



# Senior Parent College Review

Mercy High School  
September 2, 2026



My God, I am yours for time and eternity.

Teach me to cast myself entirely  
into the arms of your loving Providence  
with a lively, unlimited confidence in your  
compassionate, tender pity.

Grant, O most merciful Redeemer,  
That whatever you ordain or permit may be  
acceptable to me.

Take from my heart all painful anxiety;  
let nothing sadden me but sin,  
nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the  
possession of You  
my God and my all, in your everlasting kingdom.

Amen.



# 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 Year "Work"

- ★ Many Lasts
- ★ Uncertainty about the future
- ★ Dread over college conversations
- ★ Wanting to "get out of the house"
- ★ Not wanting to "get out of the house"

What is one thing you want to experience this year?



# Senior current steps

Covered in Bootcamp #2 (8/24)

- ★ Counseling Tasks on SCOIR
  - Counselor Letter of Rec request
  - Teacher letter of recommendation
- ★ For Non-Common App Schools - move schools to "Applying or Applied"
- ★ Complete FERPA on SCOIR
- ★ Complete FERPA on Common App (don't download forms)
- ★ Add teacher recommender (if applicable) on SCOIR
- ★ Email they are using for applications

SCOIR is integrated with the Common App. If you student is using the Common App, we will be notified as schools are added.

If a school is not on the Common App or they are using the Black College Common App, students will need to add those schools to Scoir.



# First Student Meeting with Counselor

- ★ Have colleges listed in "Applying/Applied"
- ★ Essay plan
- ★ Teacher Request for letter of recommendation - not everyone will need a letter (MSU won't accept one)
- ★ College Application Timeline
- ★ FERPA
- ★ SAT/ACT
- ★ Email addressed used for applications

# College Essays and Applications



"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
- ★ The average reader gets 4-5 minutes per application. The essays give brief insight into the student - USE THEIR VOICE



# Essays - AI and other changes

- ★ Many universities have stopped scoring the essay as part of the application
- ★ Many schools have issued strong AI statements (colleges are actually making some departments tech free)
- ★ Schools are dropping supplemental essays
  - Related to AI and making application process easier
- ★ Best course of action - make sure the student's voice is clear.



# Essays - Supplemental Essays

- ★ If a school asks extra questions, they want to know more.  
The famous "Why Us" is a chance for you to research the school and share why what they offer is perfect for you
  - Students have a guide to this essay in SCOIR
  - Specific mentions and the WHY for the student gets maximum points



# FERPA

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

- ★ For College Applications it answers:
  - ★ "Can my high school send my transcript and letters
  - ★ "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, Granted, I hereby waive my rights)

# 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 October 1st) and CSS profile if required (October 1st)
- ★ 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



# Financial Aid Continued

- ★ Financial Aid Presentation - October 22nd 7pm
- ★ Mercy regularly updates scholarship list on Schoology
- ★ Goal is to complete FAFSA and CSS (if required) before the end of January 2027.
- ★ Many Michigan colleges with fees will waive them in October. We will provide codes once we have them. (UM A2 doesn't)



# Reminder Re-Cap

- ★ Schools love to “remind” you to submit transcripts immediately upon submission - check SCOIR to see if the transcript was already sent
- ★ MSU - Goal to submit around October 15th (free the 1st week of October)
- ★ U of M - Goal to submit by October 25th
- ★ Students should create school portals when available
- ★ 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
- ★ Normalize the transition





# Student/Family Responsibilities

- Complete applications
- Know testing policy of schools
- Know if your schools require official test scores or if they allow self-reported scores
- Complete forms on Scoir
- Update Scoir with decisions
- Communicate schedule changes with your colleges if changed after application submitted



# 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.

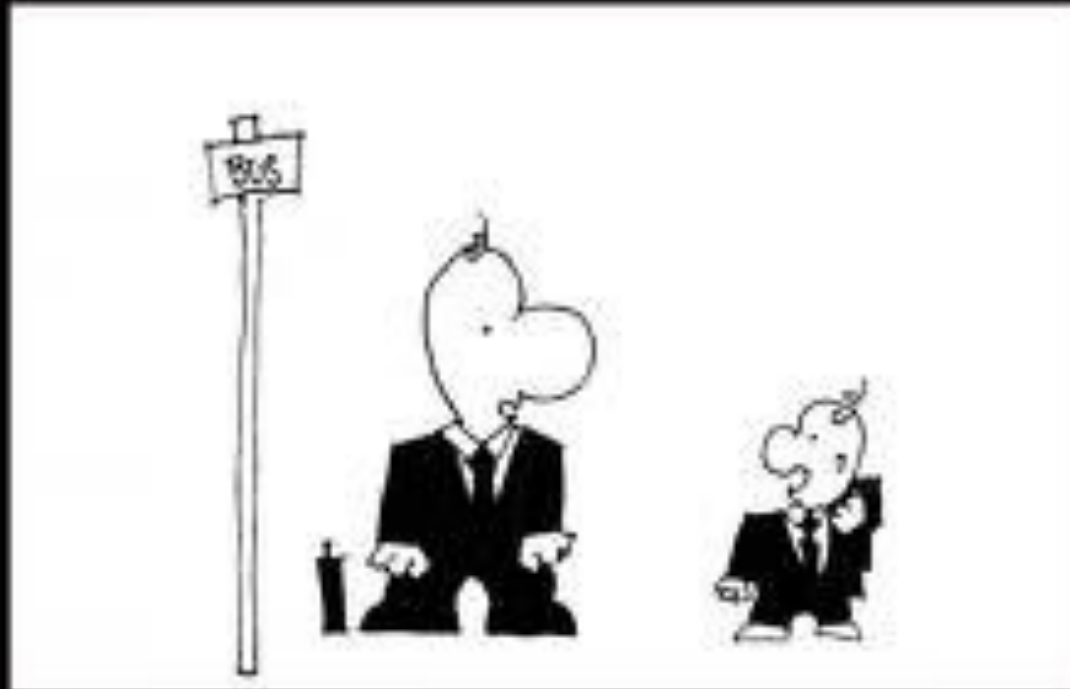
Fall in fear, stay in fear,

and it will decide everything.



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

# Questions?



"Will I ever run out of questions?"