



August 17, 2019

Dear Seniors and their parents:

I hope you are enjoying the last few days of summer vacation. This letter includes dates and details for upcoming college-admissions related opportunities and deadlines.

Students: Please note that there will be a college application workshop for seniors following all-student orientation on Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are planning to apply for college or a gap year program for the fall of 2020, this meeting is not optional. If for some reason you are absolutely unable to attend, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can arrange a one-on-one meeting to cover what you will have missed. A more detailed description of the meeting agenda and a list of what to bring are included in the calendar below.

Two upcoming meetings will be of special note to both parents and students. If you will be applying for any form of financial aid to help pay for college, I highly recommend that you attend the financial aid presentation at University of Portland on September 29<sup>th</sup>, even if you have gone through the financial aid process before. Trinity Alums and their parents have noted that this meeting has been extremely helpful for navigating the application process for both federal financial aid and state and private scholarships. The second meeting will be held at the school on ..... for Trinity parents and students to learn and ask questions about the college application process.

During the first month of school, I will meet with all seniors one-on-one during the school day (a sign-up sheet will be available at the application workshop). Parents, if you and your student would like to arrange to meet with me one-on-one after school, please e-mail at your convenience with suggested dates and times. The first, third, and last Mondays of the month are best for me, but I do have some flexibility. Wednesday long lunch meetings are also a possibility.

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.

Have a great summer,  
Dr. Francie Longshore  
[francie.longshore@trinityacademyportland.org](mailto:francie.longshore@trinityacademyportland.org); (503-954-7748)



#### CALENDAR:

AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup> – College Application Workshop. 12:30-3:30pm. Trinity Academy; Room U3. The purpose of this workshop is threefold: 1) We will begin filling out the common application<sup>1</sup> together online. 2) We will talk a little bit about how to approach writing college entrance essays. 3) We will talk about Trinity's involvement in the application process and ways that we are here to support you at this time, and you will sign up to meet with me one-on-one early in the semester. Before the workshop: Please go to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) and create an account for yourself. 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. 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. *Optional:* Bring a draft for one of the essay prompts for the Common Application.

AUGUST 24<sup>th</sup> – SAT, SAT Math II, and SAT Literature administered. Register at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org). This is the last time to take the SAT and receive scores before most early admissions deadlines.

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.

SEPTEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> – Priority registration deadline for the October 5<sup>th</sup> SAT test.

SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> – 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: <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/pva>. It is recommended that you reserve parking ahead of time; please see the website for more details.

SEPTEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> – Navigating the Road to College; Trinity Academy, 6:30pm. There will be a short presentation on Trinity's educational philosophy and how it fits into the college admissions process, followed by a brief nuts-and-bolts overview of the process itself. After the general presentation, there will be a short meeting specifically for upperclassmen and their parents to go over the application timelines and what to expect. There will be plenty of time for questions.

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<sup>1</sup> The Common Application is a general college application that is accepted at roughly 700 colleges and universities (many public universities have their own separate application process).



SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> – 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.

SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> – Greater Portland Metro Financial Aid Presentation at University of Portland; Buckley Center Auditorium; 10:00am. Highly recommended for all seniors and their parents. This is not meant just for those applying to UP. From UP: “We will present on the overall financial aid process, including the 2019-20 FAFSA and the federal and state financial aid options that come from filing a FAFSA. We will discuss Oregon and Washington state specific scholarship applications, provide some tips and tricks to applying for private scholarships, and answer any and all questions along the way.”

OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> – SAT, SAT Math II, and SAT Literature administered. Register at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org). This is the last time to take the SAT and receive scores before most regular admissions deadlines.

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

OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup> – 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 1:00pm – 5:00pm on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> and from 9:00am-12:00pm on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.gotomyncf.com/Registration).

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. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

FEBRUARY – Gap Year Fair. The specific date and location have not yet been announced. 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.

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.