



August 16, 2017

Dear rising Seniors and their parents:

Your senior year is about to begin, and among other things, that means you are about to become fully embroiled in the exciting world of the college application process. Over the next several months you will be finalizing decisions about what schools to apply to, filling out applications and writing essays and personal statements, requesting transcripts and letters of recommendations, filling out scholarship applications and financial aid forms, and waiting to discover what the future holds for you. I am here to answer questions and help you navigate all the necessary details of the college application process.

To that end, we will have a college application workshop on Thursday, August 24th, immediately following all-student orientation. (Note that we are listing the workshop as being from 1:00-4:00, but we will probably finish early). The purpose of this workshop is twofold: 1) We will begin filling out the common application together online. 2) We will talk a little bit about how to approach writing college entrance essays.

The Common Application is a general college application that is accepted at roughly 700 colleges and universities (Oregon's state universities have their own separate application process). The goal of the workshop will be to complete all the informational components of the application and to make significant progress in the essay section. Please go to www.commonapp.org and create an account for yourself prior to the workshop. You may wish to begin looking at the application questions and essay prompts and thinking about/working on your essay.

You will need to bring the following with you: 1) List of academic honors received since ninth grade. 2) List of extracurricular, volunteer, and work activities. Include any leadership positions held and accomplishments (e.g., yearbook editor, volunteer of the month). 3) Dates and scores of any SAT or ACT exams. 4) Names and ages of siblings. If they have attended or are currently attending college, give the names of the college, degree program, and approximate dates of attendance. 5) Parent/Guardian information such as email, occupation, employer, college, and degree. 6) Social security number. *Optional:* Bring a draft for one of the essay prompts for the Common Application.

You may want to create a résumé that highlights your academic and non-academic interests. This document will be useful for filling out applications, and it will also help me generate your official letters of recommendation.

Have a great end of the summer,
Dr. Francie Longshore
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CALENDAR:

SEPTEMBER – I will meet with students individually to find out what schools they plan to apply to and what sort of help they will need from me. I will also be available to answer questions and help with the writing of essays and personal statements, as needed.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER – There will be opportunities for seniors to meet with me throughout the fall for help with applications, essays, etc.

NOVEMBER 1 – This is the deadline for early decision/early action for most schools. If a student has a school they *know* they want to attend, they can apply for an “early decision.” If accepted, the student will be required to attend the chosen school.

Applying for an early decision has three major advantages: 1) The school will know that you are serious about attending, that this is not just another school to you but one you are really excited about. 2) Students who are accepted under early decision generally get preference for financial aid/scholarships. 3) If you are accepted early, you will save time and money by not having to apply to a lot of back up schools; on the other hand, if you are not accepted to your top choice school, you will still have time to put in applications elsewhere. “Early action” is similar to “early decision,” but it does not obligate you to attend the chosen school if you are accepted.

OCTOBER 29th & 30th – If you are delaying college for a year, want to investigate financial aid options, or want to meet with a college representative locally: The Portland National College Fair will be held at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., Portland, OR 97232, from 1:00 – 5:00pm on Sunday, October 29th and from 9:00am-12:00pm on Monday, October 30th.

DECEMBER/JANUARY – Students should have completed applications for all schools to which they are applying. Please request all transcripts and letter of recommendation in a timely manner, so I have plenty of time to respond.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY – Parents of college-bound seniors need to fill out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Your parents must do this even if they are not planning to fund your education. Parents of Oregon students should fill out the FAFSA in January even though they will not yet have completed their 2015 income taxes, because there is scholarship money available for families who fill out the FAFSA before February 1st. Note: *Make sure your parents do not go to a website that asks them to pay a fee to fill out the FAFSA for them.* This is a scam; filling out the form is 100% free. Also Note: The FAFSA form is available in Spanish, and there are Spanish-language meetings for parents on filling out the FAFSA and applying for financial aid. Please let me know if your parents would be interested in this, and I can get the information for them.

APRIL – Seniors will provide me with lists of the schools where they have been accepted and inform me where they plan to attend, so we can retain this information for Trinity’s records.