



June 19, 2018

Dear rising Seniors and their parents:

Your senior year is about to begin, and among other things, that means you are about to become fully embroiled in the exciting world of the college application process. Over the next several months you will be finalizing decisions about what schools to apply to, filling out applications and writing essays and personal statements, requesting transcripts and letters of recommendations, filling out scholarship applications and financial aid forms, and waiting to discover what the future holds for you. I am here to answer questions and help you navigate all the necessary details of the college application process.

Please take a look at the calendar that accompanies this letter. There are a number of dates that you should be aware of as you go through the application process. Let me highlight three of those, so that you can *get them on your calendar now!*

Thursday, August 23rd: Common Application Workshop for Incoming Seniors.
Thursday, September 20th: College Process Overview for Parents and Students.
Saturday, September 29th: Financial Aid Workshop at University of Portland.

Also, this summer Mr. and Dr. Clark will be running a review class for any rising Juniors and rising Seniors who are thinking about taking the SAT Math level 2 subject test (offered Aug. 25th, Oct. 6th, and Nov. 3rd). They will lead students through practice exams and review of material covered on this test. The review class will meet 8 times: July 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26, 31, and August 2 from 10:30 am - noon. Cost is \$120. Students can come to as many sessions as possible (it is OK to miss a few if on vacation). Please contact Dr. Clark to sign up or to ask any questions.

See details for these and other events on the calendar, below.

Have a great summer,
Dr. Francie Longshore
francie.longshore@trinityacademyportland.org; (503-954-7748)



CALENDAR:

JULY 23-27 – Oregon Private College Week, 9:00-11:30am and 2:00-4:00pm. If you visit four or more private colleges during this week, your application fees will be waived at any of the participating schools that you choose to apply to. Visit oregonprivatecolleges.com for more details and to register.

AUGUST 1st – Colleges that Change Lives Fair. Oregon Convention Center; Ballrooms 203 and 204; 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd.: Portland, OR 97232; 7:00-9:00pm. *Colleges that Change Lives* is the title of a book, a website, and a non-profit organization geared toward introducing students to liberal arts schools that offer unique and innovative experiences, academic programs, internships, service programs, and study abroad options. For more information visit their website at: ctcl.org.

AUGUST 23rd – Common Application Workshop. 1:00-4:00pm. Trinity Academy; Room U3. The Common Application is a general college application that is accepted at roughly 700 colleges and universities (most public universities have their own separate application process). The purpose of this workshop is twofold: 1) We will begin filling out the common application together online. 2) We will talk a little bit about how to approach writing college entrance essays. Before the workshop: Please go to www.commonapp.org and create an account for yourself. You may wish to begin looking at the application questions and essay prompts and thinking about/working on your essay. You will need to bring the following with you: 1) List of academic honors received since ninth grade. 2) List of extracurricular, volunteer, and work activities. Include any leadership positions held and accomplishments (e.g., yearbook editor, volunteer of the month). 3) Dates and scores of any SAT or ACT exams. 4) Names and ages of siblings. If they have attended or are currently attending college, give the names of the college, degree program, and approximate dates of attendance. 5) Parent/Guardian information such as email, occupation, employer, college, and degree. 6) Social security number. *Optional:* Bring a draft for one of the essay prompts for the Common Application. You may want to create a résumé that highlights your academic and non-academic interests. This document will be useful for filling out applications, and it will also help me generate your official letters of recommendation.

AUGUST 25th – SAT, SAT Math II, and SAT Literature administered. Register at collegeboard.org. This is the last time to take the SAT and receive scores before most early admissions deadlines.

SEPTEMBER – I will meet with students individually to find out what schools they plan to apply to and what sort of help they will need from me. I will also be available to answer questions and help with the writing of essays and personal statements, as needed.

SEPTEMBER 20th – Navigating the Road to College; Trinity Academy, 6:30pm. There will be a short presentation on Trinity's educational philosophy and how it fits into the college admissions process, followed by a brief nuts-and-bolts overview of the process itself. After the general presentation, there will be a short meeting specifically for upperclassmen and their parents to go over the application timelines and what to expect. There will be plenty of time for questions.



