

# Post-High School Counseling Senior Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024

## 3 - T'S FOR A COMPLETE APPLICATION

### TRANSCRIPTS

All seniors must submit an official transcript request for each college/university to which they are applying. Students can do so via the PHSC Canvas page (click the "Transcript Request" button, and follow the steps). For schools that have students self-report classes and grades, a New Trier transcript request is still required. Lastly, the request must be received no less than one month prior to the application deadline.

### TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

Most colleges/universities differ on their requirements for teacher letters of recommendations. Some schools do not accept letters, some may require one, and a small list of colleges require two teacher letters. If required, colleges encourage teacher letters to be from a junior year, core academic course (English, math, science, social studies, or language). Please note, your teacher has until the application deadline to submit the letter. Give them the proper time to craft their letter, as this is a courtesy they are doing on top of their other commitments. If you have a school that requires a letter and you have not yet had a conversation with a teacher, please do so immediately. Likewise, if you've spoken with more than one teacher, and now realize your schools do not 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 can be found in your [PHSC Planning Guide](#). [HERE](#) is the fillable pdf version of the PHSC Teacher Recommendation Request form. These documents can also be found in the Resources section in Maia or on our PHSC Canvas page > Class Pages > Seniors.

### TEST SCORES

Many colleges continue to be [test optional](#) for the class of 2025. However, some do still require standardized tests. Check each of your school's admission websites for testing details. Additionally, colleges differ on whether they allow applicants to self-report scores or if it needs to be sent directly from [ACT](#) or [College Board](#). To submit official score reports, they must be ordered directly through a student's ACT or SAT account. Allow one month for processing. As always, New Trier post-high school counselors are happy to chat with students about testing questions. Moreover, the "Testing" section of the PHSC Canvas page has a variety of resources related to testing.

## PHSC APPOINTMENTS

To schedule a student-counselor appointment, go to the PHSC Canvas page and click the "Schedule a Meeting" button. All PHSC meetings must occur during a free or lunch period.

On Anchor Days, the PHSC office allows brief walk-in meetings for students. As always, this must be during a student's free period or lunch. These are great opportunities for quick questions and/or updates!

## ADVISERY VISITS

Your post-high school counselor will make regular visits to your advisery. These dates will be planned out in advance, and we encourage you to make every effort to be on time to advisery and attentive during these meetings. Senior advisery visits are an ideal time to ask quick questions or to request general clarifications on the college application process. Keep in mind, the questions you have are probably the same ones your fellow advisees are considering, so sharing your thoughts during these presentations will likely be helpful for all!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Your unofficial transcript can be accessed through your PowerSchool portal. Based on feedback we received from college admission offices, in Fall 2022 we made formatting changes to the New Trier transcript to improve readability. Courses are organized chronologically and course titles reflect the respective level. Some colleges require applicants to self-report the transcript into an application. Students should use the PowerSchool unofficial transcript to accurately report course titles and grades. Need help? Ask your post-high school counselor!

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## NEXT STEPS FOR SENIORS

### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

If you were unable to join us for our "Next Steps for Seniors" program, a recording of the presentation is now available. Click [here](#) to watch, or visit the Class of 2025>Information/Programs section on the PHSC website: [www.newtrier.k12.il.us/phsc](http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/phsc).

For more details on topics like: navigating the athletic recruitment process, applying to fine or performing arts programs, or considerations for students seeking accommodations in college, please click the titles below, or visit the "Next Steps for Seniors" link posted on the Senior Class page in Canvas.

- [Student Athletes & Eligibility](#)
  - Recruitment and Clearinghouse process
  - Eligibility requirements
- [Fine Arts Applicants](#)
  - Unique considerations for those pursuing programs in theater, music, dance or visual arts
- [Students Seeking Accommodations](#)
  - Features, programs and services to investigate
  - Steps to composing a letter of self-disclosure

## COLLEGE REP VISITS

Each fall New Trier hosts over 200 different college admissions representatives. The full visit schedule can be found in Events section of MaiaLearning and the New Trier website. (Click [HERE](#)).

If you would like to attend a visit that occurs during a scheduled class period (visits are 30-40 minutes), you must seek approval from your teacher a day or two IN ADVANCE. A sign-in will be shared at the visit and must be completed for your attendance to be entered into PowerSchool.

## FINANCIAL AID

### FINANCIAL AID WEBINAR

Learn more about the financial aid process, including details on the applications required, at our webinar, Wednesday, September 18 at 6:30pm. Registration details will be sent out in a separate email.

### FAFSA

The [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) for the class of 2025 will open on December 1. The FAFSA requires tax return figures from 2023 to calculate the potential for need-based financial aid. Applicants input their college list into the FAFSA, and the data is then forwarded to each school. To be eligible for need-based financial aid, every college requires the [FAFSA](#) as a baseline aid application.

### CSS PROFILE

In addition to the FAFSA, some colleges may require supplementary financial aid forms. This can include college-based forms and/or the CSS Profile via the College Board website. The CSS Profile goes into greater detail about student/family finances. For the list of colleges that require CSS Profile, click [HERE](#).

## NEED HELP? JUST ASK...

All email addresses end in  
[@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:@newtrier.k12.il.us)

Ms. Jill Cervantes: cervantj  
Ms. Cassandra Barca: barcac  
Ms. Heather Ecklund: ecklundh  
Ms. Kristen Graf: grafk  
Mr. Kostalek: kostalen  
Mr. Michael O'Connor: oconnorm  
Mr. Thomas Shorrocks: shorroct  
Ms. Gretchen Stauder: stauderg  
Mr. Robert Zigmund: zigmundr

Choices College Fair: Tuesday, October 8th @ Niles North H.S.  
Want more info? Click [HERE](#)