

# THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS

Welcome to the fourth installment of our monthly newsletter. We are finishing up the 2018 calendar year on a high note in the Counseling Office. Each month, we will be updating events and happenings that students and parents should be aware of what is taking place.

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This month's edition includes:

- ✓ Application updates
- ✓ Naviance updates
- ✓ Admissions Decisions



## COUNSELING THOUGHTS AND IDEAS:

It's December and we know that you have talked with your counselor about your post-secondary plans!

- ✓ Does your *final application list* have colleges which give you a range of admissions possibilities? It is important to spend just as much time deciding on your "Target" and "Highly Likely" schools, as it is your "Reach" schools. It is also important to talk with your parents and consider finances when assembling your final application list. Every year, we have some seniors who have limited choices in the spring, for a number of reasons. There is no reason to put yourself in this position. Adding another school to your application list right now is much easier than searching for openings in April.

Do you still have any interest in applying to the **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities?** (329 seniors have already applied!)

- ✓ If yes, the U application deadline is January 1. We need your request into the Counseling Office via the Pink Sheet **ASAP**. The Counseling Department will be closed from December 22 – January 1<sup>st</sup>, thus, there is no guarantee with winter break we can get your material to the school. However, it is your responsibility to get your application and test scores to them immediately. When school resumes, we will get your material out to those respective schools.
- ✓ Remember: if you have circumstances which may have affected your academic record at EHS, you should let Admissions know by including a statement about your situation on the application. This can be extremely important.
- ✓ **What if I applied to the U of M before November 1 and have not heard back yet?** To this date, the U of M continues to send out acceptance and denial decisions on a rolling basis. Decisions can be coming in the next couple of weeks.

Interested in **University of Wisconsin-Madison?**

- ✓ They have a second deadline of February 1—all applications that are totally complete by that date receive equal consideration. Once an application at Madison is complete, it takes about 8 weeks to get a decision.
- ✓ Don't forget: the personal statements is *not* optional. You should include a separate statement. When you apply online, you will have plenty of space for your statement. Also, it is your responsibility to have test scores from College Board/ACT, sent directly to Madison.

### January 1 deadline?

- ✓ If you have a January 1 deadline for any school, we need your request into the Counseling Office via the Pink Sheet **ASAP**. With winter break, we need time to process your request so get come in and fill out your Pink Sheet. The Counseling Department will be closed from December 22 – January 1st, thus, there is no guarantee with winter break we can get your material to the school. However, it is your responsibility to get your application and test scores to them immediately. When school resumes, we will get your material out to those respective schools.
- ✓

### NAVIANCE UPDATES

Please keep visiting the Naviance website and check your e-mail or information such as:

- ✓ The latest scholarship bulletin
- ✓ The latest updates on various topics related to your post-secondary planning

### ADMISSION DECISIONS: WAITLIST VS. DEFERRED

- ✓ Waitlist typically refers to a process of waiting for a decision, but providing one prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>. At most public universities, a final decision is made on all Waitlist students by March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you have placed on a waitlist, you certainly cannot count on being admitted later. *Alternative plans need to be made.*
- ✓ Deferred means if your application gets deferred, you haven't been accepted yet...but you might be...later. Most schools that do Early Decision use deferred to place you in with the Regular Decision pool. If you applied as an Early Action or Early Decision applicant, your application has basically been converted to a regular application. You'll be reviewed again during the normal admission season with all the other applicants. However, you've also been freed from any obligation to attend their school if accepted, and you can go ahead and apply to other schools as you wish. You will in all probability have to send in additional information such as 1<sup>st</sup> semester grades or new test scores. A letter in all likelihood will be sent describing the next steps.
- ✓ No matter if you are placed on the waitlist or deferred, **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE OPTIONS IN APRIL!**

**TIPS FOR PARENTS:** A wonderful piece from the Harvard Graduate School of Education on “how to navigate the hopes and expectations of the status and achievement of the college acceptance process.” <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/11/taming-admissions-anxiety>

## **EHS Hosts Service Fair December 13, 10:30am - 12:30pm**

Students interested in volunteering in the community are invited to attend EHS's **Service Fair on Thursday, December 13 during all 3 lunches in the Upper Gym**. Over 25 local agencies are eager to enlist high school volunteers to help meet community needs. Find new ways to solve an issue you care about and earn your letter in Community Service.

Some examples of agencies attending the Service Fair are:

- Presbyterian Homes - bring joy to residents by helping with I.T. questions, reading to a resident, or to sharing your talents, such as singing or playing an instrument.
- Inner-city Tennis - use your tennis skills to help out with their Super Saturdays tennis activities.
- GiGi's Playhouse - engage with children with Down Syndrome.
- Highland Hills Ski and Snowboard - bring the joys of skiing and snowboarding to deaf and hard of hearing students.

## **FAFSA UPDATE**

**Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** This year, like last, seniors are able to submit the FAFSA beginning October 1, 2018. This allows you to use 2017 tax information. This is the first step to be considered for Financial Aid at colleges. For more information, go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/contact>

**KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!!!** Colleges **DO** look at your semester and year-end grades. Continue to do as well as possible in each of your classes. No such thing as SENIORITIS!!!

**It is appropriate during the holiday season to offer thanks for those in your life who have made a meaningful impact. In that spirit, we would like to thank all of those seniors who have worked so diligently during the fall both on your applications and within the Edina community. You, too, should take the time to thank those around you who have helped to make this year a positive one. Take time to thank your parents for their guidance and support, and take time to send thank you notes to teachers who wrote letters of recommendation on your behalf. Lastly, enjoy the holiday break with family and friends. Happy New Year and see you in 2018!**

For more information on the school Counseling Department, visit us [online](#)

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