Junior Newsletter

Last one of the school year!
May 2019
Finish Junior Year Strong!

With only 3 weeks of school left, it is extremely important that you finish the year strong! This is the last semester that will go on your transcript AND be factored into your cumulative GPA, which will be considered in your college admissions applications. Be sure to turn in any missing work, make-up tests/quizzes and prepare for final exams.

Intro to College Essay and Application Workshop

Are you interested in getting a head start on college applications? Are you interested in learning about the dos and don'ts of a college essay, or tips on how to write a "good" one?

If so, you won't want to miss our Intro to College Essay and College Application Workshop on Tuesday, May 28th from 3:30 - 6:00 pm in E114. This workshop is only for students. Click here to RSVP by 4pm on May 24.

Prior to the workshop, please create a Common Application account. Please bring your Chromebook / laptop, paper and a pen. Any questions, please contact Mrs. Doktor (kdoktor@dist113.org).
**SUMMER TO DO LIST**

Summer is a time to breathe, relax and rejuvenate. It’s a time when staying up way too late, binge watching Netflix, and sleeping until noon is ok. Well, maybe just don’t do it everyday! While junior year is in the rearview mirror, senior year is straight ahead. We don’t expect you to fill your summer with college tours, essays and applications, but there are a few things that you can do to help alleviate your fall to-do list. Here are a few tasks to help you stay on track during your summer break:

**May**
- Continue to update “**Colleges Considering**” in **MaiaLearning**
- Ask 1-2 teachers to write letters of recommendation (focus on junior year core class teachers)
- SAT national test date offered
- Consider taking SAT Subject Tests (tests are required or recommended at some selective colleges)

**June**
- Make a resume: Academic Honors, Volunteer/Paid Work Experience, Activities & Leadership
- Attend the Intro to Essay Writing and College Application Workshop at DHS
- ACT & SAT national test dates offered

**July**
- Create a Common App account, if using this application option (official application opens August 1)
- Start writing your college essay
- ACT national test date offered

**August**
- Transfer colleges from “**College Considering**” to “**College Applying**” in **Maia**
- Keep track of college requirements using the College Application Organizer on the **CCRC website**
- SAT national test date offered
- Attend the following at DHS:
  - Intro Essay Writing and College Application Workshop
  - Application Completion Workshop
  - College Night for Seniors
Getting Started: Common Application

Are you wondering what an application may look like? Perhaps you are curious as to what information you will be asked to share and how? While most applications won’t be available to you until August 1st, you can take advantage of the Common Application Account Rollover now! (Not sure what the Common Application is? Check out page 9 of the February Newsletter for details!)

What is Account Rollover? Account Rollover will let students create a Common App account and roll it over from one year to the next. It is intended to be a learning tool and a way to complete identifying information prior to the Common App opening date of August 1. Applications cannot be submitted before August 1, but you can most certainly start your work prior to that! What information will carry over if I start my application now? Answers you provided to any questions that appear in the six sections of the “Common App” tab: Profile, Family, Education, Testing and Activities, and Writing.

- Any information you may have entered for college--specific Questions & Writing Supplements under the ‘My Colleges’ tab
- Your Release Authorization and FERPA selection
- Any Recommender invitations, assignments, and forms
- PDFs of Common Applications & Writing Supplements submitted the prior year
- Responses to any questions that have been removed since the prior year
- Responses to any questions that may have a different format or different response options from the prior year
Letters of Recommendation

The School Counselor Recommendation Questionnaires (Student & Parent) are required prior to requesting letters of recommendations for college applications next year. Questionnaires should be completed by May 30th. We recommend that you provide the school counselors with as much detail as possible, if they have questions or need more information they will contact you.

The questionnaires are vital to the recommendation process and counselors WILL NOT write a letter of recommendation without the questionnaires being completed.

