

Reminders for Seniors

****When setting up accounts online, please use a PERSONAL email instead of your school email****

***College recruiters/admissions people come in the fall to talk with students about what their college offers. Please check your emails for these lunch table dates.**

****Mark your calendars for September 24th in the morning. SMC is hosting a College Fair and many two and four year colleges from Michigan and the surrounding area will be in attendance. Additional information has been emailed to you.**

College Applications - All applications should be connected to your Xello account

- Try to get applications done (preferably online) **before November 1st**. Your chances of getting accepted somewhere are better the earlier you apply. Pay attention to "how" you are applying - early action, early decision, regular decision, rolling decision and now there is a new "direct admissions" in Common App.
- They may want a list of the classes you are taking this year. You can get a current copy in the office if you need one.
- Some schools may have an application fee. If you are applying online, the only way to pay it would be by credit card. **If you are currently eligible for free/reduced lunch at school, you should be eligible to have the application fee waived at most colleges.** Sometimes they ask this as part of the application, but if they don't and you have to pay at the end - come see Ms. Russell, and I can write you a letter to waive the fee if you are eligible.
- If you need a **letter of recommendation** for anything, you can find those forms in the senior hallway on the big bulletin board and in schoology. When you ask someone to write one for you, hand them your completed form and let them know when you need it. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO ASK SOMEONE FOR A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION!!**

Essays matter - please take your time and write one that is meaningful, focused, thoughtful and well written. Ask a friend or teacher to proofread it for you!

Keep in mind that the only thing that the admissions office will know about you is what you put on your application. Make sure that your application stands out!

When you get accepted to a college, they will send important information and deadlines. Part of that will also be information on **setting up a student email account with them. ALL information will come through that email account.** Keeping track of your acceptance letters, important deadlines and usernames and passwords for everything is SUPER important.

Transcripts - You should request these through Xello (may need to assign a counselor!)

- Your GPA, class rank and **SAT scores (use the Composite score if there is only room for one) all print out on your transcript.** However, sometimes a school may want your SAT scores to be sent to them directly from College Board - there may be a small fee to do so. **If you retake the SAT, please come see Ms. Russell when your new scores are released.**

- **Transcript requests should be made through Xello. This is integrated this year with Parchment.com** where we usually send them electronically. Often employers and/or military branches will also require a transcript...even many years after you have graduated. It is the quickest and easiest way to send a transcript - and it is **free to most colleges/universities until July 31st.** Please only do transcript requests through Xello for now.

- At the end of the school year, **don't forget to request a transcript from Glen Oaks if you took dual enrollment and/or CTE classes.** This can be done through their website under services>online services>transcript request. There may be a small fee.

Scholarships

- Please check the **bulletin board in the senior hallway** throughout the year for current scholarship information. This information may also be emailed to you, listed in Xello, posted in Schoology and/or Facebook or on the school website under schools>high school>student resources>counselor>information for seniors

- TIP \$\$ - if your family ever received Medicaid benefits (for more than 2 years consecutively), you may be eligible for TIP (Tuition Incentive Program) through the **State of Michigan**. You should receive a letter regarding this sometime this fall. KEEP an eye out for this letter and DO NOT throw it away. The letter will come from the Michigan Department of Treasury and should say something about Student Scholarships and Grants (MiSSG). **There is a number you are supposed to call**, and then you will need to take the letter to the financial aid office of the college you end up attending so it is VERY IMPORTANT. If you think you are eligible, but have not received a letter by January, come see me. *See the attached information about the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship and the Community College Guarantee

- There are many different kinds of scholarships out there and they all have different deadlines. **You should take the time to apply for any and all scholarships that you are eligible for**. Please use the information below as a guide:

Private scholarships - **watch the senior bulletin board** and check the internet for information. Deadlines will vary. **Fastweb.com** is a good resource. I will send other information as I receive it through email, Facebook (CHS Counselor Russell), Xello, Schoology and/or the school website.

College scholarships - once you have been accepted to a college, please check that college website to see what scholarships they offer. Those deadlines may vary also - each college is different. They will look at your FAFSA information to see if you are eligible for need based financial assistance (based on household income) and/or merit based financial assistance (based on your academic performance in high school).

Federal, State and Local scholarships - **You should begin by filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online after October 1st**. This is important so you can see what types of grants or scholarships (which you do not have to pay back) and or loans (which you will have to pay back after college) you may be eligible for. If you wish to be eligible for any state funds, your FAFSA must be completed by March 1st. There are virtual **FAFSA informational meeting** sessions offered through MI Student Aid. The link is in Schoology and on the school website.

Your parents will need to put information in the FAFSA application as well. ****Putting your FSA ID, username, password, save key, etc. in a safe place is SUPER important!!**

Local/community scholarships will have their applications during January-March - most of them require that you have your FAFSA completed also. We are fortunate to have so many generous families and groups in our community! New this year we will be using an online platform called Kaleidoscope for our local scholarships. More information to follow!

Important websites:

To complete the application for financial aid (FAFSA) - <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

To find private scholarships - <https://www.fastweb.com/>

For state of Michigan scholarships (including TIP, Community College Guarantee and the Michigan Achievement Scholarship) - <https://www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid>

I have no idea what I want to do with my life -

<https://auth.xello.world/Google/Student/084cf86d-386a-49ae-a399-8485c6c764ba>

College applications through Common App (not all colleges participate with this site) - **please plan to access Common App this year from the College Planning section of your Xello account.**

If you would like to see how your college classes for dual enrollment or EMC transfer to other colleges - <https://www.mitransfer.org/>

To transfer credits from Glen Oaks to another college - <https://glenoaks.edu> Under Online Services>Transcript requests. This is best to do in mid-late May.