

# DEPEW HS COUNSELING CENTER SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017



You are quickly approaching the end of your high school career. Some of you will choose to enter the workforce or military. Some will take time off to figure out what the next chapter in their lives will be, while others will go directly to college.

**Regardless of your post-secondary plans, you need to schedule a SENIOR EXIT INTERVIEW with your School Counselor by October 31. (*More information about the Exit Interview is inside.*)**

For those of you who plan on attending **college** next fall, this is a critical time for putting those plans into action. It is important that you **pay attention to ALL college correspondence via email and the USPS and the deadlines.** It is also important to be at the front of the admissions line and not just meet the deadline! Apply early!

This newsletter addresses some of the most frequent questions seniors have regarding the college application process. **Please utilize your School Counselor for assistance. We are expecting you to ask us for help and look forward to it!** We have a lot of experience with college admissions procedures and have frequent contact with many of the college admissions representatives. We are a good resource for you right now.

Be sure to also visit the **Guidance pages on the Depew High School website**, where college, career and scholarship information can be found. On the **"COLLEGE VISITS-RESEARCH-APPLY" page**, you will find a **calendar listing the dates and times college representatives will be visiting us.** If you are interested in meeting with a college rep, please see Mrs. Burke in the Counseling Center for a pass to come down. Additional information regarding college and especially scholarships will be emailed to you or posted in Schoology throughout the year. So be sure to check your school emails and schoology regularly.



## IMPORTANT

Make an appointment with your counselor **before Oct 31** for your "Senior Exit Interview." The purpose of this meeting is to review your transcript, verify graduation status and determine diploma type. We will also review and assist you with your post-secondary plans. Your counselor will help you get started with the college application process as well. You will receive a copy of your transcript at this time. Submit your **Activity Resume and Student/Parent Brag Sheet** (*see attached*) at this meeting. This document is important for counselor letters of recommendations and scholarship purposes.

## COLLEGE APPLICATIONS & OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Students who receive free/reduced lunch may qualify for application fee waivers.
- If you are applying to a community college, ask your Counselor to submit your official transcript.
- Have your SAT/ACT official scores sent to the colleges/universities you are applying to.



### **APPLYING TO NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES (The SUNY system)**

53 of the State University's 64 campuses use one application that can be found at [www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu). The other 11 campuses require their own application which can be found on their websites.

There is a \$50 non-refundable application fee for each SUNY campus choice to which you apply. You may avoid the application fee when applying to the 2 year community colleges, by not using the SUNY application, but by using the community college application found on their website.

Your School Counselor will upload your official transcript and 2 letters of recommendation into the SUNY portal once you submit your application.

## **How to Apply**

### **1. DETERMINE YOUR CAMPUS AND CURRICULUM SELECTIONS.**

You can apply to multiple campuses using a single application. You should determine your [campus and curriculum selections](#) before starting your application.

### **2. PREVIEW THE APPLICATION.**

If you wish to view the questions and prepare your answers before beginning your online application, print our [Online Application Worksheet](#).

### **3. CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT.**

The first time you use [applySUNY](#), you will be required to create an account. You must supply a valid email address and password so that you can return to work on your application over several sessions.

### **4. COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION.**

You will be presented with several pages of questions to complete. Complete the questions on each page.

### **5. PAY YOUR APPLICATION FEE.**

When you have completed your application and are ready to submit it, you can pay your application fees via a credit card, debit card, or you can mail a check or money order to the Application Services Center. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$50 per campus selection.

### **6. SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION.**

You will receive confirmation of submission by email. You can check back at [applySUNY](#) in 48 hours to view your application status online.

### **7. SEND YOUR ADDITIONAL FORMS.**

Freshman applicants should print and give the to your high school counselor to complete.

International applicants should print forms [FSA-2](#), [FSA-3](#), and [FSA-4](#) and mail directly to the colleges to which you apply.

## **8. SUBMIT YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS.**

In addition to your online application, some campuses may require or recommend a [supplemental application](#), which may include an essay question. You will be directed to return to applySUNY to complete those supplemental applications.

## **9. SUBMIT YOUR ACADEMIC RECORD.**

### **Freshman Applicants**

1. Ask your high school counselor to submit your transcript electronically, using SUNY CounselorConnect.
2. Ask your high school counselor to mail your official high school transcript directly to the [campuses](#) to which you have applied.



