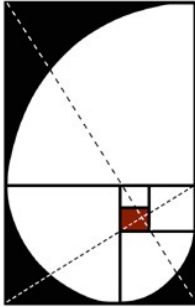


August 2017



THOMAS MACLAREN SCHOOL

College Counseling Newsletter

Welcome back to school!

Whether you are the parent of a returning or new student, please accept my heartfelt welcome to the 2017-18 school year at Thomas MacLaren. My name is Amy Cooper and I am the new college and school counselor here at MacLaren, and as such, am responsible for guiding students through all aspects of the college application process. I look forward to getting to know you and your children! These monthly newsletters will serve to educate you on the college process at all levels, so please click on the links to find information specific to your child.

Sincerely,

Amy Cooper. College Counselor
acooper@maclarenschool.org

Upcoming Events

Frequently, colleges will host different admissions events in Colorado. For information about these events and others, keep an eye on the [College and Career Calendar](#) on the MacLaren website. This will be updated regularly and may include information that is not included in the Friday Folder.

College Admission Representatives

will visit MacLaren throughout the year. This is a great time for students to connect with colleges. The updated [list](#) of scheduled visits can also be accessed through the MacLaren website.

CLASS SPECIFIC NEWS

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SENIORS

Senior Parent Night. Parents, mark your calendars for the upcoming senior parent night, in which both Mrs. Fruh and Mrs. Cooper will present on supporting your child through the college application process. The event will be held on **Thursday, September 14th at 6:30pm.**

Managing the transition. I understand that getting to know a new college counselor as a senior is stressful. Mrs. Fruh and I are working as a team to support your child. She will conduct the College Counseling Conferences this fall and provide ongoing counsel as needed. I am here to provide application support and offer guidance. It is crucial that your children communicate with both of us on when and where they are applying!

The 2017-2018 Common Application is open! If students plan on applying to one or more of these nearly 700 colleges, they can now start their applications. Ms. Fruh will offer a common application workshop this month during tutorial.

For students taking the October 28th ACT, the registration deadline is September 22nd. See Mrs. Cooper for more information or for a fee waiver, if you qualify.

Financial Aid. The FAFSA is changing. Learn more about the details which will impact the Class of 2018. There will be a Financial Aid Information Night on November 2. If you have questions before then, do not hesitate to reach out to me or Mrs. Fruh.

Scholarships. Check the website often for updated scholarship information. The MacLaren website is a particularly useful resource as it has information on local and region scholarships that may not be included on national scholarship databases.

Recent scholarships shared with the seniors include the following: QuestBridge, Boettcher, the Daniels Fund, The UVA Jefferson Scholarship, the Burg Simpson Scholarship, and the Western Undergraduate Exchange program.



JUNIORS

While college applications seem a long way off, the junior year is in fact a busy time for students to self-assess their strengths, goals, and values, and to begin matching them with potential long-term academic and career opportunities.

The first opportunities for juniors to dip their toes into the world of colleges and universities are the fall college fairs that take place in and around Colorado springs. The biggest of these is the Southern Colorado College Fair, which takes place Monday, September 25th at 5:30pm at Coronado High School in Colorado Springs. Click the [link](#) for more information, including a list of all colleges attending.

All juniors will take the PSAT this year on October 11th, which will put them in consideration for the National Merit Scholarship program. More information will be forthcoming from Mrs. Cooper.

Juniors are welcome to attend any of the college admission representative visits that will take place at MacLaren this fall. The [schedule](#) will be updated frequently.

[Parent Action Plan: 11th Grade.](#) How to help your child prepare for what's ahead

[Federal Student Aid:](#) 11th Grade Checklist

SOPHOMORES

The sophomore year is a time for students to develop their intellectual curiosities, immerse in extracurricular activities, contribute to their communities, and enjoy high school. We will spend considerable time this year developing students ICAPs (Individual Career and Academic Plan) and having many conversations around goals, interests, strengths, and values, and how they relate to students' long term academic and career plans. The focus on the sophomore year is not specifically or intentionally focused on the college process; however, there are several items sophomores can focus on in order to be ready for what's ahead.

All sophomores will take the pre-ACT (practice ACT) this October, which will help them better understand the high stakes testing experience. More information will be forthcoming.

[The Peterson's 10th Grade College Planning Timeline](#)



FRESHMEN

At this point in the freshman year, students should focus on developing the skills—time management, self advocacy, intellectual curiosity, discipline— necessary to be successful in a rigorous environment like MacLaren, which will set them up for success later on in the college process. Mrs. Cooper will work with all freshmen on their ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Plan) throughout the year.

[Ideas for Getting Ready for College: 9th and 10th Graders](#)