

SENIOR LETTER

October 2017

1. SEND IN YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS NOW!! (Make December 1 your goal for sending in all your college applications) For the easiest way to apply, go online and submit your application. Your transcript will need to be sent to the college(s) you apply to. After submitting your application, you will need to tell Mrs. Bazen where to send your transcript. Note: Some applications require recommendations from teachers, principal, or counselor. **Allow one week for these recommendations.** ***If you are not sure which college you want to go to, narrow your options to 3 or 4, and send applications to them. You will lose your application fee, but this allows you more time to make a final decision.

NOTE: College admissions rights and responsibilities:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| You have the right: | To receive full accurate information about admission requirements, cost and financial aid, and scholarships.
To know if financial need will be considered in the admissions decision ... ASK!
To wait to respond yes or no to an admissions and/or financial aid offer until May 1st.
To request a written extension until May 1st if school request an earlier commitment. |
| You have the responsibility: | To understand your college options and all information on application forms before signing them.
To complete the admission application yourself, including all forms, activities lists, all questions and essays.
To apply to a reasonable number of colleges by published deadline dates.
To notify all colleges to which you've been admitted of your final decision by May 1. |

2. If you want to take/retake the ACT, the next test date is December 9. (Registration deadline is November 3).
3. If you want to take/retake the SAT, the next test date is November 4. (Registration deadline is October 5). The following test date is December 2 with a registration deadline of November 2.
4. APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID.
-The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be completed by all students intending to go to college. This form is available to submit beginning October 1 and received by March 1. This is FREE and available at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can also download a "FAFSA ON THE WEB WORKSHEET" which will help you in filling out the form online. **PLEASE NOTE THE DATES FOR SUBMITTING THE FAFSA.** The process begins in October and you will submit "prior-prior" years' taxes. When submitting the FAFSA for the 2018-2019 school year, you will be entering your 2016 tax information. The sooner you submit this form, the earlier you will find out how much financial aid you will receive. Money does run out so apply as soon as possible!!!!
- CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is another financial aid resource. Applications are available by e-mail at help@cssprofile.org or call **1-305-420-3670** or via Internet www.collegeboard.org/college-search then click on "Pay for College" and then the CSS/PROFILE link. There is a fee for this service.
- If you have Internet access at home or a nearby library - search for scholarships/financial aid there also.
5. OTHER FINANCIAL AID CONSIDERATIONS:
- Start applying for financial aid when you start applying to colleges. Ask each college exactly which forms you will need. Be sure to meet all deadlines. Late applications are considered only if there is money left over.
 - Many applications require information from your parents and your tax returns. If you cannot do your return at the time you need the information, you can estimate and let the college know of changes later.
 - For most if not all schools, the financial aid process starts with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Some schools ask for additional forms.
 - If money is tight, still concentrate on your school work, volunteer activity, or ACT/SAT retest rather than working additional hours. The better GPA you have and the more involvement you can demonstrate makes you a more desirable student to a college. Then they will be more likely to give you grant money.
 - The best way to find out about private scholarships is to research it on your own. Resources are available without paying various agencies to find scholarships for you. Commercial search companies charge up to \$200 for information you could find on your own. Ask the college representatives that come to PCH about financial aid at their college, or ask your parents if their employers have company scholarships.
 - When you register for the ACT and SAT, fill in the bubble that indicates you want to be placed on the mailing list for information about colleges and scholarships.

6. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:

American Legion Scholarships - There are various scholarships available to seniors. Visit www.michiganlegion.org to obtain scholarship information. Deadlines vary depending on the scholarship.

AXA Achievement Scholarship - The AXA Foundation in association with U.S. News & World Report is offering the AXA Achievement Scholarship. Students have the opportunity to receive \$2,500, \$10,000 or \$25,000 in scholarships. To qualify, students should be well-rounded, committed to making a difference and have demonstrated achievement at a job, sport or extracurricular activity. Visit www.axa-achievement.com to download an application. Deadline: The first 10,000 applications are accepted or December 15 whichever comes first.

