

SENIOR LETTER DECEMBER 2016

1. SEND IN YOUR **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS NOW!! Try to get these in before Christmas Break.** 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.

Transcript info for the two most popular colleges:

GRCC – Your transcript can be faxed but you need to tell me that you have officially submitted your application.
GVSU – Submit the application online; bring a **stamped, addressed envelope** to Mrs. Bazen; your transcript will be mailed to GVSU.
2. **INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE COUNSELING OFFICE:**

-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 DATE CHANGE FOR SUBMITTING THE FAFSA.** In years past the FAFSA could be submitted beginning in January and you needed your taxes for the previous year done. Now, the process begins in October and you will submit “prior-prior” years’ taxes. When submitting the FAFSA for the 2017-2018 school year, you will be entering your 2015 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!!!!
3. **SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME:**

 - ***America’s Farmers Grow Ag Leaders** – This new scholarship opportunity, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, will be awarding over \$500,000 in scholarships. Students must meet certain criteria. Apply online at ffa.org/scholarships. Deadline is February 1.
 - ***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. The first 10,000 applications are accepted or December 15, whichever comes first.
 - ***2016/17 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 21.
 - ***Burger King** - Burger King awards numerous scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$50,000. Selection criteria includes GPA, work experience, extracurricular activities and school service. Log on to www.bkmclamorefoundation.org. Deadline: December 15.
 - ***Calvin College Alumni Association Scholarship** - Candidates who have demonstrated evidence of commitment in areas of leadership, volunteerism, and service to the community will be considered for this scholarship. Most alumni scholarships are \$1,000 awards. Deadline: February 1. Apply at calvin.edu/go/alumni-scholarships/.
 - ***CollegeSTEPS Program** – This program created by Wells Fargo gives seniors the opportunity to win \$5,000 toward college tuition. Go to www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps. Enroll between now and June 30, 2017. There are random drawings during this time period and no essays or applications are required.

- *Davenport University** - The Gerald R. Ford Memorial Scholarship is a full-ride scholarship covering tuition, room, board, textbooks, fees and study abroad. A GPA of 3.75 and a minimum ACT score of 31 or SAT of 1430 are required. Deadline is January 15. Visit the website at www.davenport.edu. Other scholarships are also available.
- *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 5.
- *GRCC Honors Program** – The GRCC Honors Program is accepting applications beginning November 1st. This is a competitive application process accepting 24 students who will start the program together beginning Fall 2017. As a member of the program, students will develop leadership, service, research and creative scholarship skills all while earning an associate degree. The application can be found at: <https://orgsyn.com/80770/forms/223528>.
- *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 “John Calvin and Martin Luther: Comparison and Assessment”. 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/meeter/fellowships-and-scholarships and then by clicking on the “Scholarships for High School Seniors” link. Deadline is January 16.
- *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.
- *NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award** - \$2,000 - \$15,000 Awards are given to students who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit or initiative. Graduating high school seniors who operate their own small business are eligible to receive this award. Visit www.NFIB.com/YEA to apply and for more information. Deadline: December 18.
- *Ronald McDonald House Charities** - This program offers scholarships to students who do not have the finances necessary to attend college. Applications are available at www.rmhc.org. Deadline: January 18.
- *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: January 15.
- *University Club of Grand Rapids Scholarships** - Three scholarships will be awarded to students who express a strong desire to remain in West Michigan upon completion of their studies. Applicants may attend any school: in-state, out-of-state, two year or four year education. Each \$1,000.00 scholarship is renewable for three more years. Application deadline is February 1. Forms are available in the counseling office or go to UniversityClubGR.com.
- *University of Michigan Club of Grand Rapids Scholarships** - Numerous scholarships will be awarded to students who will be enrolling at the University of Michigan. Each \$3,750.00 scholarship is renewable for four years. Scholarships are awarded for high academic achievement, outstanding citizenship as reflected by participation in extracurricular activities, and financial need. Application deadline is February 3. Go to grandrapids.umclubs.com to apply.
- *Prospective Teachers:** For students who are baptized or professing members of First Netherlands Reformed Congregation 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. 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.
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.

GVSU - the application deadline date for scholarship consideration at Grand Valley is December 31, 2016. This does **not** mean you can go online on December 31 and submit an application. You need to have everything **submitted** by December 31 which includes your transcript.

GRCC - does not require an application fee

5. **GRCC Job Training Programs** – GRCC offers eight Job Training programs. These are non-credit programs that run 18-22 weeks and students attend classes for 34 hours per week. Once a student has completed their program, they are ready to work! For a list of programs visit: www.grcc.edu/jobtraining.

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

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