

Counselor Conversations-Juniors

Friday, February 1st, 2019

I. Recommendation Letters

- a. **Start Asking Now**—*check with each college on their requirements. Some want junior teachers and some colleges do **not** care as long as the teacher can speak to your student's qualities. Also, some colleges require a letter from a math/science teacher and an ELA/social studies teacher **ONLY**. Students should request letters face-to-face and follow up with a confirmation email. A Thank You card is always recommended. Letters are sent through Naviance or another electronic route or mailed in a self-addressed stamped envelope—letters should not be given to students because of FERPA.*

II. College Application Process

- a. **Put EVERYTHING in Naviance**—*all schools that your student is applying to should be listed in Naviance—this includes mail only schools. It is easy for us to send, track, and update—especially if your student adds a last minute school. We also use this information for scholarship purposes. If you do not send through Naviance, we do not have a way to verify that your paperwork was actually sent.*
- b. **Common App, Apply Texas, Direct to the Institution**—*students can apply through Common App, Apply Texas, or straight to the university. Regardless, students need to select the correct route on Naviance. If the student marks Common App but he/she applies through Apply Texas, the university may not receive the paperwork. **If a student uses Apply Texas, it should be marked as “direct to university” in Naviance.***

****Naviance is only a vehicle for sending letters and transcripts. Counselors cannot send applications or test scores—those have to come directly from the student.**

III. Resume

- a. **As Detailed as Possible**-- *Naviance has a digital resume builder under the “About Me” tab. Highlight volunteer work, extra-curriculars (in and outside of MHS), and awards.*

IV. College Essays

- a. **Prompts are Out**—*Common App prompts are the same as last year. Encourage your student to write, edit, and review these over the summer. This is the best way for a student to show the colleges who they really are.*

- V. **Parent Brag Sheets**—*brag sheets help counselors showcase each student. Please be as detailed as possible. Brag sheets can be found on the counselor website under “Resources”. Student brag sheets will now go through Naviance, and students will have access to them after the March 6th Junior Meeting. Both brag sheets and resume are required for parking!! Please do not turn in these items until May.*

- VI. **Junior Conferences**—*we will meet with each student starting at the beginning of March. This is the time that we will discuss courses for next year and what is needed for the college application process. Later in the spring, each student will receive a course verification sheet. Please review this with your student and return regardless of changes. **NO** changes will be made once school begins in August. If you have questions regarding placement, please visit with your student's current teacher.*

VII. **Subject Tests**—*there are 20 SAT Subject Tests available, and students can take up to 3 exams in one day (1 hour each exam). Not all colleges require a subject test. A list of colleges that require the exam can be found on the collegeboard.org site.*

****Day meetings can be similar to the night meetings as we may discuss the same topics; however, night meetings tend to be a bit more detailed. A few days before a night meeting, we will send out a PowerPoint and packet detailing the meeting. At that point, you can decide if you need to attend that additional meeting.**

Upcoming Dates

February 11th—Onramps (Dual Enrollment) Informational Meeting @ 6 MHS auditorium

February 11th-March 1st—AP Registration—see MHS website

February 12th —Junior Informational Night @ 6:30 MHS auditorium—Juniors **HIGHLY** encouraged to attend

March 6th—SAT school day test

March 6th—Junior Meeting (students only) after SAT exam—8th period