



October 23, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of Mercy's Counseling Department, we hope that your daughter has settled in to this school year. We are aware that the junior year of high school demands a lot from both students and parents. Not only are you and your daughter navigating your way through the academic and social mines of this important year, but you are likely looking forward and beginning to plan for college.

A significant amount of planning for college takes place this year, as students and families work toward making the decision of where to apply. With more students applying and entering college than ever before, the college planning and admissions process can be challenging. To assist and support students and families through this process, Mercy's Counselors will provide individualized services to all junior students and their parents through the implementation of a *College Planning Meeting*.

The *College Planning Meeting* is an opportunity for both you and your daughter to meet one-on-one with her Counselor to discuss her college interests and focus on the college selection process. This individualized meeting will also focus on the following:

- Review of transcript to discuss high school grade trends
- Discussion about:
 - college admission tests (ACT/SAT) and test preparation
 - building a college list and finding "right" fit schools
 - colleges student has identified an interest in
- Directing of student and parents to resources that can assist them in the planning process
- Identify and clarify student and Counselor roles and responsibilities during the college planning and admissions process

To help students prepare for their meeting, we have included a **College Interest Questionnaire**. **Please be sure to complete this form together**, as it enables us to provide guidance and direction specific to your daughter's interests and needs. We hope it provides you an opportunity to talk with your daughter about her college interests and plans. **Your signature on the form is required**. **We request that your daughter turn in her completed College Interest Questionnaire to the Counseling Office by November 6th**.

In addition, we have included an "optional" parent "brag sheet" for you to complete, to provide a more complete picture of your daughter. As parents you know your daughter best and this

information helps us gain insight into your daughter and may be used when writing a letter of recommendation.

Please schedule your *College Planning Meeting* online, using the link and the appropriate entry code for your daughter's counselor, which are provided below. These meetings will begin November 8th and run through December. (Meetings can be scheduled in January, but those cannot be booked until the second semester begins). Registration will close 2 days prior to each available meeting date. **When scheduling your meeting, please be sure to schedule a time that works with your schedule AND your daughter's "unscheduled" time.** *This is an important process and your participation at this meeting is strongly encouraged.*

Please click this link to view available time slots and to sign up for one: www.ptcfast.com/reg1. When asked for your **Entry Code**, please use the following:

- **LAST NAMES A-G (Mrs. Shamus) - Please use Entry Code: BLK1211253**
- **LAST NAMES H-O (Mrs. Hessler) - Please use Entry Code: AE21210257**
- **LAST NAMES P-Z (Mrs. Casey) - Please use Entry Code: GKA1211250**

On the day of your meeting, please check in at the reception area 5 minutes prior to your appointment time. If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's counselor.

What's to come? In addition to this individual meeting...

- **SAVE THE DATE: March 7, 2018—College Information Night.** This is a very important event! The presentation is designed to thoroughly answer the most commonly asked questions about the college planning and admissions process: the search, testing, admission factors, and the application review process will be discussed.

Our goal is to provide high quality college advising services to our students and develop a working relationship with families. We look forward to connecting with your daughter and the opportunities that lie ahead. If you have questions about this process, please contact your daughter's counselor.

Sincerely,

The Mercy High School College Counseling Staff

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