



THOMAS MACLAREN SCHOOL

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

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This year has been full of changes and much flexibility as we adapt to a new model of education. High schools and colleges have adjusted many things as they strive to follow health guidance while still providing quality education. In a season of change and adaptation, it is still Thomas MacLaren School's goal to provide students with college and career guidance even if it looks a bit different than previous years.

CLASS OF 2021—SENIORS

Students are off to a great start with college and apprenticeship applications. As of November 12, 75% of seniors have completed and submitted at least one college application. In addition to this, others are looking into trade schools, apprenticeships and military enlistment. Due to the limited amount of time at school and distancing of cohorts, Ms. Cooper is meeting with students via Zoom as well as posting videos and resources on the 12th Grade Post-High School Google Classroom page. Highlights from this quarter:

- Schedule a Zoom meeting with Ms. Cooper. There is a post on the Google Classroom page with Ms. Cooper's schedule as well as a Zoom link for these meetings. If your child has issues viewing or editing the schedule to add his/her name, please email Ms. Cooper to schedule a time.
- Common App tutorial videos: Six videos customized to creating a Common App account as a MacLaren student.
- Handbook for Applying to College: This multi-page document includes details to help MacLaren students complete college applications.
- Financial Aid Form help and tutorial resources
- Local/Regional scholarship information

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Institutional Scholarships: Most high-dollar scholarships come from the colleges. To find available scholarships, visit the scholarship webpage for each college of interest.

General Scholarships: Smaller scholarships can be found using National Scholarship databases:

- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [Going Merry](https://www.goingmerry.com)
- [FastWeb](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [Naviance](https://www.naviance.com)
- [College Board](https://collegeboard.org)
- [Niche](https://niche.com)

FAFSA AND CSS/PROFILE

Financial aid forms opened on October 1. FAFSA is required by most colleges while CSS/Profile is required by a small number of private colleges.

FAFSA Help: [Begin FAFSA](#)

[Step-by-step Guide](#)

CSS Help: [Begin CSS/Profile](#)

[Step-by-step Video Guide](#)

CLASS OF 2022—JUNIORS

Have your child keep their eyes on the 11th Grade Post-High School Google Classroom page this semester. There are currently some virtual college events posted on this page. Soon, there will be new videos for researching colleges posted to this page. Next semester, each student will have an individual meeting with Ms. Cooper to discuss ideas or plans following high school. In this meeting, resources and action steps will be discussed. Parents are welcome to join these meetings. An email will be sent out early next semester. If you or your child would like to meet with Ms. Cooper this semester, please email her at acooper@maclarenschool.org to set up a Zoom meeting.

Students have been given access to Naviance, a college and career planning platform. There is a video tour of the features of this site and how to best use it posted on the Google Classroom. Parents will also receive access through a parent account. Keep an eye out for this information.

Ms. Cooper will be hosting a virtual Parent Night on Zoom in January; details will be sent out closer to the date.

CLASS OF 2023—SOPHOMORES

This is a year for students to continue building positive habits such as being on time, understanding and meeting expectations, meeting deadlines, following a dress code, overcoming obstacles, self-regulation and dealing with conflict.

This year 10th graders will learn about compounding interest and how it pertains to loans in math class. Options for paying for college will be discussed including how to use a net price calculator to calculate an estimate cost of a particular college.

Ms. Cooper will be hosting a Parent Night for 9th and 10th grade parents in March; details will be sent out closer to the event.

CLASS OF 2024—FRESHMEN

The most important college and career task for 9th graders is to focus on their school work and build positive, productive habits. The skills needed to succeed in high school parallel those needed in college and the workforce: being on time, understanding and meeting expectations, meeting deadlines, following a dress code, overcoming obstacles, self-regulation and dealing with conflict.

Later this year 9th graders will learn about high school credits, the courses taken during high school, what is a GPA and how it impacts college applications. They will also discuss the MacLaren curriculum, what are the liberal arts and why they take such a wide variety of classes.

Ms. Cooper will be hosting a Parent Night for 9th and 10th grade parents in March; details will be sent out closer to the event.