

# POST-HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING SOPHOMORE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

## WELCOME CLASS OF 2027

### TAKING A LOOK AHEAD...

Post-High School Counseling (PHSC) would like to extend a warm welcome to the class of 2027! We hope you are successfully acclimating to the Winnetka campus and are proud of your efforts. Keep up the good work!

In preparation for a successful post-high school planning process, there are essential developmental goals to consider. Most importantly, focusing on your school work will provide the strongest foundation upon which to build an appropriate post-high school path. In order to accomplish this, we want students to embrace the importance of self-awareness, relationship-building (with teachers and peers), value-based decision-making, study habits, academic interests, and extracurricular involvement. College admissions offices consistently share how an applicant's in-class performance and course choices are the predominant factors for their decisions.

Unlike most public high schools across the country who employ general school counselors, New Trier post-high school counselors are specialists in their field. We are experts devoted to providing individual, personalized assistance to students navigating their options for life after high school. Given the comprehensive nature of our programming and services, collaborative partnership with the nationally recognized advisery system, and knowledge of the New Trier curriculum and community, rest assured that every student will have all necessary resources and supports needed to find the best fit for their future.

## PHSC IN THE SOPHOMORE YEAR

Post-High School Counselors will be assigned to an advisery towards the end of the first semester of sophomore year and continue to work in partnership with the groups through graduation. After assignments are announced, advisers will forward a welcome letter from your counselor, who will also begin visiting student adviseries to:

- Introduce themselves and our Canvas page.
- Discuss the importance of future course selection and your upcoming junior year curriculum.
- Remind everyone about MaiaLearning, our online data and research resource for navigating a comprehensive post-high school planning process (see details below!).

In January, we will host an in-person evening parent presentation that outlines our department's individualized program of services as well as break-out sessions with your student's counselor. Content will include:

- The importance of academics, extracurricular and social development for the post-high school planning process.
- A preview of the junior year timeline for the college search process and admissions basics.
- Other frequently asked questions.

## MAIA LEARNING

Last year, the post-high school counseling department transitioned to a new, web-based college & career research platform called MaiaLearning. Last spring, the class of 2027 received their login instructions via their advisery. Maia includes a full suite of resources, tools and databases which will provide additional support to students and parents as they navigate the college, career, scholarship and financial aid research and application process. Click on the titles below to watch brief videos highlighting two key features of the platform:

- [College search features](#)
- [Career planning tools](#)

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

The most frequently asked question we hear from sophomore families is, "When should my student begin taking college admission tests?" The ACT and the SAT are both achievement tests designed for students who are nearing the end of their 11th grade curriculum, so students are advised to begin taking those tests in the second semester of junior year (February – June). A handful of students who have taken a particularly advanced curriculum may be ready to test in late fall/winter of junior year. Keep in mind, taking the exam too early may yield results that undermine a student's confidence, particularly in light of the fact that the test is designed to be taken for the first time during the second half of junior year. There will be more than enough opportunities for students to take the SAT and/or ACT during the junior year, the summer thereafter, and even early senior year.

Sophomores will take the Pre-ACT on April 9, 2025. This test is designed to provide familiarity with the ACT format and identify areas of strength and/or areas for improvement. The Pre-ACT is never used for college admissions. During junior year, students can elect to take the PSAT/NMSQT test in October. Every April, all Illinois public high school juniors are required to take a state-mandated ACT.

**On Tuesday, December 10th at 6:30 PM in the Gaffney Auditorium on the Winnetka Campus, PHSC will be hosting a thoughtful and pragmatic discussion of college admission testing with speakers from Compass Education Group.**

## NEED HELP? JUST ASK...

Should you have post-high school related questions, we encourage you to reach out to us for help. Simply email us at [phsc@nthshs.net](mailto:phsc@nthshs.net) or call 847-784-2234. Students can stop by on any Anchor Day, as those are student drop-in days. Additionally, Mr. Zigmund is the PHSC liaison to the Class of 2027 Graduating Class Team. He provides timely info and guidance to advisers, who in turn help relay information to sophomore students and parents.

As always, your student's adviser is your primary contact and guide for all things New Trier. Questions on specific classes, attendance, grades, co-curriculars, school events, and the like? They are here for your student and for you to be informed and guided along the high school journey. This is also why your student's advisory attendance is important!

## NEW TRIER POST-HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING

The New Trier Post-High School Counseling Department is proud of the knowledge and expertise we have to provide to our community. Our strength lies in the collective experiences of our team which in turn we are then able to share with you, providing the best resources and guidance to navigate your individual and unique post-high school journey. We thought we'd share with you a few highlights of the great work being done by our staff over the years:

**150+**

**YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE**

IN HIGH SCHOOL &  
COLLEGE COUNSELING

PRESENTERS AT THE ILLINOIS &  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE  
ADMISSION COUNSELING ANNUAL  
CONFERENCES

ILLINOIS ACT COUNCIL  
MEMBER

ADVISORY BOARD DELEGATES FOR  
THE U OF GEORGIA,  
U OF NEBRASKA, U OF TULSA,  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY, U OF IOWA,  
U OF PITTSBURGH, OHIO UNIVERSITY,  
DICKINSON COLLEGE,  
OHIO WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

ONE OF 15 COUNSELORS WORLDWIDE TO  
SERVE ON THE COMMON APPLICATION  
OUTREACH ADVISORY BOARD

CO-PRESIDENT OF THE LAKE  
COUNTY COUNSELORS  
ASSOCIATION

NCAA DIVISION 1  
COLLEGE ATHLETE

CPS PATHWAYS TO  
SUCCESS CONSULTANT

PARTICIPANTS IN A MULTITUDE OF  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS  
FOCUSED ON EQUITY AND INCLUSION

LICENSED CLINICAL  
PROFESSIONAL  
COUNSELOR

FACULTY MEMBER FOR THE  
ACADEMY FOR COLLEGE  
ADMISSIONS COUNSELING

**20+**

**YEARS OF  
EXPERIENCE**

IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS