

# SENIOR PHSC NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023

## COMING UP NEXT

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

### CHECK YOUR EMAIL & APPLICATION PORTALS

- After submitting an application, colleges will use the email address affiliated with your application to provide follow-up instructions.
- Most colleges will email you instructions to create a student account for their respective admission portal. These sites allow you to monitor the status of your application.
- **It is your responsibility to monitor your email and admission portals regularly!**
- Colleges typically release admissions decisions via their portals.

### 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.

### ONGOING POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

- Not sure what you want to do in the future? 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

Many students may need financial assistance to help pay for college tuition and related expenses. Consult the financial aid page for each college to see what applications and documentation will be required for their institution, and the associated deadlines for submission. All colleges will require the FAFSA and some may ask for additional information, most commonly gathered through the CSS Profile.

### CSS PROFILE

The CSS Profile is a financial aid application used by many private and some public colleges and universities. If you are applying through an early application deadline, please check to see if your college requires the CSS Profile as it may be due soon. Click [HERE](#) to see a list of member colleges.

### FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the baseline aid application used by all colleges to determine eligibility for federal and/or state aid. The FAFSA is anticipated to be open in December for those seeking aid for the 2024-2025 school year. Tax returns from 2022 are used to calculate the SAI (Student Aid Index) and provided to the colleges to which you request the application be forwarded. Click [HERE](#) to access.

### 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 at a later date.

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## THE FINE DETAILS

### TRANSCRIPTS & SELF-REPORTED GRADES

- To allow your counselor permission to advocate for your application and provide required documentation, such as quarter, mid-year and final grades, a transcript request must be on file for each school to which you are applying. Please check your Naviance "applying to" list to see a record of the requests you have already filed and complete any missing requests as soon as possible.
- Some colleges may require students to self-report their courses and grades either through the application OR through an outside portal. Check the application instructions carefully to ensure you are fulfilling all required steps for each individual college.

### TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

- As a reminder, 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.
- *November is the month for giving thanks! Take a moment to express your gratitude to your teachers with a note of thanks.*

### QUARTER GRADES

- Quarter grades are a progress report and not reported on the transcript. While the vast majority of colleges do NOT consider first quarter grades during the admission review, some may. If a college requires them, your post-high school counselor will automatically be forwarding a copy to that institution. We maintain an unofficial list of the colleges and universities requiring quarter grades. It can be found on our Canvas page by visiting Class Pages>Seniors. Please note that list is a live document and will be updated continuously as we learn of any updates.

### TEST SCORES

- If you shared your test scores as part of your application, please remember colleges may require you to have official score reports on file or your application will be incomplete! Carefully follow the application instructions for each school. [Here](#) is a list of colleges that may allow students to self-report scores. If your school is not on this list there is a good chance they require OFFICIAL score reports. Log into your [ACT](#) or [SAT](#) account to order your official results. Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing.

## CHOICES FAIR 2023

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!

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