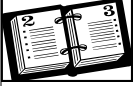


Senior Prep Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1

September 1, 2007



IMPORTANT DATES COLLEGE VISITS:

St. Anselm College
Sept. 5 @ 8:30

Fairfield University
Sept. 18 @ 10:00

George Mason University
Sept. 13 @ 9:00

Bryant University
Sept. 25 @ 10:30

Assumption College
Oct. 2 @ 10:00

Western New England College
Oct. 2 @ 11:00



Open Houses

Skidmore College	Oct 8 & Nov 9
Towson University	Oct 19 & Oct 27 Nov 2, 10
Bridgewater College	Oct 20 & Nov 10

The Clock is Ticking

Top 10 Admission Tips!

- Meet with your counselor!** Counselors have important information about colleges, admissions and financial aid. Many colleges also require a counselor recommendation.
- Take a strong course schedule.** Your class record is a big part of your college application. Don't take courses that simply pad your GPA. Challenge yourself. Take AP, IB, or honors courses, or a course at a community college.
- Ace the entrance exams.** Practice the test by taking sample versions beforehand. Get plenty of sleep and eat a well-balanced breakfast before your test. Be sure to read the directions and test questions carefully. Pace yourself so you have time to review your work.
- Find the school that's right for you.** Ask your guidance counselor for advice. Complete a Fast-Web College Search (www.fastweb.com). Learn more about schools via their Web sites, campus visits and college fairs.
- Fill out the application accurately and neatly.** Approach each application as if it were the only one that you're filling out. Read the directions and follow them precisely. Make a draft copy first, then revise and proof-read.
- Craft excellent application essays.** Start by brainstorming for an original topic and hone your unique point of view. When writing, be clear, concise and well-



organized. Don't forget to check grammar and spelling.

- Submit application early and watch for deadlines.** List deadlines and important dates in one place and refer to them often.
 - Get great letters of recommendation.** Choose adults who know
- Continued on Page 2**

What is the Common Application?

The Common Application™ was created in the mid-1970s by a small group of admission officers who wanted to simplify the college application process. Its longevity as well as its usefulness and continued growth in membership,

speaks highly of its credibility in the guidance profession among young people and their families.

The Common Application is a paper and online college application that over 300 colleges will accept. The beauty of the common

application is that an applicant can fill out the application once and use copies to apply to multiple colleges. It surely saves time. A lot of seniors access the online version at www.commonapp.org.
Continued on page 2

The Clock is Ticking Continued

Continued from Page 1

8. you well such as teachers, employers, coaches, and clergy. In advance, provide required forms, an addressed envelope, a list of your activities and accomplishments, (your resume) and the date your recommendations need to be given to your counselor with your other materials.
9. **Follow up on you applications.** If a college hasn't sent you something that they should have, contact the college. With thousands of applications being processed, mistakes do occasionally happen.

10. **Dazzle them at your college interview.** Stay calm. Prepare by practicing with friends and bring a few questions to ask. Dress for the occasion. **Follow up with a thank-you note.**



Common Application Continued

at that website, seniors can fill out the common application on the computer and either print and mail, or electronically send the application. Millions of Common Applications are printed and accepted by college members schools each year. In addition, last year almost half a million applications were submitted to Common App Online. Some colleges may require a supplement which relates to their school. This can be down loaded

at the same site. This year's essay questions will be the same as last year. If you are planning on majoring in the arts (art, music, theater, dance, visual arts and film) there is an arts supplement that you need to complete. Any student who is planning on playing a sport in college there is an athletic supplement for you to complete with your application. Mrs. Fahey & Ms. Fiori will be conducting a Common Application work-

shop soon; date to be announced.



Purpose of the Essay

The college essay is extremely important for two major reasons:

- It enables the college admissions office to evaluate your communication skills. Through your essay they can assess the clarity of your thinking and your ability to convey you thoughts in written form

- It enables the admissions office to learn more about you as a person, beyond what grades and SAT scores can convey. A well-written essay can speak worlds about your attitudes, feelings, personal qualities, imagination, and creativity. For the admissions staff, it

adds another important piece to the puzzle because it distinguishes you as an individual, different from any other student who is applying.



