

Postings

From the New Trier High School Post-High School Counseling Office
For Members of the 2019 Graduating Class
August, 2018

You still have a bit of summer left, but even so, your thoughts may gradually be shifting toward summer reading assignments or back-to-school shopping; here are some things to consider for your re-entry to school from the post-high school planning perspective.

Parents, you may still submit your parent recommendation to assist your student's counselor in writing the school letter of recommendation. Feel free to email, fax, mail or walk it in!

Summer hours are dwindling for post-high school counselors in the office, so if you wish to make a summer appointment, please check your counselor's availability on the chart on the New Trier post-high school webpage. **Then do not email your counselor, but call Mrs. Perlongo weekdays between 8-noon and 1:00 to 3:00 PM at 847/784-2234.**

Once your fall schedule arrives in the mail and you are still at home, give Mrs. Perlongo a call at 784-2234 on weekdays between 8-noon and 1:00 to 3:00 PM to set up an appointment with your post-high school counselor during one of your free periods. **Do not email your post-high school counselor for an appointment.** During the school year, please drop in to the office to make an appointment – we do not pick up student calls during the school day and emailing takes too long so spaces fill up before we can verify an appointment.

Here are the dates and times of the Common Application workshops and the essay seminars remaining for the summer.

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

Mark your calendars for these fall events!

College Application Processing Night – Thursday, August 30, from 7-8:30 PM, Cornog Auditorium of the Northfield Campus. Please join us in this “kick-off to college” event outlining the application process and changes to some of the more popular schools’ admission for the class of 2019. Handout provided; bring a pen for notes. Seniors and their parents are invited.

New Trier Financial Aid Night - Thursday, September 27-8:30 PM in the Cornog Auditorium, Northfield Campus. This is designed for seniors and their parents interested in learning about the need-based financial aid process. Scott Seibring, director of financial aid at Illinois Wesleyan University, will present the process and some of its idiosyncrasies. Additional information about these changes is included at the end of this newsletter.

CHOICES Fair for students with disabilities; parents also invited, Monday, October 22, 2018, from 5:30 - 9 PM at Deerfield High School, 1959 Waukegan Road, Deerfield, IL 60015. The panel program begins promptly at 5:30 PM with breakout sessions afterwards. A general college fair runs from 7 to 9 PM. This is a regional program with other area schools and their students and families are also invited. College admission and college disabilities services counselors will be available to students and their parents. Bring your list of colleges and a pencil.

It is not unusual for teachers not to check email over the summer. Do not panic if you email a teacher and do not receive a response. Please make sure if your recommender had a background form for you to complete that you do so over the summer and email it to your teacher with your thanks. If you are using the New Trier form from your binder, please note that teachers may not expect you to know now where you are applying – the first page need not be complete, but it is the back page with the questions that teachers want early in order to write your letter. *A copy of the post-high school form is located in your white, post-high school binder in the bright yellow section – you should review that section for process information.*

Emailing invitations to your post-high school counselor does not meet federal requirements for your permission to send official documents. Students must still complete a required transcript request form in the Post-High School Counseling Office before any transcripts will be submitted; transcripts cannot be sent immediately because New Trier waits three to four days to make sure the senior schedule is correct and can then be included on the transcript. Your counselor also needs to wait for transcripts to be put in electronic format for uploading. *Seniors do not use any online request forms – those are for previous grads only.* Your post-high school counselor wants to see you to make sure you are using the right forms and that if you need to take additional steps for some applications, you are aware of them.

Remember that colleges will take either an ACT or an SAT; there is no preference. If you are done testing, and you know where you will apply and which test scores you wish to send, you may go directly to the testing sites at any time to order your scores to be sent to colleges. If you are not sure, do not worry – you still have plenty of time to retest and talk with your post-high school counselor about what to send!

Soon, your messages inbox on Naviance will be purged. The program typically deletes them in August to clear the way for the new year. If you wish to print the essays sent in the email to you – essays confirmed for your graduating year, so you can begin to work on them ahead of the fall – please print the June newsletter as soon as possible.

Please make sure your Naviance list reflects the colleges in which you are still interested, and that you have appropriate safety schools, financial and otherwise. Under your student account, delete any schools you no longer wish to consider, and add any new schools. That way you will not be unnecessarily bothered when we notify you of college representative visits. *You cannot delete colleges under a parent account.*

When college representatives visit New Trier, typically beginning in mid-September and running through early November, you will receive an email of the visit from a representative whose school is on your Naviance list approximately four days before the visit.

If the visit occurs during a class period, you must speak to your teacher to pre-arrange any absence from a class to meet with a college representative. It is up to the teacher to determine if you can be excused from class to meet with a representative. If you have an exam that period, for instance, you should be in class and can email the representative through Naviance's contact information to let him or her know that you were unable to miss class that day. This is very common and perfectly acceptable; no college representative will penalize your application because you missed a visit at your school!

Changes in applying for need-based financial aid that began two years ago are vital to understand to make sure your student receives what he or she may qualify to have. The federal government now uses the parent and student income information from 2017 for completing the FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. *As a result, the FAFSA will be available as of October first, 2018, for students going to college in 2019.*

Even though the form says you have until July to complete and submit the form, money is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and colleges run out of money every year.

Therefore, it is essential that if you think your student might qualify for need-based financial aid that you and your student complete the form as close to October first as possible; and, if you have already filed your federal income taxes in April of 2018, we encourage you to authorize the FAFSA to use the Internal Revenue Service's DRT or Data Retrieval Tool. By using the DRT, you are authorizing the FAFSA to reach into your 2017 tax forms to automatically pull specific income information that will be electronically input onto your student's FAFSA.

Using the DRT provides more accurate information in the FAFSA and streamlines the process for applying for aid.

The student aid specialists at the Illinois Students Assistance Commission believe that Illinois funding, if allocated this year, will run out for any aid candidates who do not file their FAFSA before Thanksgiving. *This only pertains to students who will attend college in Illinois. State money will not be allocated to any school not in Illinois.* We do recommend that all students have a financial safety, and if that school is in Illinois, please make sure your FAFSA is completed as soon as possible after October 1, but at least before Thanksgiving.

The FAFSA requires that one parent and the student apply for an FSA ID at this web address (please cut and paste this link in your browser): <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>

It may take 24 hours to verify your FSA ID, and this can be completed at any time now to expedite the process. Please store your FSA ID in a secure but accessible location.

We know this is a lot of information, and hope you will try to enjoy the rest of your summer, too!!