WELCOME JUNIOR FAMILIES!
TONIGHT'S AGENDA

• Welcome
• What's Coming Up
• College Info: Pre-Application
• Common Questions
• How to Prepare Now
• Re-Taking the ACT

• Letters of Recommendation
• Parchment
• Senior Year
• My Web Page
• O & A
Coming Up…

• **Individual senior meetings** (start mid August; student mandatory/parent optional)

• **Senior financial aid night** (September 9; 6:30)

• **OCF student scholarship meeting** (November)

• **One-on-one assistance, as requested**

• **College/university representative visits**
COLLEGE INFO … PRE-APPLICATION

→ Visit schools so you’re ready to apply!
  ◆ Preview Days, Saturday Visits, Weekday Visits

→ Narrow down what schools you intend to apply to
  ◆ Reach, Target, Safety - cost? deadline? fit?

→ Know application submission date and deadline
  ◆ UW System = Sept 1, deadlines vary by school

→ Not sure of what major is right for you? Let’s talk!

→ Senior Meetings start mid August
  ◆ Watch for email with SignUp Genius link; parent optional
COMMON QUESTIONS
When Should I Start Applying To Colleges?

- Each college sets their own application submission date and application deadline. Check the website of the colleges you are applying to for the dates.

- The UW System application is updated and ready on August 1 but you cannot submit it until September 1; you can work on it and hit SAVE and then submit September 1 or after.

- The Common App is typically ready on August 1.

- Suggestion - You may look to see what the application of your college looks like right now, however most colleges/systems/common app/etc. update their application for the following year in the summer. Do not fill out an application before the school has it updated or you will have to re-do it.

- Create a college list (College Tracker Form)

Where do I apply?

- The college’s website
- Common App = www.commonapp.org
- UW Application = uwhelp.wisconsin.edu
- Fox Valley Technical College = www.fvtc.edu
HOW MANY COLLEGES SHOULD I APPLY TO?

- Personal Choice - typical is 3-5; I’ve seen 1-18
- Select a “dream” school, a “target” school and a “Safety” school
- Remember MOST application have a fee
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

EARLY DECISION

VS

EARLY ACTION

VS

REGULAR DECISION
**Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Regular Decision**

**Early Decision**
- Apps typically due around Nov.
- Decisions sent out in Dec.

**Pros**
- An early acceptance letter means the stressful process is over sooner!
- Schools know your commitment, so your chances can be (slightly) increased.

**Cons**
- An acceptance is binding, and you must withdraw applications from other schools.
- Beware of senioritis: don’t let your grades slip just because you got in early!

**DO THIS IF...**
You have one dream school

**Early Action**
- Apps due sometime in fall

**Pros**
- You'll get an early decision, but it’s not binding
- You don’t need to withdraw your other applications if you're accepted

**Cons**
- You still have to prepare your other applications, just in case— the Regular Decision deadline falls right after decisions are mailed out.

**DO THIS IF...**
You love one particular school, but still want to keep your options open

**Regular Decision**
- Apps due between Jan. 1 - Feb. 1
- Decision dates vary

**Pros**
- Later deadlines mean you have longer to perfect your applications
- You aren't committed to any school, so it’s perfect if you want to keep your options open

**Cons**
- A large, general applicant pool means stiff competition
- You won’t receive a decision until later, so you’ll be on pins and needles for longer!

**DO THIS IF...**
You like a lot of schools, and want to weigh all of your options
# WHAT CAN I DO NOW?

## Components of a College Application

1. General Application  
2. List of Activities, Volunteering, Awards, Honors  
3. Essay  
4. ACT Score  
5. Transcripts  
6. Letter of Recommendation

## How I Can Prepare Now

1. Know where to go when it is time to start filling out.  
2. Update your activity resume. Don’t have one? Use the template on Mrs. Kollat’s webpage. Ask Mr. Pecore for a copy of your service hour sheets, if necessary.  
3. Start writing rough drafts of your essay(s) - [Common App Essay Prompts](#) and [UW Application Essay Prompts](#).  
4. Re-take the ACT if necessary. Be aware of test dates and application deadlines - all material need to be submitted by the deadline. If need official test score, order at least 3 weeks in advance of application deadline.  
5. Create your Parchment account.  
CAMPUS TOURS

* Important to see and “feel” that campus!

* Go to the college’s website to sign up for a tour.

* Look for special preview days on the college/university websites.

JULY 8-13, 2019
SHOULD YOU RETAKE THE ACT?
WHAT TO THINK ABOUT....

- What do the schools I am considering require for admission?
- What do specific scholarships require?
- Do any of my schools superscore?
- Will I prepare differently?
- Cost
- Register [HERE](#)

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<td>AUGUST 16</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER 14</td>
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ACT PREPARATION

• PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE  (each test is the same)

• Ask teachers about incorrect answers

• ACT Test Prep, Inc.

• Mr. Dineen’s ACT Math Prep classes

• Student Services website - online, in person, text, etc.

