



COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE JUNIOR NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018

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The College Application process begins now for the class of 2019! Seniors who had started planning during Junior year have received acceptance letters and are SMILING!

Unfortunately, Seniors who are just now starting the application process are a little stressed and not feeling very confident. It all depends on the amount of planning they did in their Junior year!

This spring, the College Counseling office will be visiting junior art and SAT Prep classes to give workshops on financial aid, how to use Naviance, how to write personal statements and the general college application process. We will also be hosting College Application workshops after school.

Get the ball rolling Juniors, sign into Naviance and College Board and start your college search and planning today!

Class of 2018 College Acceptances - As of December 2017

Academy of Art University, Champlain College, Central St. Martin's of Glasgow. Cornell, D'Youville, Kutztown, Lesley, LIU Post, Montana State University, Montserrat College of Art (2), New England College (3), NYU, RISD (2), RIT, Rutgers, Skidmore (full scholarship), School of Art Institute of Chicago (3), SUNY Albany, SUNY Fredonia, SUNY New Paltz (2), SUNY Morrisville, SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Oswego (2), SUNY Purchase, SUNYIT, University of the Arts and University of Michigan.



CLASS OF 2019 COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE

January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grades and attendance count – colleges will see your complete transcript, which means your grades must be strong or showing improvement ● Enroll in an SAT Prep program and/or Khan Academy on CollegeBoard.org. ● Get access to Naviance and start listing colleges on “Colleges I’m Thinking About” tab on your account. ● Start meeting with Ms. Morales and Ms. Takeshita
February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All juniors must have applied for at least 3 spring and summer programs by the end of the month.
March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 9th – Art & Design College Fair ● March 21st – Take SAT during SAT School Day ● Spring break – visit colleges!
April 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to build your college list ● Consider taking SAT subject tests/AP exams ● Register to take the SAT at least one more time: the last SAT you can take is December 2018
May 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● May 1st – financial income forms must be turned into College Office. This is a preliminary form to determine eligibility for application fee waivers and opportunity programs.
June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● June 15th: 3 teacher recommendation requests due on Naviance
Summer 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to build your college list and work on personal statement ● Visit colleges
September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sep 1: Common App must be matched to Naviance
October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oct 1: Those applying ED/EA must have done the following: 1) put ED/EA school on Naviance and 2) met with either Ms. Takeshita or Ms. Morales at least once
November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nov 1: ED/EA applicants: FAFSA/TAP/CSS Profile completed ● Nov 1: Deadline for college personal statements to be submitted to College Staff for editing ● Nov 15: All applicants must have final college list on Naviance and have met with either Ms. Takeshita or Ms. Morales for counselor recommendation letter
December 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dec 15: ALL SUNY AND CUNY APPLICATIONS COMPLETED ● Dec 31: ALL SENIORS: FAFSA/TAP/CSS Profile completed



2017-2018 Common Application Essay Prompts (650 words max.)

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story. [No change]
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience? [Revised]
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome? [Revised]
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution. [No change]
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others. [Revised]
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more? [New]
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design. [New]



TIPS FOR WRITING THE ESSAY

1. **Think small:** When writing the Common Application essay, too many students feel compelled to try and squeeze their entire life story into 650 words. This, friends, is impossible. It is almost always better to think small first. Find a story or event in your life that really meant something to you. Did you win a competition at the last second? Was your family stranded on vacation with no power for five days? Have you read something recently that blew your mind? Now ask yourself- are any of these stories representative of my larger, most valuable qualities?

The perfect essay topic showcases your personality, passions and/or ambitions without trying to do too much at once. Talking about your family's adoption of a three-legged dog and how your pet's perseverance and quirky attitude influenced the way you live your life, will make a better essay than a super general diatribe on why you like dogs, for example. If you find yourself getting lost while writing, ask: what am I trying to say about myself, and am I using a specific, compelling example to tell my story?

2. **Write first, edit later:** When it comes to writing, we are almost always our own worst critics. So many students want and expect themselves to produce pure, uninhibited brilliance the first time their fingers hit the keys, but that is almost never the way good essay writing works. Writing a compelling essay is a process, and the best writing can often be plucked from our stream-of-consciousness efforts. Don't edit yourself before you allow your creativity to warm up and pour onto the page. Never judge your writing until you have a few paragraphs written down first. You can always cut what doesn't work and it is much easier to work with an overabundance of words and ideas than nothing at all.

3. **Kill those clichés:** We're not going to *beat around the bush* here: clichés really *get our goats*. When you take that *trip down memory lane*, telling us about the time you were a *mover and a shaker* putting your *nose to the grindstone* it makes our *blood boil*. We're content and grammar snobs, so we find clichés to be extra unappealing, but we also have enough confidence in your creativity to know that you can do better. Admissions essay readers know it too, and expect you to *think out of the box* without using phrases like "think out of the box." So strike those tired sentences from your essay and do it now. *Never put off tomorrow what you can do today*. It actually hurt us to write that.

4. **It's all in the details:** What is the difference between these two sentences? 1. My favorite activities included fishing and cooking my daily catch. 2. My friends and I woke up early every morning to catch bass on Lake Michigan, cooking our spoils with herbs picked from a local farm. In the first sentence, we understand that you enjoyed certain activities. In the second, yes, we know you like fishing but we also understand your commitment to an activity you engaged in every day and recognize that your fishing trips are a social effort. There is a sense of time and place- we can see the setting, smell the herbs. With a few extra words, sentence two tells us much more about your fishing experience. Many students have a tendency to skew generic in the telling of their personal stories. What makes an essay memorable is often the sum of the little things. If you can paint a clear picture for your reader by providing details, you are much more likely to lodge a marker in their memories.



5. **If Nothing Else, Entertain:** Imagine you're a college essay reader at an upstanding academic institution and it is your job to read dozens of essays a day, every day, for weeks on end. Ninety percent of the essays that pass your desk are stone-cold boring, and maybe ten percent break through the fuzz and force you to pay attention. As an applicant, you want your essay to shine a bright light in the face of that oft-bored reader. No matter what your subject, serious, uplifting, sentimental or pithy, your essay should aim to entertain. This will require many elements working together in harmony. You will need a compelling subject, a direct and powerful narrative, impeccable grammar and a memorable style. A little laughter never hurts either. It is often hard to know whether an essay is truly entertaining until the end stages of writing, but when you are reading over your drafts, the question should always be in the back of your mind: Is this essay fun to read? Some students achieve entertainment value by being controversial. Others load their pieces with comic relief. Some are able to describe events in such detail that a reader simply must get to the end of the essay. No matter what tactics you end up using, your goal should be effortless and compelling readability.

6. **Brand yourself:** In order for your essay to be truly effective, a reader should be able to summarize your subject in a simple sentence. You accomplish this self-branding by choosing a creative topic (or a creative twist on a common topic), and writing about it with enough detail to burn an image of yourself in the reader's brain. When it comes down to you and another similarly qualified candidate, you want an admissions officer to be able to stand up with your application in his/her hand and say, "I like the girl who performed trapeze in the circus," or "How about the girl who saved her grandfather's life?" It will be much harder to remember "the girl who practiced the trapeze, and was also good at riding bikes, and who got an A on every test and who generally worked very hard," or "the girl who really loved her late grandfather and who feels like she embodies a lot of his core characteristics." Focus your story. When you finish writing your first draft, do a branding test- try to label yourself based on your essay and see what you come up with. If you can't easily narrow it down to a punchy description, you probably need to alter or simplify your essay.

Ms. Takeshita is available to help with brainstorming and editing for the personal statement. Please make an appointment with her in the College Counseling office.



SAT & ACT TEST DATES 2018-2019

(must register online in order to take these tests!)

