



August 28, 2017

Dear Sophomores and their parents:

This year we want to begin helping you prepare for the college application process. I am here to help you navigate the many forms, websites, tests, essays, etc. that are involved. The purpose of this letter, and of the accompanying college planning guide and resource list, is to provide you with an overview of what you can expect in terms of college and career preparation, including an introduction to the various tests students may need to take prior to applying to colleges. Please see the end of the college planning guide for an explanation of standardized tests that you should be familiar with, at least some of which you will take in the next several months.

Although sophomores will not be applying to colleges for some time, they will be taking the PSAT this fall, and you may find it useful to have a general overview of what resources are available to you and what is needed in the process of looking for and applying to schools, scholarships, and other opportunities.

I have already begun making arrangements with college admissions representatives to have them come and visit our school. ***If there is a school you would like us to receive a visit from, please let me know.***

We also have a small library of college catalogs and other college and career resources (e. g. *What Color is your Parachute? For Teens*) here at the school, including some SAT study materials. College viewbooks and other materials are available in Upper Commons (alphabetical order by college); for other resources, feel free to ask me.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me and ask questions at any point during this process. I look forward to being part of your journey as you think about and work towards your future during the remainder of your time at Trinity.

Sincerely,
Francie Longshore
francie.longshore@trinityacademyportland.org; (503-954-7748)

CALENDAR:

SUMMER – Students are encouraged to set up accounts for themselves at collegeboard.org. This is not only where you will go to register for SAT examinations; the site also has pertinent information on colleges, test preparation (including a sample SAT test), careers, and more. *Make sure to write down your username and password in a safe place, because you will want to return to this site throughout the college application process.*

If you do not already have a Multnomah County Public Library card, now is the time to get one. The public library system has many good college and career resources. You can use your library card to access online resources as well as print resources. Note: Even if you do not live in Multnomah County, you can still get a library card, since you are a student here.



SEPTEMBER 25TH – There will be a Christian (mainly Protestant) college fair held at Westside Christian High School, 8200 SW Pfaffle St., Tigard, OR 97223 from 6:00-8:00pm.

Representatives will be present from a number of Christian colleges, universities, bible colleges, and seminaries. Please check <http://www.naccap.org> closer to the date to verify information and see the list of colleges.

OCTOBER 11TH – Sophomores and Juniors will take the PSAT during school hours. Location TBA.

OCTOBER 16TH – The Portland Performing and Visual Arts College Fair will be held at the Portland Art Museum (Mark Building) from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information or to register, please go here: <http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/PVA-College-Fairs/Pages/default.aspx>

OCTOBER 29TH & 30TH – 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. This is a great opportunity to meet one-on-one with financial aid counselors and representatives from many different schools. Your student can register at www.gotomyncf.com/Registration. We will go as a group from Trinity on Monday, October 30th.

JANUARY OR FEBRUARY (DATE TBA) – There will be a Gap Year Fair. (Last year it ran from 6:00-9:00pm at Cleveland High School in Portland (3400 SE 26th Ave., 97202)). For students intending to take a semester or a year off between high school and college, the gap year fair is a great resource. Organizations are represented for those who wish to pursue travel and/or volunteer opportunities immediately after high school. Some opportunities may involve a stipend or free room and board, and some are eligible for college credit.

SPRING –

Sophomores may wish to take the SAT math subject test at this time (see the information on subject tests in the college planning guide).

SUMMER – For those who plan to take the SAT or ACT in the fall, the summer is a great time to study. Rising juniors, if you have not already done so, begin researching and visiting schools now.

AUGUST (DATE TBA) – College fair: Colleges that Change Lives. *Colleges that Change Lives* is the title of a book, a website, and a non-profit organization geared toward introducing students to liberal arts schools that offer unique and innovative experiences, academic programs, internships, service programs, and study abroad options. For more information visit their website at: ctcl.org.



JUNIOR YEAR

OCTOBER – Take the PSAT during the school day. This year’s scores will be considered to see if you qualify as a National Merit Scholar.

DECEMBER – I will hand out a questionnaire to help you start thinking about what sort of college you might like to attend and/or what sort of career they may be interested in. The questionnaire should be returned to me after Christmas break, so that I can use this information to prepare to meet with you one-on-one to discuss options and next steps.

FEBRUARY – I will meet with students individually to discuss college plans and/or career goals and to make sure you understand necessary steps in the application process.

SPRING –

Take the SAT and/or ACT, as well as any relevant SAT subject tests. *Note: It is useful to know exactly which schools you wish to apply to by spring, so that you know which tests you will be required or recommended to take.*

Visit as many schools as you can. Spring Break is a great time to do this. If you are unsure what kind of school you wish to attend, it may be advisable to visit a variety of different types (large, small, private, public, etc.).

SUMMER – For those who plan to take or retake the SAT or ACT in the fall, the summer is a great time to study. Continue to research and visit schools and to think about career plans.

SENIOR YEAR

FALL –

At the beginning of the school year, I will host a session for seniors on how to filling out the Common Application, which is used by many schools for admissions purposes. Seniors will create a résumé that highlights both academic and non-academic interests. This document will be useful both for filling out applications and for generating official letters of recommendation.

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.

Retake SAT, ACT, and/or SAT subject tests, if desired.

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.

DECEMBER/JANUARY – Students should have completed applications for all schools to which they are applying.