To access the questionnaires:
Login to Maia
Scroll down to Tasks & Activities
Locate the activity:
Student: School Counselor Recommendation for Students
Parent/Guardian: School Counselor Recommendation for Parent/Guardian
Click the link within the activity to complete the questionnaire

For questions about your Maia account, please contact Ms. Saria (csaria@dist113.org).
Summer Enrichment

What are your plans for the summer? Some of you will be going to overnight camp, taking summer school, working, visiting colleges, working on college essays, traveling, or maybe attending an athletic camp. Maybe you aren’t sure of your plans but would like to learn about some of your options?

Consider taking a look at the ‘Summer Enrichment’ section on our website.
Paying for College/Financial Aid/Scholarships

On Thursday, March 21, District 113 college counselors presented to Sophomores and Juniors on Financial Planning for College. Be sure to check out the presentation and handouts if you weren't able to make it!

Quick snapshot:
There are two types of aid: need-based and merit-based

- Need-based aid is accessed by completing the FAFSA, CSS Profile, and/or institutional forms. Eligibility is based solely on family income and assets. Factors such as test scores or athletic ability have no bearing on need-based aid.

- Merit-based aid is usually based on academic performance or other specific skill. Scholarships are the most common form of merit-based aid. With colleges, merit-based aid can often be accessed automatically through the admissions application or may require an additional scholarship application. There are also multiple websites that can be used to research and apply for scholarships outside of what colleges can offer. There are a lot of ways to make college affordable without going into massive debt. Check out some tips in the presentation, as well as the Financial Aid and Scholarships tabs on the CCRC website!
The dates for next year's programming have been set. Don't miss out on crucial information on post-high school planning.

Intro to Essay Writing and College Application Workshop (students)
Students will work with Ms. Shari Kellogg on college essays by taking a look at essay prompts, sample essays, and work through the writing process. Students will also work with DHS College Counselors on beginning college applications.
May 28th, 3:30-6:00 pm; E114/E116
August 9th, 1:00-3:30 pm; E114/E116

Application Completion Workshop (students)
Students who have started filling out applications and have questions are encouraged to attend. This can also be used as a space for students to work on applications and have CCRC and counseling staff on-hand to answer questions.
August 13th, 8:00am-12:00 pm; Library
October 16th, 8:30am-12:00 pm; North End Cafe

Senior Class Meeting with Counselors (students)
DHS College Counselors will share timely information on post-secondary planning.
August 28th, Extended Homeroom; Auditorium
January 8th, Extended Homeroom; Auditorium

Senior Check-Out Week
All seniors must check-out with their school counselors during lunch walk-thru hours.
April 27-May 1, counselor walk-thru hours; Counseling Offices

Senior Celebration Day
A day to celebrate all of the hard work every student has put in towards their futures!
May 1st, all lunches; The Blocks
Student and Parent Programs - Mark Your Calendars!

College Application Process for Students with Special Needs (students & parents)
Presentation on how to navigate the application process for students with 504's and IEP's.
August 20th, 5:15-6:00 pm; CCRC

College Night for Seniors (students & parents)
DHS College Counselors will present on how to successfully complete and submit an application. Topics will include specific application completion data (class size, gpa, etc.), requesting transcripts, requesting/submitting recommendations, submitting test scores, etc.
August 20th, 6:30-8:00 pm; DHS Auditorium

Dist.113 Understanding Financial Aid and Scholarships (students & parents)
The program will provide critical information on completing the FAFSA, what comprises a financial aid package, and how and what to communicate with Financial Aid Officers. The featured presenter is Mr. Jerry Cebrzynski, Director of Financial Aid, Lake Forest College.
September 17th, 6:30-8:00 pm; HPHS Auditorium (English and Spanish)

FAFSA Completion Workshops (students & parents)
Families are invited to complete and submit the FAFSA at one of two workshops. DHS College Counselors and Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) reps will be available for assistance.
October 3rd, DHS, 7:15-8:45 am; CCRC
October 10th, DHS, 6:30-8:00 pm; G104/G106