

# SENIOR LETTER

## DECEMBER 2017

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.
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](http://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!!!!
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](http://ffa.org/scholarships). Deadline is February 1.
  - \***American Legion Scholarships** - There are various scholarships available to seniors. Visit [www.michiganlegion.org](http://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](http://www.axa-achievement.com) to download an application. The first 10,000 applications are accepted or December 15, whichever comes first.
  - \***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.
  - \***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](http://www.bkmclamorefoundation.org). Deadline: December 15.
  - \***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](http://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](http://www.reaganfoundation.org/scholarships). Deadline: January 4.
  - \***GRCC Honors Program** – The GRCC Honors Program is now accepting applications. 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: [www.grcc.edu/honors](http://www.grcc.edu/honors)

**\*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 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 <https://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](http://www.lmcu.org/hutt).  
Deadline: January 31.

**\*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 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](http://www.sae.org).  
Deadline: March 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. Applications are available at [UniversityClubGR.com](http://UniversityClubGR.com).

**\*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, 2017. 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](http://www.grcc.edu/jobtraining).

**[www.fastweb.com](http://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](mailto:sbazen@plymouthchristian.us).