

Surviving the College Application Process



With a little Guidance from Oakland Mills Counselors

September 2017

School Counselors

Senior Caseloads

- Ms. Donna Ueckermann: A B X Y Z
- Mr. Leo Quinn: C-G
- Ms. Natalia Hart: H-L
- Ms. LaTia Douglas: M-R
- Ms. Kara Fick: S-W



Senior Conferences

- Must have conference before counselor will write recommendation
- Parents invited
- Don't delay



Factors in the admissions process

- Grades/GPA
- Curriculum
- Recommendations
- Class Rank
- SAT & ACT Scores
- Essay/Personal Statement
- Extracurricular
- Interviews (if applicable)
- Portfolio



Parts of an Application

- Demographic & Extracurricular info submitted by student
- Transcript – sent by OMHS
- Letters of Recommendation
 - Counselor & Teacher(s)
- Essay
- Interview (optional for some colleges)
- SAT & ACT Scores
 - MUST be sent electronically by student.

Last Minute Admissions Testing

ACT

October 28

December 9

SAT

October 7

November 4

December 2



Sending SAT & ACT Scores

- Must be sent electronically from
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.actstudent.org
- HCPSS does not send test scores



The College Essay

- Voice
- Many (but not all) schools will require
- If application has an “optional” essay...do it!



High School Transcript

- Unofficial transcripts were given to students last week in senior folders
- Weighted & Unweighted GPA
- Final grades from all courses 9 – 11
- Senior year schedule
- Rank available early October
- 1st Quarter Report card can be requested and sent if available

Transcript Request Form

- Submit to Ms. Bright in the counseling center
- Parent Signature Required
- First 3 transcripts free, \$2 per transcript after that (cash or check made out to OMHS)
- Allow 20 school days for requests
 - A deadline cheat sheet was provided to students.

Recommendations

Students should:

1. Personally ask teachers
2. Complete teacher & counselor info forms in Naviance
3. Submit teacher request form (hard copy) to teacher
4. Request teacher in Naviance after submitting transcript request form
5. Write a thank you note!

Parents Should:

Complete Parent Input form: Log in to Naviance (parent account) ➡ click 'About Me' Tab ➡ under *Surveys to Take* on left side

Application Platforms

Application platforms. Digital Image. *Redwood Bark*. 4 November 2015. Web. 18 September 2017 <redwoodbark.org>



College Visits to OMHS

- Check Schedule of representatives to visit in Naviance and newsletter
- Sign up on Naviance Family Connection
- Don't miss out
- Awesome chance to display interest in schools

Technology's Impact on College Admissions



<https://twitter.com/>



Scholarships

- Inside Scholarships are from the school.
 - Check school site to see if additional application materials required.
- Outside scholarships are from companies, foundations, community organizations. Require separate application.
- Check Naviance Family Connection, under *Colleges* tab
- Watch for scams
 - Generally anything that requires you to pay money to be considered for a scholarship is a hoax



Financial Aid

- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Apply now for FSA ID
 - Parents and student will need a FSA ID to electronically sign the FAFSA
 - Available for completion October 1, 2017
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Should be completed by every college bound student regardless of economic need, to help ensure eligibility for any kind of scholarship.
- Also resources in Counseling Center



FASFA Help

- **FASFA Night: Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00pm Centennial High School Auditorium**
 - This evening will help Senior parents navigate the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. This presentation will also be available in Spanish.
- **FASFA Help Monday, October 2nd @ OMHS**
 - HCC representatives will be at OMHS all day to help families complete the FASFA. Sign up through link in the newsletter .

Upcoming Dates

- **Starting Sept 25th**: Counselors meet individually with every senior to discuss post-high school planning
- **October 1**: First FAFSA submission date
- **October 3**: Deadline to request teacher and counselor recommendations for November 1 college deadline
- **October 11**: PSAT Day
- **November 1**: Deadline for UMCP, UMBC, JMU, and many early action decisions

Panel Discussion

Aaron
Alder

Assistant
Director of
Admissions

Danielle
Audley

Admissions
Counselor

Kelly
Farmer

Assistant Vice
President,
Undergraduate
Admissions



You Can Get There From Here.



Questions???



Closing Thoughts

1. Weigh price and prestige in choosing your colleges.

“Don’t forget what you do in college is much more important than where you go to college.”

- Philip A. Ballinger, director of undergraduate admissions, University of Washington, Seattle

2. Sign up for your senior conference
3. Visit your prospective campuses.
4. If money is an issue, discuss with your counselor. There are lots of ways to access college and many scholarship and grant programs available.