

Greetings from the College Counseling office! There's been a lot of activity in the CC office over the last few weeks as we finalize applications for seniors and begin the process for getting to know the juniors and help them better understand the college process and what it might mean for them. To that end, there are lots of announcements to be made in this newsletter.

Seniors and Parents of Seniors:

For all students: Keep checking to ensure that all your documents have arrived at the colleges you've applied to. If you're missing something, please let me know. I have been hearing from colleges directly to help them gather any missing pieces of information, but many will simply update the application portal or send the applicant an email. So stay on top of this.

ED II applicants: Decisions should be coming out by mid-February. Please keep me aware of your outcome! It's important.

All students awaiting RD news and/or deferred from ED II. Now is not the time to sit back and relax! You have more control in this outcome than you realize. Keep the colleges abreast via email of all new information that might be added to your applications - (an event your club has organized, a fundraising event, an especially good grade...anything!) - and remind the colleges that you care about getting accepted. If it's a first choice college, please see me for special tips.

ALL SENIORS! you need to carefully watch out for the serious illness that goes around when one turns a second semester senior: **senioritis!** It's real, and it can be harmful. Stay the course! You won't want to lose your office of admissions after you've graduated. Yes, that can happen. Questions about it? Please see me.

Juniors and Parents of juniors! It's your turn now!

Students are coming in and that's great. If your child has not made an appointment to see me yet, please have your kids start to make appointments with me either by stopping by or emailing me with their free periods. Appointments have begun in earnest. Meeting regularly will allow me to get to know you so I can best advise you step by step through this process, and later advocate for you with the colleges once you've made your application. In our meetings, we'll begin by covering all aspects of your academic, extracurricular and personal lives - at least as much as you'd like to share. We'll start by recommending a standardized testing schedule too. Parents, you are also welcome as well to set up meetings with me. If you'd like to do just that, please email me at scarlson@newmanboston.org

NB: The week of Feb 3rd, I'll be going into all English classes to introduce all juniors to the complete college process, how decisions are made and how that relates to them. There will also be an introduction to Naviance in those sessions.

All parents and students will receive an email inviting you to join Naviance sometime the week of February 3rd. From there, you'll be able to create your own passwords, and then start exploring and using Naviance.

Standardized testing - Although I will be discussing individualized testing plans with each junior when they meet individually with me, my best advice to all is to register and take **both an SAT and ACT in order to determine which test the student feels most comfortable**. No one needs to see the scores if they are poor; but trying will arm the tester with valuable information. March is a great time to try the SAT

in March and in April the ACT. If you choose not to do this, and there would be many reasons why not, **all students should at least plan to sit for the May SAT**. Here are the spring registration deadlines for test registration.

SAT

2019 - 2020 SAT Test Dates and Registrations

| 2019-20 SAT Test Date | Registration Date | Scores Release Date** |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Saturday, December 7, 2019 | November 8, 2019 | December 20, 2019 |
| Saturday, March 14, 2020 | February 14, 2020 | March 27, 2020 |
| Saturday, May 2, 2020 | April 3, 2020 | May 15, 2020 |
| Saturday, June 6, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | July 15, 2020 |

ACT

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|------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| February 8, 2020 | January 10, 2020 | January 11-17, 2020 |
| April 4, 2020 | February 28, 2020 | February 29-March 13, 2020 |
| June 13, 2020 | May 8, 2020 | May 9-22, 2020 |
| July 18, 2020* | June 19, 2020 | June 20-26, 2020 |

NB: Newman will be offering a standardized testing class to our students, taught by Summit Prep, a wonderful company from Newton MA that excels at helping students learn strategies for taking the test and improving their scores. The classes will run at Newman on Tuesday afternoons, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It will begin on March 24th, with practice tests included. For more information, and costs \$575, financial aid available. A flyer is attached to this newsletter.

NB: In April, there will be a college fair coming to Boston, sponsored by NACAC, the National Association of College Admissions Counselors. It will be held between April 30th and May 1st at the Boston Convention Center. Attending this is highly encouraged. A flyer with colleges attending will be shared here and via Managebac once it attendance list is finalized.

Away we go!
Susan Carlson

