

THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

FOR SENIORS AND PARENTS

Things are in full swing in the Counseling Office as we start the second month of senior year. Each month, the Counseling Department will be updating events and happenings that students and parents should be aware of what is taking place.

THE EHS COUNSELING TEAM:

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This month's edition includes:

- ✓ Application process
- ✓ Naviance updates
- ✓ FAFSA



COUNSELING THOUGHTS AND IDEAS:

Have you talked with your counselor about your post-secondary plans?

- ✓ If not, the time is **NOW!!!** Sign up in the counseling area; the IPAD is on the counter.

Are you applying EARLY DECISION/EARLY ACTION with a November 1 deadline?

- ✓ If so, you need to let your counselor know about this plan. If you have not, do so **immediately!**

Do you have a November 15 deadline?

- ✓ You should turn in all your materials for counseling by October 31 at the latest.

Do you have any interest in applying to the **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities?** (364 students applied to the University last year, 86 went there.)

- ✓ If yes, you should apply by November 1. Keep in mind we need to get your application **ASAP** to give us sufficient processing time. However, the earlier you apply, the sooner you will learn your status.
- ✓ 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.

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

- ✓ They have two separate deadline, November 1st and 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.

Do you need a counselor recommendation (check your application materials)?

- ✓ You need to complete a questionnaire. If you need a teacher recommendation, please give the selected teacher(s) the gold cover sheet.

We need these materials 3 weeks before the due date.

- ✓ Note: The more information that we have, the more complete the recommendation can be. If you have completed a college essay, include that with the questionnaire.

Tired of filling out applications?

- ✓ If you are applying to several private colleges, consider using the **Common Application**, which is accepted by over 400 colleges. You can apply on-line at www.commonapp.org.

What is the best way to let colleges know of your record outside the classroom?

- ✓ Some students use the resume form, but a better approach may be an Activity List. Directions for preparing one including examples are available in the Counseling office.

Making college visits during MEA?

- ✓ Keep in mind: Wherever you go--the question to ask yourself is: Can I see myself here next fall?
- ✓ A quick tip: if time permits, try checking out places students get together such as the Student Union. You may learn a lot about the ambiance of the school there.

NAVIANCE UPDATES

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

- ✓ The latest, most up to date schedule for colleges visiting EHS
- ✓ The latest scholarship bulletin
- ✓ The latest updates on various topics related to your post-secondary planning

REMINDERS ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Your Final College Application List—it should meet two criteria:

- ✓ The colleges should meet your needs as you best understand them now.
- ✓ The colleges should offer a range of admissions possibilities: reaches, good possibilities and highly likely admits. Without adequate planning your choices may be very limited in the spring. Talk with your counselor if you have questions about your admissions chances.

The Application Itself

- ✓ Work from the easiest to most difficult application.
- ✓ Download a copy of the application, fill it out, and then transfer it to the original. Keep the copy for your own file.

Secondary School Reports

- ✓ Please fill out the student section, usually at the top of the form, before you submit it electronically.

PINK SHEET

Please make sure you take the **PINK SHEET** (Transcript Request Form) out of the Black Three Ring Binder and either hand it to one of the administrative assistants (Ms. Knutson or Ms. Carlson) or place it in the metal basket.

DO NOT LEAVE THEM IN THE THREE RING BINDER AFTER YOU FILL THEM OUT. THEY WILL NOT BE PROCESSED IF LET IN THE BINDER!!!

The Application Essay

- ✓ In writing the essay, remember that the key is letting the admissions officer know the most about you as a person.
- ✓ Have someone proofread your essay to catch misspellings and usage errors. There is simply no justification for spelling errors-none! Obviously, don't assume spell-check will do it all.
- ✓ Never put yourself in a position where you have to rush to complete the essay.

Teacher Recommendations

- ✓ Ask well in advance of the deadline (at least three weeks)
- ✓ Give the teacher...
 1. the gold cover sheet available in the Counseling listing colleges and application deadlines
 2. any forms required by the college stamped self-addressed envelopes for each college that do not accept electronic applications
 3. A THANK YOU!

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>

FAFSA Night at EHS: Need help filling out the FAFSA? On Thursday, October 25 in room 201 and 202, the Counseling Department is collaborating up with two Financial Aids offices to offer free professional help to complete your FAFSA. No need to register, just stop in from 3:30 until 6:30 pm.



Ms. Kieffer (Bu-Ec) working with seniors on their college plans!

ADVISORY

- ✓ October 4, 2018: Seniors were shown the video [Tracking Applications](#) which offers seniors resources to manage their applications. Next week, seniors will gather in EPAC and FICK and meet with their counselor to have their questions answered about the application process in detail.
- ✓ October 25, 2018: Advisors will be doing an Academic Check to make sure seniors are on course to a successful first semester and the beginning of “senioritis” has not set in!

FLEX BLOCK: Check out the weekly opportunities seniors have to find out more information from the Counseling Department during Flex Block. Each month we will be offering different sessions throughout the year.

- ✓ **September 20 The Selective College Admissions Process:** Jason Mogan, Senior Admissions officer from Columbia University in New York discussed the process for applying to selective colleges including essays, letters of recommendations, activity lists and completing the applications. Over 50 student attended the event.
- ✓ **October 4 Serving the World: AmeriCorps and Peace Corps:** Allison (class of 2007 EHS) and Dylan Kintish, current Peace Corps volunteers in Paraguay talked to 10+ students about this great opportunity. Previously they served 2 years in the AmeriCorps program where they were awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for their service.
- ✓ **October 11 Finding Out About Gap Year and International Travel:** Terry Stevens, Coordinator of the Rotary Club Exchange Program will inform students of the opportunities to study abroad and Gap Year Opportunities.
- ✓ **October 25th Tips for College Interviewing:** Ms. Fei Wong McKhann, an alumnus who has conducted interviews for Stanford University will be here to talk to students about how to turn the interview into a way to make a lasting impression. What are some commonly asked questions? How do you prepare for an interview? These questions and more will be discussed.
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For more information on the school Counseling Department, visit us [online](#)

Follow us on Twitter to stay in touch with what is going on in the Counseling Office at EHS @edinacounselors

