

# SENIOR PHSC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

## COMING UP NEXT!

### TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FALL

**Congratulations! Now that we are through first quarter, we thought it would be helpful to highlight a few important things to keep in mind.**

#### Practice patience

- After submitting an admission application, remember to allow ample time for colleges to process everything.
- Although most materials are submitted electronically, it can take several weeks for colleges to match the documents to your application file, at which time your applications will then be marked "complete."
- Remember, your counselor and teacher(s) have until the application deadline (if not beyond) to submit materials. If you have properly communicated your deadlines to them, they do not need further reminders.
- When in doubt, please contact your New Trier post-high school counselor.

#### Check your email frequently!

- Colleges will use the email address you provided to contact you regarding your application status.
- It is your responsibility to monitor your email regularly.
- After you submit an application, most colleges will email you instructions on how to create a student account for their respective admissions portal. You are expected to use these sites to monitor the status of your application.
- Colleges typically release admissions decisions via their portals.

#### Ongoing post-high school planning

- If you have not yet submitted any applications, that is completely fine! Please schedule an appointment with your post-high school counselor; we'd love to help you explore options and answer questions.
- The final deadline to apply to most colleges is often January 1st or later. If you'd like to add schools to your list, there is still plenty of time.
- Remain open to all paths: work, military, skilled trades, gap year, etc. Your counselor can help you navigate all of these and more!

## FINANCIAL AID

### FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened on October 1 for those seeking aid for the 2023-2024 school year. Tax returns from 2021 are used to calculate the EFC (Expected Family Contribution) and provided to the colleges to which you request the application be forwarded. The FAFSA is the baseline aid application used by all colleges to determine eligibility for federal and/or state aid. Click [HERE](#) to access.

### CSS Profile

Some colleges may ask for more details, gathered through additional applications filed specific to their institutions, while others may require the CSS Profile. For a list of colleges that require the CSS, click [HERE](#).

### Financial Aid Program

To watch a detailed presentation, covering the entire aid process, please click [HERE](#).

The State of Illinois now requires students file the FAFSA as a graduation requirement. For those wishing to opt out of the requirement, a waiver will be posted in the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Details on how this can be facilitated will be emailed shortly.

## FAFSA ASSISTANCE

Consider attending an upcoming FAFSA Completion Workshop, sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. ISAC staff can help you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) or, if eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid during this workshop. Ask questions privately via the chat tool as you complete the FAFSA or the Alternative Application. Bilingual staff available. Registration is required to attend. Click [here](#) to register.

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## 3 - T'S FOR A COMPLETE APPLICATION

### TRANSCRIPTS

If you are applying to a college/university this year, you must submit an online request for your official New Trier transcript to be sent to the school to which you are applying. This step can be completed through the "Transcript Request" section of the PHSC Canvas page. *Each transcript should be requested no less than a month before the admission application filing deadline.*

### TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Please check the requirement for each college. There are many schools who do not require letters at all, some may require one, and a small list of colleges who require two teacher letters. Letters are typically expected to be from a junior year, core academic course. Your teacher has until the deadline to submit the letter and should be given proper time to craft their letter, as this is a courtesy they are doing on top of everything else. If you have a college/university who requires a letter and you have not yet had a conversation with a teacher, please do so as soon as possible. Likewise, if you previously spoke with more than one teacher and you now realize none of the schools on your list require more than one letter, you can inform the supplementary teacher that you no longer need them to write for you. More details on letters of recommendation for college applications can be found on page 29 of the Post-High School Planning Guide. Click [HERE](#). A list of the colleges/universities requiring two teacher recommendations and a fillable pdf version of the PHSC Teacher Recommendation Request form can be found on our Canvas page by visiting Class Pages>Seniors.

### TEST SCORES

Many colleges are test optional for the class of 2023. This means there is a good chance most schools on your list will not require you to submit your ACT or SAT score. However, some schools do still require standardized tests. Additionally, you are still able to submit your ACT or SAT score to most colleges, if you feel it is a good representation of your testing abilities. We can definitely chat about your plans for testing in a future meeting. Please see the "Testing" section of the PHSC Canvas page or webpage (click [HERE](#)) for a centralized list of a variety of resources related to testing.

## CHOICES FAIR 2022

Are you a student who will be seeking learning accommodations in college? If so and you were unable to attend the Choices Fair for students with learning differences, then please see this [link](#) for more resources to help you with your exploration of post-secondary options.

## VISIT OPPORTUNITIES

Even if you can't make it to campus for a visit, by registering for and attending virtual sessions, colleges will know you're actively researching all they have to offer. Use these offerings as a way to prioritize where you will visit. Follow schools on social media to get a feel for their unique environment.

## PHSC APPOINTMENTS

Please visit the "Schedule a Meeting" page in the PHSC Canvas course to schedule student appointments. Meeting times must not conflict with a scheduled class period, and a New Trier email address is required to schedule.

## NEED HELP? JUST ASK...

Jill Cervantes: [cervantj@nth.net](mailto:cervantj@nth.net)  
Heather Ecklund: [ecklundh@nth.net](mailto:ecklundh@nth.net)  
Kristen Graf: [grafk@nth.net](mailto:grafk@nth.net)  
Michael O'Connor: [oconnorm@nth.net](mailto:oconnorm@nth.net)  
Daniel Rogan: [rogand@nth.net](mailto:rogand@nth.net)  
Thomas Shorrock: [shorroct@nth.net](mailto:shorroct@nth.net)  
Gretchen Stauder: [stauderg@nth.net](mailto:stauderg@nth.net)  
Robert Zigmund: [zigmundr@nth.net](mailto:zigmundr@nth.net)  
*For general inquiries: [phsc@nth.net](mailto:phsc@nth.net)*