

College Newsletter

News and tips for high school students and parents

Advisor's Note

To quote a Rogers and Hart song, "Spring is here," which means that we are one step closer to college for the Class of 2019 and getting closer by the day for the Classes of 2020 and 2021.

This semester has been full of college-related events designed to support Juniors during the application process. We have had three College Workshops (How to Make a College List, How to Register for the Common Application + What are Short Answers Responses, and Personal Statement 1). Our last College Workshop, Personal Statement 2, will be in April, during which Juniors will receive the first edit of their Personal Statement from me and begin to shape their final draft. Students also created and submitted their first draft of their College List. These lists will be returned May 1 and will be finalized in August.

In addition, we held our first Interview Night and our first Mock Admissions Night. Representatives from the University of Chicago, Berry College, George Washington, and the University of Michigan, all of whom were very impressed by our students, led the Mock Admissions Night.

As Juniors begin to request teacher letters of recommendation in the next few weeks, parents may wonder what these letters are. In general, and there are exceptions, colleges like to see at least one, and often two, letters of recommendation from academic teachers. Teachers will illustrate what the student is like in an academic setting, how they interact with peers and the instructor, how they approach learning, and how they handle challenges or setbacks in the classroom.

The counselor recommendation, which most colleges require, draws a broader portrait of the student. This recommendation includes information about the student's high school record, extracurricular activities, and/or challenges/situations the student faced that may have impacted the student's high school experience. The counselor recommendation will also include information about the culture of the school and how the student has operated within it.

I am excited about the next steps!

Kind Regards, Mrs. Dollacker



Juniors,
remember to tell
Mrs. Dollacker
your SAT score
from the March
10 test date.

Our school CEEB
code is 110304.

Direct any and all
college-related
queries to Mrs.
Dollacker.

Information and Announcements

- Juniors, continue to work on your Personal Statements. Let creativity reign as you work on the component that will allow you to “live and breathe” in your college application. Remember, this is the equivalent of a 5 minute conversation with someone who wants to know you. Use the Personal Statement to illustrate who you are and what you’re passionate about.
- Juniors, please remember to request your letters of recommendations from teachers. Please ask your teachers in person and then follow up with a formal request through Family Connection.
- Junior Parents, please fill out the Parent Questionnaire and return by August 25. This will help me as I begin to work on counselor recommendations.
- Sophomore Parents, if you would like to meet with me to discuss next steps for college, please find a day that works for you through my Calendly link: <https://calendly.com/sdollacker/collegemeeting/>
- All high school students, please attend the Colleges that Change Lives Fair. See the calendar for more information. This fair brims with small, liberal arts colleges that seek intelligent, exciting students like yourselves. Freshmen and Sophomores, this is also a great “first” fair. It is small - only 40 colleges - and is a great first venture into the world of navigating college fairs.

KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND WHEN YOU VISIT COLLEGES

1. **Visit At the Right Time.** Summer is a great time to spin through a campus to get a sense of size and setting, but it’s not ideal if you want to get a sense of what the campus feels like when classes are in session. When you get serious about a school, try to visit during the academic year.
2. **Talk to A Lot of Different People - Not Just Your Tour Guide.** Your tour guide is going to give you the party line on the school, and that’s ok, but feel free to talk to random students you see as you stroll through campus or buy a coffee at the library cafe.
3. **Eat in the Dining Hall.** Let’s face it, food is important, so it’s nice to know if the place you’ll spend four years serves delicious meals, but eating in the dining hall can also give you a chance to observe the students and take a gut check on whether or not you feel comfortable sitting with them.
4. **Do Your Research.** Don’t ask the questions you can answer yourself by reading the website. For example, rather than asking “What’s your most popular major,” ask “How is your Math major?” Or, “What are the internship possibilities at this school?” You can also ask about social things: “What is a typical student here likely to do on a Tuesday night? A Friday night?”
5. **Do Something on Your Own but Also Take the Tour.** Wander the campus, check out the library, as discussed, have lunch in the dining hall, but remember to take the tour to let the Office of Admissions know of your interest in their school.

Senior Parents, please make an August appointment to finalize your student's college list and application strategy. I will not be able to begin the college application process until you have met with me. August dates and times are available now on Calendly.

<https://calendly.com/sdollacker/collegemeeting/>

Class of 2019 College Application Calendar April - August 2018

April 14: ACT Test Date

April 15: Please make sure you have requested letters of recommendation from teachers

April 18: First Draft of Personal Statements Due (Submitted as Google Doc)

April 23: College Workshop (Personal Statement Revision and Refinement)

April 25: Parent Questionnaire due to Mrs. Dollacker

May 1: College Lists returned

May 5: SAT Test Date

May 15: 2nd Draft Personal Statement Due (Submitted as Google Doc)

May 22: Colleges that Change Lives Fair, 7-9pm, The Westin Peachtree Plaza

May 25: Edited Personal Statement returned

June 2: SAT Test Date

June 9: ACT Test Date

August 8: First Day of School

August 13: College Workshop for Seniors (Class of 2019)

August 22: Financial Aid Night

August 25: SAT Test Date

August 29: College Night for Juniors (Class of 2020)

August 29: Teacher letters of recommendations due