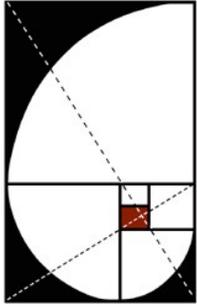


February 2018



THOMAS MACLAREN SCHOOL

College Counseling Newsletter

Dear parents,

This semester is off to a great start and moving quickly! By now, Seniors have submitted most college applications and are getting serious about scholarship applications. Juniors are researching schools and building college lists. Sophomores and Freshmen are increasing their knowledge of their education and career options after MacLaren. All of this in addition to keeping up with coursework!

For families who are looking for a unique, educational experience during the summer that can also build a college resume, take a look at the [Summer Programs](#) page on the MacLaren website. These programs are a great way for students to earn experience while learning about career or colleges they find interesting.

Sincerely,

Amy Cooper, College Counselor

acooper@maclarenschool.org

2018 COLLEGE FAIRS

Christian College Fair
March 6, 2018 (Tuesday)
6:00-8:00 pm
New Life Church
CO Springs

RMACAC Fair
April 15, 2018 (Sunday)
1:00-3:30 pm
Cherry Creek High School
Denver

STEM College Fair
June 3, 2018 (Sunday)
1:00-4:00 pm
University of Denver
Gates Field House



SENIORS

Now that Seniors have their college applications under their belts, it is time to hit the scholarship search and to review financial aid awards as they arrive.

Encourage your child to read all instructions from colleges very carefully, making note of any deadlines that may be approaching. There is no need to rush a decision; applicants have until May 1 to make final decisions. If your child makes his or her final decision before May 1, it is a courtesy to notify all other schools to which he or she was accepted but will not be attending. As decisions arrive, encourage your child to keep Mrs. Cooper up-to-date via Naviance or sending an email.

Places to look for scholarships:

- 1) Schools to which your child has applied. Many schools have automatic scholarships they award, but there may also be several additional scholarships through the school that require additional applications.
- 2) [Scholarship](#) page on the MacLaren website has a list of local and regional scholarships that may not appear on national databases.
- 3) [BigFuture](#)
- 4) [College in Colorado](#)
- 5) [FastWeb](#)

SENIOR CHECKLIST: FEBRUARY



Check individual college portals to receive admissions news. If admitted, colleges should also communicate where, when, & how to review your financial aid award letter.



Ensure all financial aid documentation (FAFSA and/or the CSS Profile) is received by the financial aid office for all colleges.



Mid-year Grades are sent to colleges



Communicate all admission & scholarship information & upcoming admission deadlines to Mrs. Cooper.



Plan Spring Break College Visits to the schools to which you have been accepted.



JUNIORS

Junior Parent Night is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 6 at 6:30pm at school**. This evening is intended to introduce you to all facets of the college application process so that you can support your child as they begin this journey. Specific topics we will cover include a timeline of important events, understanding the admission process, the ins and outs of standardized testing, and an overview of financial aid and scholarships. While this is not a required event, all parents of juniors are strongly encouraged to attend.

Juniors have had time in the computer lab during the school day to research colleges and ask Mrs. Cooper questions. This time is intended to supplement, not replace the time spent researching colleges outside of school. Each Junior will have an individual College Conference with the College Counselor after spring break. If you would like to be part of this conference, keep an eye out for a sign up sheet that will be emailed to you in the upcoming weeks.

Please contact me at any time if you or your child have questions about the college search and application process. Meetings are not limited to the College Conferences after spring break!

SAT and ACT reminder

All 11th graders will take the SAT at MacLaren on April 10th. If your child desires to take the **ACT** this semester, there is an **April 14** test date. The **registration deadline is March 9!** It is not too early to go ahead and register for this test.

As a reminder, all SAT and ACT tests have a \$46 test fee that must be paid at the time of registration. The April 10 SAT is the only exception; this is a State test, therefore, the test fee is covered by the state of Colorado.

SOPHOMORES

This month Sophomores learned financial aid basics in their ICAP sessions. Using CU Boulder's cost of attendance as an example, they learned the effect that student debt will have on their lifestyle after college graduation. Ask them about the details of what they learned!



FRESHMEN

All freshmen learned the importance of looking for college scholarships early and explored ways to find scholarships in their ICAP session this month. They also looked deeper into the careers they find interesting to see what education is required for different types of careers. Ask your child what they have learned about their careers of interest.