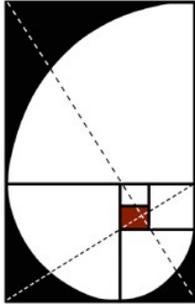


March 2018



THOMAS MACLAREN SCHOOL

College Counseling Newsletter

Dear parents,

Spring break is right around the corner and we can all feel it! The warmer weather and longer days make it hard to stay focused. Seniors are making final college decisions, Juniors are making progress on their college lists, sophomores and freshmen are continuing to learn about themselves, college and careers through their ICAP. As we enter the final quarter of the school year, I want to encourage everyone to finish strong! One of the best things students can do to prepare for success after high school is to practice the discipline of staying focused and invested in their learning and coursework. I hope everyone takes some time to relax, unwind and recharge during spring break for the final stretch of the school year. We have many things on the calendar for April and May including state testing, Junior College Counseling Conferences and graduation!

Wishing everyone a restorative spring break.

Amy Cooper. College Counselor

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

This year is wrapping up quickly! Admissions decisions are being sent out, financial aid letters are being received, and scholarship deadlines are quickly approaching. If you or your child have any questions about any part of this final stretch in the college decision process, please let Mrs. Cooper know.

If your child has been accepted to a college and is seriously considering attending that school, it is highly advised that he or she visit that college before making the decision to attend. While weekends are more convenient for travel, it is better to visit a college on a school day. This gives opportunity to attend a class, meet with professors or even the financial aid office for final questions. There are still a 3-day weekend and spring break before May 1st, which create an opportunity to visit a college and miss minimal class time at MacLaren. Let Mrs. Cooper know if you need help with any logistics of planning a college visit this semester!

SENIOR CHECKLIST: MARCH



Check individual college portals to receive admissions news.



Review Financial Aid letters from schools. Mrs. Cooper is available to help you decipher any letters you receive.



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



Keep track of scholarships awarded from every school, even schools you do not plan to attend. Mrs. Cooper will be asking for this information in May. It would be helpful if you have it all in once place.



Plan visits to any colleges you are seriously considering but have not yet visited.



JUNIORS

If you missed the Junior Parent Night on February 2, you can access the outline of the discussion, as well as other documents we discussed.

Junior Parent Night Outline.

Proud Parent Sheet. Your answers on this document will help me better know and counsel your child through this process. Of there are any circumstances of which I should be aware, please note them here. This will also help me write a powerful letter of recommendation for your child next year.

Mark Moody's Quick and Dirty College List Builder. This document breaks down how to use a student's GPA and test scores to finds schools to which he or she is likely to be accepted. It also describes how to increase your chances of receiving merit-based aid by applying to schools in a different group. Disclaimer: there is much more to college admissions than grades and test scores. This should be used as a resource to get started in researching schools, not a guarantee of whether or not your child will be admitted to a particular school. For this resource, use un-weighted GPA. Let me know if you need your child's unweighted GPA, as it differs from what is on our transcripts.

JUNIOR COLLEGE CONFERENCES

Mrs. Cooper will be holding a mandatory College Conference with each Junior after spring break. The purpose of this conference is to check in on students' progress in the college search and to offer suggestions if needed. Additionally, each student will come up with a summer plan as it relates to college research and applications. An email went out this month notifying parents and inviting them to join the conversation if they choose. If you would like to be part of this conference and did not receive the link to the sign up list, please contact Mrs. Cooper at acooper@maclarenschool.org.

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!** If you missed the deadline, there are also test dates in June and July; visit www.act.org for details.

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 and therefore the test fee is covered by the state of Colorado.

SOPHOMORES & FRESHMEN

Sophomores and Freshmen will be taking the PSAT at MacLaren on April 11 and 12, respectively. This test is the preliminary SAT. The PSAT is the state test for freshmen and sophomores and it also provides practice for the SAT that your child will take in 11th grade. The SAT is a college entrance exam, meaning it is one of many aspects colleges look at when considering college admission. The test that your child will take next month is a low-stakes test. Students are encouraged to relax and just do their best!

Scores will be released later this semester. Instructions for receiving and interpreting your child's scores will be relayed to you as scores become available.

