

June 2017

Dear Students,

Welcome to your senior year! We hope you have the opportunity to relax and enjoy your summer! Hopefully you all had a chance to read the letter sent from Mr. Hoffman and the counselors regarding the changes in the counseling department. If not, please note that with Mrs. Soldi's retirement, Mrs. Lamere will now be the counselor of the students that were on her caseload.

As you head into your well-deserved summer months, we felt it would be important to give you some information with things you can start over the summer. Much of what we included can be spread out over the next few months, to help make your fall a less stressful time.

We are excited to let you know that next year in the fall, we will be meeting with you all regularly in a seminar setting. This time will be devoted to help you navigate through your post-secondary options and the college application process in a structured setting. In the meantime, we wanted to provide you with few things to keep in mind over the summer:

SCHEDULES

Administration is currently working to create your schedules. Once schedules are sent home, if there is an issue with it, you may speak with any counselor or administrator. We will be available on the days listed below to assist with scheduling issues/concerns. It is best to make an appointment so that we can set aside time to meet with you. Please click on the name of the counselor available for that day to create an appointment (Note: you will need a google/Gmail account to create an appointment. If you do not have a gmail account, please email the counselor to make an appointment). If you cannot see a counselor on those days, you may contact Mr. Hoffman (shoffman@psharvard.org), Mrs. Benoit (rbenoit@psharvard.org) or Dr. Horton (jhorton@psharvard.org) to assist you.

Scheduling Days

- July 19 ([Mrs. Lamere](#))
- July 26 ([Mr. Skrocki](#))
- July 27 ([Mrs. Lamere](#))
- August 2 ([Mr. Skrocki](#))
- August 23 ([Mr. Skrocki](#))

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

* Your guidance counselor will be writing you a letter

* Please fill out the "Information for Counselor Recommendation" under surveys in your Naviance account. This can be found on the left side of the page when you click the "about me"

tab. Some of you will have Early Action / Early Decision deadlines, so we will need this information to be completed by October 2nd.

* You will need to pick two teachers to write your teacher recommendations for college. We know many of you have already asked your teachers this spring. If they gave you forms or survey questions to fill out, please make sure you do those. Teachers should not need a copy of your transcript to write your letter of recommendation, as their letters focus on you as a student in their classroom.

* It is recommended that you ask two teachers in two different disciplines. That helps colleges paint a complete picture of you as a student.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Summer is a great time to prepare for the SAT's or ACT's, which you may decide to take in the fall. See websites below for important test dates and registration deadlines.

Note: The upcoming SAT deadline is **July 28th** for the August 26th test

The first ACT deadline is **August 4th** for the September 9th test

The fall SAT deadline is **September 8th** for the October 7th test

www.actstudent.org

<http://sat.collegeboard.org>

COLLEGE LISTS

* Continue to reflect on what you're looking for in your post-secondary experience.

College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.

* Develop a potential list of schools by doing a college search using Naviance, or any other search engines. Please keep in mind, your working list must be in your Naviance account.

* Research college websites and consult with college guidebooks for more information

* A balanced list should include 2-3 reaches, 2-3 targets, and 2-3 likelies

* Try to visit as many schools as you can (urban, rural, large, small, etc.)

* As the summer winds down, and your senior year begins, your college list should reflect the visits, conversations with your parents, and your personal preferences

* You will meet individually with your counselor in September – October to review your college list and plans.

* While you're visiting campuses over the summer, you may want to think about scheduling an admissions interview, if they offer them, at your top choice schools.

* College Representatives will be visiting The Bromfield School throughout the fall. Information will be shared with you regarding those visits and the sign-up process when school begins

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

* Visit the Common Application's website (www.commonapp.org) and print the application to begin a rough draft. Please note the 2017-2018 Common Application will not become available until August 1st. Any information entered onto the website before then will be lost.

* If the college you are interested in does not use the Common Application, you can visit their direct website for their admissions criteria / application.

* We are aware of a new application being introduced called the Coalition Application. At this time we are continuing to use the Common Application for the college process. The number of schools that have signed on to use the Coalition Application is still quite small, so we feel that sticking with the Common App for now is the most beneficial.

* Colleges that do not use the Common Application will have access to their applications on their website. Naviance will let you know which colleges use the Common Application, but you should visit college's websites for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

COLLEGE ESSAY QUESTIONS

* Find a [list of essay questions on the Common Application website](#). Summer is a great time to begin working on your college essay!

* Please note: Many schools that use the Common Application have supplemental essays. Often times these essays ask why you are interested in attending their school.

* Colleges that do not use the Common Application may have similar essay questions to the Common Application. Check the college's website and application to find out.

NAVIANCE

* Update "Colleges I'm thinking about" list, ("Colleges" tab)

* Update your resume, ("About Me" tab)

* Complete "Info. For Counselor Recommendation" ("About me" tab, on left hand side)

* Your parents are also able to complete the "Parent Brag Sheet" when logged in from their Naviance account. We often use the information gleaned from these brag sheets in our letters of recommendation.

SENIOR PROJECT

* If your proposal has been approved, you should start accumulating hours. Be sure to get signatures of those hours

* If you did not submit a proposal yet, use the summer to research potential projects. Hours accumulated prior to project approval will not count towards the 40 hour requirement.

Please keep in mind that we are not in school for the majority of the summer. If you have questions or concerns, you are welcome to email your counselor however you will receive our auto-response and we will try to respond when we can. The college process can feel overwhelming, but take a deep breath and take it slow; it will all fall into place.

Have a great summer!

Mrs. Lamere and Mr. Skrocki

CC: Parents