SEPTEMBER 24TH – There will be a Christian (mainly Protestant) college fair held at Westside Christian High School, 8200 SW Pfaffle St., Tigard, OR 97223 from 6:00-8:00pm. Representatives will be present from a number of Christian colleges, universities, bible colleges, and seminaries. Please check <http://www.naccap.org> closer to the date to verify information and see the list of colleges.

SEPTEMBER 29TH – Greater Portland Metro Financial Aid Presentation at University of Portland; Buckley Center Auditorium; 10:00am. Highly recommended for all seniors and their parents. This is not meant just for those applying to UP. From UP: “We will present on the overall financial aid process, including the 2019-20 FAFSA and the federal and state financial aid options that come from filing a FAFSA. We will discuss Oregon and Washington state specific scholarship applications, provide some tips and tricks to applying for private scholarships, and answer any and all questions along the way.”

OCTOBER 1ST – The Portland Performing and Visual Arts College Fair will be held at the Portland Art Museum (Mark Building) from 7:00-9:00pm. For more information or to register, please go here: <http://www.nacacnet.org/college-fairs/PVA-College-Fairs/Pages/default.aspx>

OCTOBER 6TH – SAT, SAT Math II, and SAT Literature administered. Register at collegeboard.org. This is the last time to take the SAT and receive scores before most regular admissions deadlines.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER – There will be opportunities for seniors to meet with me throughout the fall for help with applications, essays, etc.

OCTOBER 28TH & 29TH – If you are delaying college for a year, want to investigate financial aid options, or want to meet with a college representative locally: The Portland National College Fair will be held at the Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Blvd., Portland, OR 97232, from 1:00pm – 5:00pm on Sunday, October 28th and from 9:00am-12:00pm on Monday, October 29th. This is a great opportunity to meet one-on-one with financial aid counselors and representatives from many different schools. Your student can register at www.gotomyncf.com/Registration.

NOVEMBER 1 – This is the deadline for early decision/early action for most schools. If a student has a school they *know* they want to attend, they can apply for an “early decision.” If accepted, the student will be required to attend the chosen school. Applying for an early decision has three major advantages: 1) The school will know that you are serious about attending, that this is not just another school to you but one you are really excited about. 2) Students who are accepted under early decision generally get preference for financial aid/scholarships. 3) If you are accepted early, you will save time and money by not having to apply to a lot of back up schools; on the other hand, if you are not accepted to your top choice school, you will still have time to put in applications elsewhere. “Early action” is similar to “early decision,” but it does not obligate you to attend the chosen school if you are accepted.



DECEMBER/JANUARY – Students should have completed applications for all schools to which they are applying. Please request all transcripts and letter of recommendation in a timely manner, so I have plenty of time to respond.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY – Parents of college-bound seniors need to fill out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). Your parents must do this even if they are not planning to fund your education. Parents of Oregon students should fill out the FAFSA in January even though they will not yet have completed their 2015 income taxes, because there is scholarship money available for families who fill out the FAFSA before February 1st. Note: *Make sure your parents do not go to a website that asks them to pay a fee to fill out the FAFSA for them.* This is a scam; filling out the form is 100% free. Also Note: The FAFSA form is available in Spanish, and there are Spanish-language meetings for parents on filling out the FAFSA and applying for financial aid. Please let me know if your parents would be interested in this, and I can get the information for them.

FEBRUARY 14TH – There will be a Gap Year Fair from 6:00-8:30pm at Cleveland High School in Portland (3400 SE 26th Ave., 97202). For students intending to take a semester or a year off between high school and college, the gap year fair is a great resource. Organizations are represented for those who wish to pursue travel and/or volunteer opportunities immediately after high school. Some opportunities may involve a stipend or free room and board, and some are eligible for college credit.

APRIL – Seniors will provide me with lists of the schools where they have been accepted and inform me where they plan to attend, so we can retain this information for Trinity's records.