

# Senior Newsletter – December 2018

Happy Holidays! How awesome it is to realize that this New Year's Eve ushers in 2019– a year that has held a special place in your heart for quite a while!! The coming months will be filled with big events, big decisions, and big changes around every corner. The best advice I can give to you now is BE PREPARED! A little hard work and dedication will pay off immensely as you strive toward making all your dreams a reality. Stay focused in your studies, don't procrastinate on scholarships, do some soul searching and finalize your collegiate decisions. As always, see me for anything that I can do to make the process easier for you, or just stop in and let me know how it's going! I'm so excited to see all the acceptance letters and scholarships that have been rolling in!

Wishing you all the very best!

*Mrs. Segretario*

## **\*\*Scholarships\*\***

Be sure to check the scholarships in Google Classroom. Print any for which you feel you are eligible, begin to fill out the paperwork, get your essays (where applicable) written and line up your letters of recommendation. Make sure you keep a nice Google folder with your essays. Many of the prompts are similar across the different scholarships so you'll be able to tweek the ones that you have written already rather than start from scratch. Also, it's not a bad idea to have someone proofread your essays. Two sets of eyes will ensure that little grammatical mistakes are caught before submitting them for review by a scholarship committee.

There are a few new scholarships and some of them have been recently updated. Spend some time over your long winter break looking through these scholarship applications and hopefully getting a few of them started. Due dates are as early as February! Get moving people!

## **Letters of Recommendation**

Scholarship applications often require one or more letters of recommendation. Remember, writing these letters is not a simple task, and scholarship committees have only these small snapshots of you to help them decide if you are the individual who best meets their criteria! To ensure you get the best possible letter, please provide your teacher, counselor, or other recommender with two important things: your completed and updated brag sheet as well as a minimum of three weeks notice.

## **ACT – Dates and Deadlines**

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE FEE REQUIRED
02/09/2019	01/04/2019	01/18/2019
04/13/2019	03/08/2019	03/22/2019
06/08/2019	05/03/2019	05/17/2019

## **Using the Common App for Financial Aid**

A new tab within the application lets students access financial aid and scholarship opportunities while completing their Common App. In the new tab, students can find:

- Sources of aid, including federal and state resources, as well as aid directly from colleges and universities
- Advice on planning for college costs, with resources such as the net price calculator provided by the U.S. Department of Education
- Direct links to the Department of Education's Federal Student Aid website and FAFSA
- A means to explore scholarship opportunities through an integration with Scholar Snapp
- Resources with which to compare financial aid offers

Students can log in to their Common App account to access the financial resources tab, or visit the How to Pay for College page to learn more about the financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

## **FAFSA – HAVE YOU SUBMITTED YOURS?**

**You will not receive scholarships from colleges or financial aid from the government without a completed FAFSA. Don't miss out on free money to help finance your college education. The priority deadline has passed, but you still have time to ensure that some money will be available for you.**

**Yearbook...** Don't forget that yearbook needs a senior picture! Email a high resolution photo to Mrs. Segretario no later than April 12. The school Lifetouch picture will be used for all students who have not provided the yearbook staff with a photo.

Also, don't forget to make your nominations for the Senior Personalities section of the yearbook! Nominations close at 2:30 on Friday, December 7th.

# Accepted! Now What?

Congratulations, you've been accepted to the Class of 2023!

If you've received this message from a college, you have things to do! Although most colleges don't require you to make a final decision until May 1<sup>st</sup>, there are lots of things on your to-do list.

1. First, weigh the options. Look deeply into the total cost of each college to which you've been accepted, and compare the financial aid you've been offered.
2. Pay the deposit to secure your spot in the freshman class or let colleges know if you've decided against accepting their offer so that they can take students off their waitlist.
3. Visit – or revisit. Ask to see the residence halls to narrow down your choice. Get information on meal plans, student organizations, your specific major, and financial aid
4. Check your account/email set up for you from your college for to-do lists and other important information.

## **And finally... The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg Virginia shared this little story for all students in your situation this holiday season**

TwAs dAys before the deAdline, when All through the house, Not A sound could be heard, save the click of A mouse. App after app and form after form, For high school seniors this is truly the norm.

As you slept, all snug in your bed, It's visions of thick envelopes that danced in your head. It was ma and dad who all the distractions hid, As they nagged about deadlines, ad nauseam they did.

On transcripts, on standardized tests, on recs, on resumes, And for goodness sake what to write for those essays? To the College Board, to the guidance office, to collect all your stuff, Man this college application process sure can be tough.

But this process is not for naught, the value is real, The four years you spend in college will be almost surreal. The books you will read, and the classes you will take, will be amazing, not to mention the friends you will make.

Admission officers are overjoyed and excited, you see, To read applications, and build the Class of 2023. So keep up the momentum all you seniors out there, And we'll read all your apps, we will, we swear.

You kept typing, kept editing, kept writing away, Hoping all of your hard work will dividends pay. If you still have applications to complete, keep your desk lamp lit, For, as you know, there's nothing quite like finally clicking submit.