haven't yet had your initial meeting with your parents, summer is the ideal time to start the process, too.

### **Remember your PHS homework**

As your orange assignment sheets indicate, you should plan to take some time in the summer to continue your college research to find good prospective colleges by:

1. Choosing four to five colleges at a time

2. Read about them in the Fiske Guide or at [www.niche.com](http://www.niche.com) (knowing students who contribute to niche either hate or love their school – it’s like Yelp for colleges)
3. Take notes about what you like and what you dislike about campus life
4. For the colleges you like, dive into the individual college webpages under “academics” and “programs” to learn more specifics about the college programs in which you are interested
  - A. Print the courses required for a degree in, say, finance, if that is your intended major, and;
  - B. Delve into the catalog online and see how many and what kind of courses each college offers in, for instance, finance.
  - C. Keeping this printed information in your post-high school binder will allow you to compare college programs as your interests develop
  - D. If you don’t know what you want to study, use this as a chance to see for instance, what an anthropology major is by reading through the information the colleges provide about certain majors.

### **As you develop your “short list” of college where you think you will apply**

Talk to your parents about when to schedule a visit to a college or two to see how reality matches your expectations. Call the office of admission to attend an information session and take a campus tour. If you want to talk to the person who advises students about what courses are needed to obtain that degree in history, ask the person in admissions when you make your appointment if you can meet with an academic advisor in history. See if the water polo coach is open to a meeting, too, and always swing by the office for student with disabilities if you will be using any educational accommodations for an IEP or 504 plan.

*Another step with your short list is to give the names of these colleges to your parents so that they can visit college websites and plug numbers into each college’s Net Price Calculator to obtain a better estimate as to how much your freshman year of college will cost.*

### **Parents, recommend your students to your New Trier post-high school counselor!**

At the initial post-high school meeting, parents were given a pink form with questions to help your PHS counselor write an effective letter of recommendation for their student. Students who are working to keep up with their obligations and trying to get a good night’s sleep often don’t recognize what is remarkable about them individually; you, as a parent, do appreciate the wonderful qualities your student has developed as a young adult, and this information is vital to share so your post-high school counselor can write a meaningful letter on your student’s behalf. We’d like to have your comments in early June.

### **Common Application Rollover**

The main application form that over 800 colleges use is called the Common Application and can be accessed at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). The application is up and running for the Class of 2019 now, so if you are bored over the summer and plan to apply to some schools that are a part of the Common Application consortium, feel free to create an account and being to key in some of the easy, demographic information.

You can attend a free Common App Workshop at New Trier in August, work on the app with your New Trier post-high school counselor, or register and get started individually. The

Common App webpage (see yellow section of binder) includes “Common App Ready” which introduces the app and the process for using it.

***The only part of the Common Application that rolls over is under the tab marked “Common App,” so only complete that information. The application essay questions in that section are the same for graduates in June, 2019.***

### **NT Post-High School Summer Seminars and Workshops**

The most frequent comment students make as they complete this process is that they wished they had written their main application essay over the summer. Once again, college essay seminars and Common Application workshops are being offered free of charge and with no registration required.

- Actual college essay questions for the class of 2019 provided
- Work with counselors who know what the colleges want in the essay
- Students attend only one essay seminar, complete the brainstorming individually and arrange for follow-up review of drafts with assigned post-high school counselor

One of the major sources of stress in the college application process is writing the application essay. The post-high school counseling office at New Trier offers a workshop designed to help students complete a strong, polished essay the summer *before* the senior year. Completing the essay over the summer allows students to focus on their classroom achievement and activities during the fall semester.

*Students attend one essay introductory seminar and arrange a follow-up meeting to present their first (and subsequent) draft(s) to their individual post-high school counselor.*

#### 2018 Essay Seminar Dates & Times - Class of 2019

Location: Winnetka Campus, Room W321

Attend one only - students only-no parents, please

Monday, July 9 – 4:00 PM – 5: 15 PM

Tuesday, July 17 – 10:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Wednesday, July 25 – 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Thursday, August 2 – 1:30 PM to 2:45 PM

Tuesday, August 7 –10:30 AM to 11:45 AM

Thursday, August 9 – 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM

Tuesday, August 14 – 10:30 AM to 11:45AM

Thursday, August 16 -10:30 AM to 11:45 AM

#### 2018 Combination Common Application Workshops/Essay Seminars

Location: Winnetka Campus, Room W321

Laptop or iPad required; attend one student session only – no parents, please!

- Create your registration log-in, complete approximately half of the main application, and learn how to navigate the application and its sections

- Learn from post high school counselors what is truly needed in the application, and how to present it to colleges
- Allow yourself more time during your senior year to spend on academics
- Become more confident in completing other college applications
- Have a large part of the application process completed before senior year even begins, making you (and your parents) happier

Tuesday, August 7 – Essay seminar 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM; CA workshop from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

Thursday, August 9– Essay seminar 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM; CA workshop from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

Tuesday, August 14-Essay seminar 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM; CA workshop from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

Thursday, August 16-Essay seminar 10:30 AM to 11:45 AM; CA workshop from 1:00 PM to 2:15 PM

**We KNOW this is a long newsletter!**

And so we will forward another in mid-June as soon as we have the essays for the Class of 2019. We hope to be able to forward essays for the Common Application, the supplemental questions for Indiana University, the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Michigan, the University of Wisconsin, and the essay prompts for the University of Illinois, Michigan State University, Loyola University, and the University of California system. The U Chicago supplement will be available in late June.

***Best wishes on a strong end-of-junior year and for a rejuvenating summer!!***