• Practice tests in Counseling Office
- Academic potential = preferred by teachers
- Have a completed letter of recommendation form and/or your activity resume ready to give the teacher (teacher may give a form to fill out)
- Request to have the letter sent to the counseling office to be uploaded to your Parchment account
- Reasonable deadline and THANK YOU

What two teachers do you feel would know you well enough to write about your character and academic potential?
INTRODUCING PARCHMENT

➢ Send transcripts
➢ Send letters of recommendation
➢ Send unofficial test scores

Your Parchment account information is at the table.

Parchment LINK On My Webpage
Are you considering playing a sport in a Division I or II school?

Be sure you are registered on the NCAA Eligibility website!

eligibilitycenter.org

DO NOT ASSUME YOU WILL BE RECRUITED...BE SURE TO HAVE A BACK UP PLAN IF IT DOESN'T WORK OUT
SENIOR YEAR IS IMPORTANT!

Think final transcripts...

Pain is temporary
GPA is forever
ALL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES WANT TO SEE A MATH COURSE SENIOR YEAR!

STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED INTO THEIR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WITH THE INFORMATION THEY PROVIDE ON THEIR APPLICATION. ONE SECTION ON THE APPLICATION IS LISTING THE COURSES YOU ARE TAKING SENIOR YEAR....THEREFORE, DO NOT CHANGE YOUR SCHEDULE ONCE YOU HAVE APPLIED TO COLLEGE!

ALL ACCEPTANCES ARE CONTINGENT .... MEANING YOUR ACCEPTANCE IS BASED ON YOUR FINAL TRANSCRIPT THAT YOU MUST SEND TO YOUR COLLEGE AFTER GRADUATION. COLLEGES WILL SEE THAT YOU:
- CHANGED YOUR SCHEDULE
- DROPPED GPA
- POOR ATTENDANCE

....AND MAY RESCIND YOUR ACCEPTANCE!

CLICK TO SEE UW MADISON'S PAGE ON CHANGING YOUR COURSE SCHEDULE SENIOR YEAR
STUDENT SERVICES WEBSITE

College/University Representative Visits
Students can sign up to meet with these representatives in the Counseling Office. Deadlines to sign up are communicated via the Daily Bulletin/Announcements.

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<th>College/University</th>
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College Information
- Career Locker (WisCareers)
- Test Optional Colleges/Universities
- US News & World Report
- The Princeton Review
- List of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Forbes
- College Tidbits
- Campus Tours
- All About College
- O*NET - Explore Occupations

Counseling Documents/Forms/Processes

LA Transcript Request
Current students and alumni, click the Parchment image below to request your Lourdes Academy transcript.

LA GPA Calculator
Counselor Connect Request Form
Schedule Change Request Form
Off-Campus Course Process

Official Score Report Request
UW System Campuses

13 Two-year Freshman/Sophomore UW Colleges

- Fantastic start for many students without big price tag. Lowest tuition in the UW System is currently at $2,514 - $2,665 a year (www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/paying/systemcosts.aspx)

- Provides a foundation for more than 200 majors

- Up to 72 credits may transfer to a 4-year UW University

- All credits transfer from one UW System institution to another (www.wisconsin.edu/transfer/)
  - UW Fond du Lac
  - UW Fox Valley (Menasha)
UW System Campuses
13 4-year institutions

- UW-Madison
- UW-Milwaukee
- UW Oshkosh
- 10 others

Offer bachelor’s, master’s and professional degrees including some PhD programs.
UW System Application

Apply online at apply.wisconsin.edu

- **August 1, 2017** - Application for Fall 2018 will open
- **September 1, 2017** - Student can begin submitting applications
- **September 15, 2017** - All UW schools will begin reviewing applications
- **October 1, 2017** - Filing begins for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

**A complete application includes:**

- UW System Application
- $50 Application Fee ($60 for UW Madison)
- Official High School Transcripts
- ACT or SAT test scores
- Optional Letters of Recommendation (some schools may require)
UW System Application
A comprehensive review process for each application

Minimum of 17 college prep course units for consideration

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of **math** (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2)
- 3 units of **natural science**
- 3 units of **social science**
- 4 academic **electives**

**Academic Factors**

Rigor, GPA, test scores, class rank, grade trends

**Non-academic Factors**

Leadership, activities, life circumstances
What steps should I be taking to prepare right now?

- **Continue working hard in classes.** Junior year grades may be the last we will see on a transcript.

- **Utilize resources**
  - UW HELP [www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu](http://www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu)
  - Review UW System Introduction
  - Attend college fairs like Wisconsin Education Fairs (WEFS)
  - Visit University and college websites
  - Check out social media

- **Plan campus visits**
  - Campus Preview Days
  - Daily campus visits

- **Prepare for the ACT (or SAT)**
  - Plan to take it more than once!
Parents’ role in the college application process


▪ “We” are not applying to college - your student is applying to college. They need to take control.
▪ Encourage your student to take advantage of opportunities - Application Work Time w/Mrs. Kollat, 1:1 Advisement, etc.
▪ Important to talk about finances with your child - how will cost of college play a role in the school they select?
▪ Students need to be completing their own applications and writing their own essays.
▪ In all scenarios - colleges/universities want to be contacted by the student when there is a question.
▪ Be prepared for “No.”

Create email for everything college related or use one email and stick to it!

Notable Websites/Videos

GROWN&FLOWN