

## **Rising Senior Information**

- A student's education is personal. All decisions should be based on the student's wants, needs, abilities, etc. and not on what friends are doing.
- Texting me is fine in an emergency or for a quick question. However, I prefer to deal with most college placement issues by email because I like documentation.

### **Communication:**

During the summer before senior year and during senior year, make sure that you pay attention to all communication from me and MA. You do not want to miss opportunities. **Get in the habit of checking all email accounts daily!**

### **Transcripts/Graduation Checklist**

- Review your student's transcript and email me any concerns.
- After spring semester, I will calculate GPAs and email the parents the updated transcript. After the transcript is approved, I will add rank and resend them to everyone to use for the college application process. Remember that if you approve this transcript, it cannot be changed later. This means, if a student earns a higher grade in a dual credit class during the fall semester but already has four classes on the approved transcript, this new class cannot be added. Each student has their own reasons for choosing to have a possible higher rank when applying to colleges or wanting a higher rank at the end of the year. Make this decision based on your own personal reasons and not someone else's goals. See the Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Policy in the Student Handbook.
- Make sure your student's graduation checklist is correct. Seniors must take four classes at MA and one additional class either at MA or RCC/NETC. This is for the entire year, not just first semester.
- All dual credit course changes should be made through me. Please do not contact RCC/NETC directly.
- **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO COMPLETE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTED SERVICE HOURS!**

### **College Application Process: My deadline is September 30!**

- Students should begin looking at college applications if they have not already done so. Consider creating a resume' or list so that you don't forget all of your awards, activities, etc.
- Make a list of all user names and passwords. I will not be able to help you if you forget them. You will have to contact each college directly.
- Apply to both reach schools and safe schools.
- At the beginning of next year, ask teachers if they are willing to be a recommender for you.

- **A Transcript Release Form must be completed and given to me for each college to which a student is applying.** Please do this as soon as possible even if you haven't submitted your application. **Deadlines are the responsibility of the student! Do not wait until the last minute for anything this year!**
- Review the College Visit Policy in the Student Handbook. College Visit Forms are in my office. It is your responsibility to follow this policy.
- Students should request that RCC/NETC transcripts be sent to each college as well as the MA transcript. RCC/NETC transcripts should be requested at the end of the year, as well, to be sent to the college your student has chosen.
- Let me know if you have questions about the NCAA Clearinghouse for those who want to play a sport in college.

### **More about Letters of Recommendation:**

- **NEVER ASK FOR A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION IN A GROUP.** A student should contact a teacher, employer, pastor, etc. and ask for a meeting to discuss letters of recommendation. For example, do not go with your friends to ask for this or stop a teacher in the hallway and ask for a recommendation.
- Give the recommender plenty of notice. Deadlines are the student's responsibility. Teachers will need a couple of weeks to make sure that they do the best for you.
- Ask the recommenders for their email addresses and let the recommenders know that you are still in the process of applying and that they may receive an email prompt for a recommendation. If you need an actual letter, let the teacher know that you'll contact them as soon as possible. **Do not let a teacher get a prompt for a recommendation when you haven't asked them.**
- Let the recommender know the reason for needing the recommendation. For example, college application, specific job, specific scholarship. A recommender may ask for a resume', so have one available. This is so that they can make a connection with you.
- Ask for recommendations from someone you that can give you a good recommendation. Do not be offended if a teacher turns you down. For example, you may enjoy someone's class, but you may not have done anything but sit in class and do well. Without a personal connection, the teacher may not be able to write a thorough recommendation.
- **ALWAYS waive your right to view the recommendations.**

### **RCC/NETC:**

- Do not blow off RCC/NETC classes.
- Be diligent in completing these classes.
- Make sure you do well. These classes may not hurt your MA transcript, but they will be a permanent part of your college transcript.

### **Other Important Information**

- As you begin thinking about, touring, and applying to colleges, you need to also ask questions regarding your desired program's accreditation. I have always told my students who are interested in nursing to make sure their college choice has a high passing rate on the NCLEX. However, something else that is very important when thinking about other majors is whether or not that program is accredited at the chosen college. In other words, just because a college is accredited does not mean the actual degree program is accredited. This could be for several reasons, including new programs being developed for that college. If you choose a degree program that is unaccredited, it may mean that finding a job in your chosen field will be more difficult.
- Make sure that your degree has a high job placement rate and/or acceptance into graduate degree programs.
- Make sure that you do research on your own on the college websites. Also, if you have any questions about accreditation of a program, EMAIL (so that you have it in print) the dean over that program and ask the necessary questions. Remember, you, the student, needs to do this, not your parent.