

SENIOR LETTER

November 2017

1. SEND IN YOUR **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS NOW!!** Set a goal of getting them in by December 1. Thanksgiving Break would be a great time to work on them!!
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.

2. **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!!!!

FAFSA Night at T2C Studio – Davenport University will host a FAFSA Information night where students and parents can get tips on filling out the FAFSA and answer any questions you may have.

WHEN: Thursday, November 16, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: T2C Studio: Grand Rapids Center for College Success

Grand Rapids Public Library

111 Library St. NE, 3rd Floor

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

-The State of Michigan has valuable resources and information available at their website. Tips on planning for college, loans, scholarships, grants, and eligibility for all types of financial aid can be found at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid.

-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.

3. **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:**

***2017/18 Blood Drive Scholarship** – To be eligible for this scholarship a student must 1) be a senior, 2) have donated, or attempted to donate blood at least once during his/her high school career, 3) write a 200-300 word essay persuading fellow high school students to donate blood. See the counseling office for a form that must be attached to your typed essay. Deadline: April 20.

***SAE Engineering Scholarships** - for those students who intend to earn a degree in engineering or related science, meet minimum requirements with regard to GPA, SAT and/or ACT as outlined in the individual requirements of each scholarship. For full details and an application go online to www.sae.org. Deadline: March 15.

***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. The next SAT test date is December 2. (register by November 2, late registration is November 21).

***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.

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

***Burger King** - Burger King awards numerous scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Selection criteria includes GPA, work experience, and extracurricular activities and school service. Log on to www.bkmlamorefoundation.org. Application deadline: December 15.

***Hugh & Eve Meeter Calvinism Award** – This \$3,500 first prize and three \$2,000 second prize awards are given to students who write a research paper 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.

Lake Michigan Credit Union Lloyd F. Hutt Scholarship - To be eligible for one of ten \$2,000 scholarships, students must be members or dependent children of Lake Michigan Credit Union members. A short application and a 750 to 1500 word essay are required. Applications are available at www.lmcu.org/hutt. Deadline: January 31.

GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program – This program awards approximately twenty \$10,000 renewable scholarships to students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship. For more information visit www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships. Deadline: January 4.

Elks National Foundation – This foundation will lessen the cost of tuition to 500 deserving students from around the country. The foundation awards 20 top winners of at least \$20,000. The remaining 480 runners-up receive \$4,000 scholarships. Judging is based on scholarship, leadership and financial needs. Applications are available online at www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm. The deadline is November 27.

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.

Prospective Teachers: For students who are baptized or professing members of First Netherlands Reformed Congregation (Beckwith), specific funds are allocated to assist students who are going into the field of education. See Mrs. Bazen for details.

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

4. **LOCAL COLLEGE INFO**

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.

- **GVSU** - the application deadline date for scholarship consideration at Grand Valley is December 31, 2017. This means that your **transcript** has to be in their office by December 31. Do **NOT** go online on December 31 and submit an application and expect to be in the running for GVSU scholarships because your transcript will not be in their office which means your application is not complete!!!

-**GRCC** – **NO** application fee.

- “Fridays at **Calvin**” dates are November 3, 10, and 17 and December 1. You must fill out an excused absence form two days prior to your visit. You must make a reservation at least two weeks 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.

- **The Common Application** – The Common Application simplifies the college admission process by saving time and eliminating duplication of effort. Once completed online or in print, copies may be sent to any of over 600 participating colleges and universities that accept The Common Application. Go to www.commonapp.org.

- If you plan on living on campus, most colleges are on a first come first serve basis. After being accepted, put in for housing right away. Some colleges have a housing deadline of March 1.

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

www.studentscholarships.org – This website is known for its’ “largest collection of scholarships on the web”.

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