



Senior Parent College Review

Mercy High School
August 30, 2023



Goals for Today

- ★ Review information from senior class meeting
- ★ Give a "task list" of things to do in the next few days
- ★ Provide a road-map for this semester/year
- ★ Answer questions

Senior current steps

Covered in class meeting 8/29

- ★ Counseling surveys on SCOIR
 - Consent to Release records survey
 - Counselor Letter of Rec request survey
 - Teacher letter of recommendation survey
- ★ Move schools to "Applying or Applied"
- ★ Complete FERPA on SCOIR
- ★ Complete FERPA on Common App (do not add teacher or counselor emails)
- ★ Add teacher recommender (if applicable) on SCOIR

It is very important to not add emails for teachers or counselors on the Common App recommender section for each college. Only the first name and last name are to be entered.

First Student Meeting with Counselor

Begin September 6th

- ★ Have colleges listed in "Appplying/Applied"
- ★ Essay plan
- ★ Teacher Request for letter of recommendation - not everyone will need a letter
- ★ College Application Timeline
- ★ FERPA
- ★ SAT/ACT



College Essays and Applications

College Essays and Application proofreading



"I read your college application essay. First of all the word 'COLLEGE' has two 'L's."

The Job of the Essay

- ★ Workhorse-
 - Do I know someone who would want to room with this student?
- ★ Conversational (appropriately)
- ★ Tells me something I can't see in the application
- ★ Reflection on the everyday

Supplemental Essays

- ★ Needs to answer the question
- ★ College is asking for a reason

COVID Essay

- ★ Not required - counselor will help with this decision



FERPA

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

For College Applications it answers "can I see my letters of recommendation?"

Recommend **WAIVING** rights for the college application (I do **NOT** want to see my letters, I waive my rights to see the letters)

Testing

- ★ Test Required
- ★ Test Optional
- ★ Test Free
- ★ Test Preferred
- ★ Test Flexible

This is based on admissions, some schools are requiring scores for scholarships.



Self Reporting Test Scores

- ★ Many colleges allow Self-reporting of scores
- ★ If applying test-optional to any school, do not include scores on the Common Application



Sending Test Scores

Mercy High School does not send test scores

- ★ Students should always send their highest composite for schools that require tests
- ★ Additional scores can be sent in consultation with the counselor or an admissions representative
- ★ Counselors are available to consult about test optional schools

Financial Aid

- ★ Need Based Aid - Complete FAFSA (comes out December) and CSS profile if required
- ★ Merit aid - may come at time of acceptance
- ★ Some schools have no merit aid - but match 100% of demonstrated need
- ★ Never too early to apply for scholarships - don't wait until March when your need based packages come out

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"I'm enrolling in an online course to learn how to apply for a loan for an online university."



Financial Aid Continued

- ★ Financial Aid Presentations
 - November 14th - 7pm in Auditorium
- ★ FAFSA opens sometime in December
- ★ CSS opens on October 1st
 - Not all schools take the CSS profile so only complete if your student is applying to a CSS school
- ★ Mercy regularly updates scholarship list
- ★ Student sign up for Going Merry (invite in Schoology) for more scholarships
- ★ Goal is to complete FAFSA and CSS (if required) before the end of January 2024.



Reminder Re-Cap

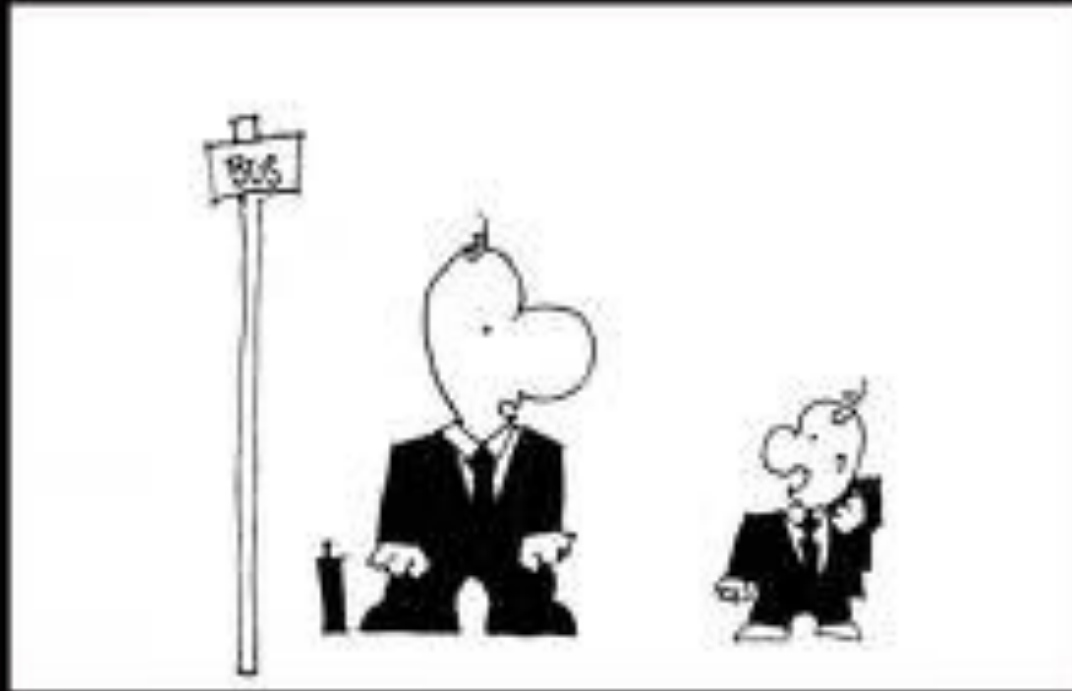
- ★ 3 week rule
- ★ Schools love to “remind” you to submit transcripts immediately upon application submission - check SCOIR to see if the transcript was already sent
- ★ MSU - Goal to submit around October 7th
- ★ U of M - Goal to submit by October 25th
- ★ Sign up for College Visits
- ★ ACT/SAT Scores - Student sends these to the schools*
- ★ May 1st national day is the required day to make a deposit to a college



How you can help in the process...

- ★ Set a time once a week to talk about college
- ★ When you are feeling overwhelmed talk to someone other than your student - they are navigating this too
- ★ Take a look at the helpful talking points guide

Questions?



"Will I ever run out of questions?"



Fall in Love

Often attributed to **Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ**
(1907–1991), but by Joseph Whelan, SJ

Nothing is more practical than

finding God, than

falling in Love

in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in love with,

what seizes your imagination, will affect
everything.

It will decide

what will get you out of bed in the
morning,

what you do with your evenings,

how you spend your weekends,

what you read, whom you know,

what breaks your heart,

and what amazes you with joy and
gratitude.

Fall in Love, stay in love,

and it will decide everything.



Fall in Fear

From: On Fire: The 7 Choices to Ignite a Radically Inspired Life

Book by John O'Leary

Nothing is more practical than

finding God, than

falling in Fear

in a quite absolute, final way.

What you are in fear with,

what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.

It will decide

what will get you out of bed in the morning,

what you do with your evenings,

how you spend your weekends,

what you read, whom you know,

what breaks your heart,

and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in fear, stay in fear,

and it will decide everything.



As you approach college conversations with your student, do them from a place of love - it will make a huge difference.