### **THE COMMON APPLICATION - Nearly 700 colleges, only 1 application**

Using the Common App at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org), simplifies the college admission process by saving time and eliminating duplication of effort. Once completed online, copies may be sent to any of the participating colleges and universities. Official transcripts are uploaded by your School Counselor. The application fees vary. Visit the website for more information. Students invite their teachers via email through this system to submit letters of recommendation.

## **EOP/HEOP**

This program provides access, academic support and financial aid to students who show promise for succeeding in college, but who may not otherwise be offered admission. To be eligible, students must be considered academically disadvantaged (not admitted under regular admission guidelines), AND financially disadvantaged (typically students who receive free/reduced lunch, are a foster child, are living in federally subsidized housing or are a member of a family receiving public assistance.) Talk with your School Counselor to find out if you may be eligible for this program.



## **HONORS PROGRAMS**

A college honors program provides highly motivated students the opportunity to work closely with professors and other motivated students in advanced levels of critical thinking, analysis, research, writing, communication, etc. The benefits of joining a college honors program vary from school to school. Some of the benefits include: smaller classes, graduate school preparation, special activities, scholarship opportunities and priority registration.

## **SUBMITTING YOUR ACT/SAT SCORES**

Two-year community colleges do not require these tests, but often use them for placement purposes. Your School Counselor can submit these for you with your official transcript. Many four-year colleges/universities require official score reports which must be ordered from the College Board(SAT) and the ACT websites and sent directly to the schools.

## **ESSAYS**

Some colleges/universities may require an essay. Essay topics vary from school to school. Some schools may even give you a choice of essay topics. Utilize your School Counselor and/or English teacher for assistance with writing your essay. Do not assume you can write one essay and use it for multiple applications.

- ★ Your essay reveals something important about you that your grades and test scores can't—your personality. It can give admission officers a sense of who you are, as well as showcasing your writing skills.
- ★ The college essay is your opportunity to reveal your best qualities and show an admissions committee what makes you stand out from other applicants.
- ★ When all else is equal between competing applicants, a compelling essay can make the difference. A powerful, well-written essay can also tip the balance for a marginal applicant.

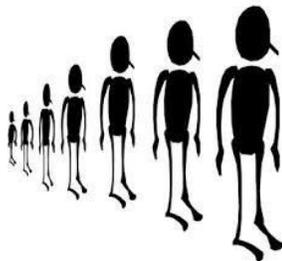
## **RECOMMENDATION LETTERS**

Your recommenders will do a better job if they don't have to rush. Start asking for the recommendations now! Read each of your college applications carefully. Schools often ask for letters of recommendation from an academic teacher — sometimes in a specific subject — or a school counselor or both. Please utilize the ***Letter of Recommendation Request Form*** we provide for you in this packet.

- Choose one of your teachers from junior year or a current teacher who has known you for a while. Colleges want a current perspective on you, so a teacher from several years ago isn't the best choice.
- Consider asking a teacher who also knows you outside the classroom. For example, a teacher who directed you in a musical or advised your school club can make a great reference.
- Consider other adults — such as an employer, a coach or an adviser from an activity outside of school — who have a good understanding of you and your strengths.
- Perhaps most important, pick someone who will be enthusiastic about writing the letter for you.
- Waive your right to view recommendation letters. Admission officers will trust them more if you haven't seen them.
- Once you've decided which college to attend, write thank-you notes. Tell your references where you're going and let them know how much you appreciate their support.

## **YOU WANT TO BE AT THE FRONT OF THE ADMISSIONS DEADLINE, NOT JUST MEET IT!**

We recommend you complete your college applications by October 1st!



## **APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Every university and college has its own application deadlines, but they fall around the same time. Early applicants (early action, early decision or single choice early action) generally need to get their applications in by either November 1 or November 15. The deadline for regular decision applications is normally between January 1 and February 1, depending on the college. Not having all of your admission materials submitted on

time may wind up costing you. Being prepared and having your application materials ready before the last minute is the best way of saving a lot of stress come deadline day.

**We recommend you complete your college applications by October 1st! A college can not process your financial aid package until you have applied and been accepted.**

### **STUDENT ATHLETES - REGISTER WITH THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**



If you are a student athlete interested in playing a competitive sport at a Division I or Division II school, you **MUST** register online with the NCAA Eligibility Center and be reviewed for both academic and athletic eligibility. You should be working on your application now, if you haven't done so already. Their website has all the information you need to know about academic eligibility and athletic eligibility [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). We also have copies of the "Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete" in the counseling center.