SAT Dates	SAT Subject Test Available?	ACT Dates
August 25, 2018	Yes	September 8, 2018
October 6, 2018	Yes	October 27, 2018
November 3, 2018	Yes	December 8, 2018
December 1, 2018	Yes	February 9, 2019
March 9, 2018	No	April 13, 2019
May 4, 2019	Yes	June 8, 2019
June 1, 2019	Yes	July 13, 2019

ADMISSION TIPS & TOOLS:

High School:

- ★ Stay focused on academics; do NOT lighten academic load for your senior year
- ★ Meet with MS. MORALES AND MS. TAKESHITA in College Office, room 602
- ★ Stay INVOLVED in school activities

Standardized Testing:

- ★ Prepare for ACT/SAT tests
- ★ Take the SAT on March 21st during SAT SCHOOL DAY
- ★ Register for AP tests
- ★ Register for SAT Subject Tests if applicable

Exploration:

- ★ Take a self assessment on the Naviance/Career tab
- ★ Browse college websites via CollegeBoard.org
- ★ Explore college admission requirements

Campus Visits:

- ★ Visit local colleges and get a sense of the different types of colleges
- ★ Make appointments to go on campus tours and info sessions to colleges of interest
- ★ Schedule to attend a class on campus
- ★ Visit a residence hall
- ★ Meet with admission staff
- ★ See if any of the colleges you are interested in offer a student fly-in program (College Greenlight)



College Fairs:

- ★ Develop questions to ask college representatives at a college fair
- ★ Explore different types of college fairs, i.e. general college fairs, performing arts, special needs, student athletes, Historically Black college fairs, religious organizations, etc.

DO NOT:

- ★ Let this consume every dinner conversation at home
- ★ Bow out of the conversation and let others take over the driver's seat; YOU are the one going to college
- ★ Forget to recognise that cost is a factor
- ★ Forget that this search must INCLUDE some colleges to which you are admissible. You need to have a few safety schools (a school that you love but also know that your chances of admission is very high)



Summer Programs: What Will You Do?!

As Spring begins we are all reminded that summer is near!! For many students, that means a break from school, summer jobs, camp, summer school or just relaxing. Remember: every summer counts and getting involved will make a difference! Everyone should be involved in some kind of summer program, working or community service activity, in order to take advantage of the time you have. Big or small, these activities will be tremendous springboards to your FUTURE, in addition to your college and scholarship applications. Colleges and Scholarship Committees are looking for involved and well-rounded students. This is an easy way to be one of those students!

Here are some great resources for summer programs:

The High School of Art and Design is partnered with Hunter College for the College Now classes and activities. This program is *free*. Please talk to Ms. Morales for more details if interested. <http://collegenow.cuny.edu/>

The Pratt PreCollege Summer Program **application is due March 1**. You can earn 4 college credits. Housing and commuter options are available; housing not guaranteed. This program is *not free*. Located in Brooklyn.

<https://www.pratt.edu/academics/continuing-education-and-professional/precollege/summer-programs/>

Inside Schools is a database of summer programs you can look into.

<http://www.insideschools.org/free-programs/>

The Parsons summer program **scholarship application is due February 1**. You can earn 3 college credits. Located in Manhattan. Housing and commuter options available; housing not guaranteed. This program is *not free*, so if you are interested in the program, we highly recommend you submit a scholarship application. Registration is open until all seats are filled. It is processed on a first come, first served basis.

<https://www.newschool.edu/parsons/summer-ny/?show=program-faq>

The SVA Pre-College Program **application is due July 6**. The **scholarship application is due April 16**. Housing and commuter options available; housing not guaranteed. Located in Manhattan. Can earn 3 college credits (and will receive a letter grade at the end of the course).

<http://www.sva.edu/special-programs/pre-college-program/summer-program>

Check out College Greenlight for summer programs with financial aid:

blog.collegegreenlight.com/blog/2017-summer-programs-with-financial-aid/



Programs like these are wonderful because you will be able to get a sense of what it's like living on campus (and they're free):

Upward Bound: University of New Hampshire: <http://www.upwardbound.unh.edu/summer.html>

Carnegie Mellon University:

<https://admission.enrollment.cmu.edu/pages/applying-to-summer-access-programs>

Telluride Association Summer Program (TSAP):

<https://www.tellurideassociation.org/our-programs/high-school-students/summer-program-juniors-tasp/>

Some other summer programs you can check out:

Girls Who Code: <https://girlswhocode.com/summer-immersion-programs/>

All Star Code: <http://www.allstarcode.org/>

Artslife: The Museum of Arts and Design: <http://madmuseum.org/learn/artslife>