

# THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER

### FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS

Happy New Year! Welcome to the first installment of our monthly newsletter for **2019**. We begin the New Year with the conclusion of first semester. 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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#### COUNSELING THOUGHTS AND IDEAS:

**Best of luck on finals! Nothing is more imperative for your future success than performing well during your senior year! Finish Strong!**

**Dropping 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Classes:** Colleges expect that you will continue with the courses that you listed on your college applications. Some universities, including the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, ask that you check with them before making a change. Also, remember that all seniors are expected to carry 5 credit-bearing classes. If you fail any first-semester class, you will need to make adjustments in your second-semester schedule. See your counselor immediately if that is the case.

**First Semester Grades:** Seniors who need their first semester grades sent to the colleges and universities to which they have applied must submit their request to the Counseling Office. We will be coming to your Language Arts class in the upcoming weeks to hand out Mid-Year report forms. **NO MIDYEAR REPORTS WILL BE SENT UNLESS THIS FORM IS COMPLETED.** Please list all your schools on one form. Look for more information in the upcoming days.

**Admissions to Colleges at the University of Minnesota:** If you have received a waitlist letter from the University of Minnesota and want to pursue it, please complete the Mid-Year Report Form mentioned above. In deciding to take students from the waitlist, the U of M will consider your first semester grades. Of course, it is imperative that you make alternative educational plans. At this date, the University is unsure about the number of waitlisted students that they may offer admissions.

**University of Wisconsin-Madison:** If you have been deferred by UW, you will need to have alternative plans in place for next year.

**Additional Information for Colleges:** Besides your grades, if there is additional information that you would like to add to your application, for example, a recent award or honor or a situation which have affected your grades, please stop in and see your counselor. Every bit of additional information can be helpful at this point.

**Local Scholarships:** Besides financial aid, this might be your best source of additional money for college. Announcement and applications will be available in February through the Counseling Office. Keep an eye and ear open in the upcoming weeks.

## 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

**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>

## FAFSA UPDATE

**Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** This year, like last, seniors were 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>

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Searching for money outside of financial aid? Check out Scholarships in the “Colleges” tab in your Naviance account. Any and all scholarship applications we receive are uploaded in Naviance. Also, check out Fastweb.com and Scholarships.com to search for money to help pay tuition.

## ADVISORY UPDATE

**Senior May Term:** On December 13, seniors researched Senior May Term ideas using the results from their interest inventory and completed their Senior May Term Pre-Application that were turned into their advisors. Seniors will be working on their SMT applications during advisory 2nd semester. The pre-application may help them remember and/or develop ideas for their project. If students have questions, they can contact Senior May Term advisor Nikki Plafcan, [nicole.plafcan@edinaschools.org](mailto:nicole.plafcan@edinaschools.org), 952-848-3186

**Senior Panel:** On December 20, seniors had the opportunity to listen to a group of graduates from the class of 2018 discuss their first year experience at college. Graduates representing schools from all across the spectrum were represented. Below are a couple of pictures. Seniors from this year’s class will have the opportunity to reciprocate next December! We look forward to hearing their stories as well.



Ms. Kieffer and Mr. Hackbarth leads the student panel of graduates from the class of 2018 during Advisory on December 20th!



Ms. Burnham leads the other group of the Class of 2018 graduates who came back to talk to seniors during Advisory about their college experiences!

**As this New Year begins, find inspiration around you, and motivation within you, to be all that you can be!**

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

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