Seniors: Essay Topics

College Related Questions

- What qualities or unique characteristics do you possess that would allow you to the university environment?
- Why have you selected this college?
- Why have you chosen this career or profession?
- Write an essay describing your educational goals and motivation to attend college.

Personal Questions

- Write a personal statement that gives the admissions committee a

sense of individual.

- Describe a significant interest or experience that has special meaning for you.
- If someone who knows you well were to write a biography about you, what title would be given to the book and some of the chapters? Explain why.
- Discuss a literary or artistic work (including books, plays, movies, music, etc.), which has had a special impact on you.
- It is the year 2050, and you are reflecting back on you accomplishments. OF what are you

most proud.

- Describe something that has special meaning for you. Explain why?
- Traditions add meaning to our lives. Tell us about a tradition that is honored in your family, friends, or culture. Why is this tradition important to you?
- Describe an event or experience in your life (e.g., humorous, happy, sad, exciting, challenging, humbling, etc.) and tell us how that event or experience changed you.

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Take your Seat

Attendance counts

Want a surefire way to help yourself get off to a super start this school year? Make sure you attend school every day with these tips:

- Show how learning relates to real life. If you think a skill is useful, you are more likely to learn it. *Example:* Planning a vacation draws on research skills.

- Tell yourself not to skip a class because you are struggling. Arrange for tutoring, or suggest

*“Success consists of getting up
just one more time than you
fall.”*

Oliver Goldsmith

that you find a study buddy.

- Find out in the student handbook the school’s attendance policy. The attendance office will let you know if your tardiness will lead to loss of senior privileged. Remember all tardiness & absence go on your per-



Helpful Senior Links

College rankings have changed the way a student like you searches for college—but they only tell part of the story. These college websites will help you in your search for the right college for you.

www.bestcollegepicks.com

Best College Picks helps you focus on what you want in a college education.

www.collegeboard.com

Your inside sources for connection students to college opportunity and success.

www.collegenet.com

College NET search engine help you quickly find the ideal college.

www.collegeview.com

Examine more than 3,800 schools to find the college that’s right for you.

www.fastweb.com

Find money for college and find your dream school!

www.princetonreview.com/college

Access to 950+ applications.

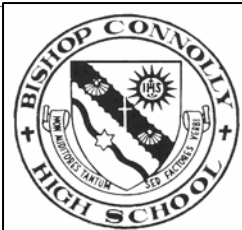
www.collegeanswer.com

Search for scholarships.

BISHOP CONNOLLY HIGH SCHOOL

373 Elsbree Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720

Phone: (508) 676-1071 ext. 348
Fax Number: (508) 676-8594
See web page for e-mail address



*Preparation for personal
growth in a God centered world*

We are on the web
www.bishopconnolly.com

Mission of the Guidance Department

As an outgrowth of the Mission Statement of Bishop Connolly High School, the Counseling Department has developed the following statement, which more clearly explains how the department is able to fulfill the schools mission.

The Counseling Department strives to motivate students to maintain a positive self-image, to enhance decision-making skills and to have students recognize and to attain their highest levels as a person. In working with students in these areas we are preparing them for personal success. It is our hope that each student will become attentive listeners of Gods Word and act on that Word.

Mrs. Fahey students A thru L
(508) 676-1071 ext 307

Ms. Fiori students M thru Z
(508) 676-1071 ext. 356

*We don't know who we are until
we see what we can do!*

Martha Grimes

Seniors: Essay Topics

Continued from page 3

- Imagine you are a teacher or a counselor at your school and you have been asked to write a recommendation for the Admissions Committee. Be sure to describe your own academic and personal strengths and weaknesses.
- How has your family history, culture, or environment influenced who you are?
- Identify a person who had a significant influence on you and explain the influence.

Issue-Oriented Questions

- Write about an important issue of

person, local, national concern.

- Write a speech for delivery before some group or write an article or editorial for publication.
- Discuss a person from the realm of politics, sports, history, local community or family who possess those qualities that you admire as an individual.
- Describe a risk worth taking and tell why.
- Choose a prominent person—living, deceased, or fictional—that you like to interview and explain why.
- Which four historical figures would you select as your professors in your first term at our col-

lege? Describe your reasons for each selection.

- Write about a book that has special significance for you.