Hugh & Eve Meeter Calvinism Award – This \$3,500 first prize and three \$2,000 second prize awards are given to students who write an essay dealing with “Calvin and Women”. This award is payable to student tuition accounts at the following colleges: Calvin, Dordt, King’s (Canada), Redeemer (Canada), Kuyper, and Trinity Christian. Detailed information is available at www.calvin.edu/centers-institutes/meeter-center/fellowships-scholarships/high-school-seniors/. Deadline is February 1.

Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation - This is an extremely competitive program. Applicants are chosen based on their responses in three major categories: Demonstrated Leadership, Academic Achievement, and Community Service. Students should have a minimum GPA of 3.0. 150 Coca-Cola Scholars are selected each year to receive this \$20,000 scholarship. Applications are due **by** October 31. Apply online at www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org.

Horatio Alger Scholarship - This scholarship provides assistance to students who have financial need and have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Eligibility criteria also includes pursuing a bachelor’s degree and US citizenship. Online applications are available at www.scholars.horatioalger.org. Deadline is October 25.

Precision Metal-forming Association – This scholarship will be given to a student who wants to pursue a career in the metal-forming industry. \$1,000 per year for up to 2 years. You must enroll full-time at an accredited two-year college or a non-credit Job Training program. Minimum 2.5 GPA is also required. See Mrs. Bazen for an application.

Raise.me – Getting scholarships from colleges for your achievements in high school.

1. Add your achievements - Add your course grades, clubs, sports, volunteer activities, and more to your portfolio.
2. Earn Scholarships - For each achievement, you’ll get scholarships from different colleges, which you can redeem when you attend that college.
3. Discover Colleges - Learn about and follow different colleges from across the country to find schools that are the best fit for you.

SAE Engineering Scholarships - for those students who intend to earn a degree in engineering or related science, meet minimum requirements with regard to grade point average, SAT and/or ACT scores as outlined in the individual requirements of each scholarship, this application applies to many different engineering scholarships. For full details and an application visit www.sae.org. Deadline: March 15

Western Michigan University Medallion Scholarship Competition is held on campus on November 18 with finalists invited to return to campus on January 12 or 13 for an interview. In order to be included in this competition, you must have a 3.7 GPA , 26+ ACT or 1240+ on the SAT and your application to WMU by **October 16, 2017**. The Medallion Scholarship is the highest merit-based scholarship WMU offers (valued at \$60,000 over four years).

MI Competitive Scholarship - Eligibility for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship Program is determined in part by the student achieving a qualifying score on the SAT Assessment. (See attached fact sheet.)

Individual Colleges - Most colleges also have specific scholarships of their own. Check with the counseling office, library shelf, college catalogs and college admissions or financial aid offices for details.

7. VISIT COLLEGES - Examine the place you are going! If you decide to visit a college, you must fill out an excused absence form (available in the office) two days prior to your visit.
8. Grand Valley State University Laker Experience Days will be held on Saturday, October 14 and Friday, October 27 beginning at 9:00 a.m. (Fieldhouse). Representatives from academic departments and support services will be available to answer your questions. To register or for more information call 1-800-748-0246. To make an online reservation visit www.gvsu.edu/visit.
9. “Fridays at Calvin” - The following Fridays are visiting days at Calvin College: October 6, 13, 20, 27; November 3, 10, 17 and December 1. You must make a reservation at least five days in advance. To register, call 1-800-688-0122 or register online at www.calvin.edu/visit. Also, Calvin will waive the application fee (\$35) if you apply before November 15.
10. GRCC is having an Open House on Saturday, October 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information on this event go to www.grcc.edu/openhouse. One attendee will be chosen to receive a \$500 GRCC scholarship.

www.fastweb.com – This website is highly recommended by various college representative for finding scholarships, grants and loans to fund your college education.

Questions????????? Send me an email at sbazen@plymouthchristian.us