### **MEET WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES at DHS**

College admissions representatives visit us in the fall and spring of each year. For an updated listing of visits, check out the calendar on our website or stop in the Counseling Center. This information will also be uploaded into Schoology. Students interested in meeting with a college representative must obtain a pass from the Counseling Center the morning of the visit.

### **THE WNY COLLEGE CONSORTIUM - Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>**

Seniors will be invited down to the small gym to visit with admissions representatives from 10:40am-11:00am. Inquire about academic majors, college athletics, housing opportunities, tuition costs, financial aid, clubs and organizations, study-abroad programs and application procedures.

The colleges and universities participating in this visit include: *Alfred State C, Alfred U, Bryant & Stratton C, Buffalo State C, Canisius C, Daemen C, D'Youville C, ECC, Fredonia State C, GCC, Hilbert C, Houghton C, Medaille C, NCCC, Niagara U, St. Bonaventure U, Trocaire C, UB and Villa Maria C.*



### **VISIT YOUR TOP COLLEGE CHOICES**

Many colleges have **Open Houses**. Take advantage of these special events. Deciding on which college to attend is a very important and often difficult decision. Visiting a college campus, talking with current students there and sitting in on classes can help you with your decision.



✓ **Academic Scholarships/Merit Based**- are awarded by the college/university - based on High School GPAs and SAT/ACT scores. Students are automatically considered for these scholarships upon acceptance for admission.

✓ **College Based Scholarships** - Colleges also offer special interest scholarships that may require an application. Some of these may be based on leadership, musical performance, etc. Check out the scholarship/financial aid page on the college website.

✓ **The Scholarship Box** - Located on the DHS website (HS Guidance page), and/or in Schoology. Here you will find scholarship information from businesses and organizations, including local ones that you may apply for. Also, check your gmail!

✓ **Scholarship Searches** - You can search for many scholarship opportunities via scholarship search websites. Visit the Scholarship Search page on the Depew High School website under the Guidance tab and/or in Schoology.

✓ **NYS Scholarships** - Visit [www.hesc.ny.gov](http://www.hesc.ny.gov) to learn about Financial Aid awarded from New York State.



You may complete your FAFSA application for the 2017-2018 year starting on **October 1, 2016**

[fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)

Completing and submitting the FAFSA® is free and quick, and it gives you access to the largest source of financial aid to pay for college or career school. In addition, many states and colleges use your FAFSA data to determine your eligibility for state and school aid, and some private financial aid providers may use your FAFSA information to determine whether you qualify for their aid.

Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access certain U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when accessing your financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents.

[fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov)

### **CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE®**

The CSS (College Scholarship Service) is a financial aid profile produced by the College Board. The CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE is an online application that collects financial information used by almost 400 colleges and scholarship programs to award financial aid from sources outside the federal government, such as institutional scholarships, grants, and loans. The College Board will send your application to the colleges and scholarship programs that you designate. Not all colleges and scholarship programs require the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE. You should check with the ones you're interested in to see if they require it.

Visit [student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile](https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile) for more information



### **MAKE YOUR DECISION AND SEND IN YOUR DEPOSIT**

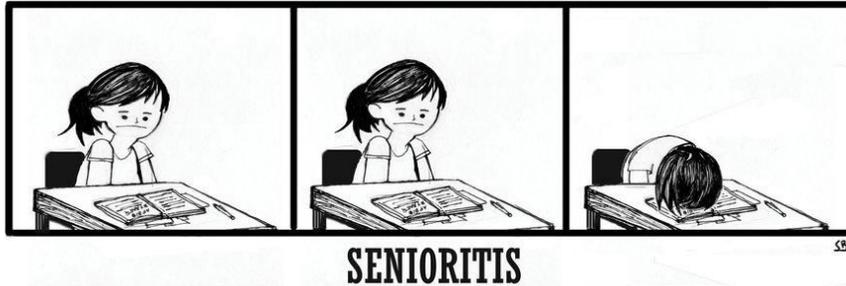
**May 1<sup>st</sup>** is the universal **deadline** for students to notify colleges of their choice college. However, it is best to submit your deposit as soon as you make your final decision, but after you have seen your financial aid package. This is especially true if you are planning to dorm and need student housing. Sometimes, your deposit starts the process for placement testing and class registration.

### **AP SCORES. ADVANCED STUDIES TRANSCRIPTS, PLTW ARTICULATION W/ ECC**

Be certain that you request your AP scores be sent from the College Board (if you want them sent) and you request a transcript from ECC with your Advanced Studies course credit(s) be sent to the college/university you are attending. **Depew High School does NOT send these.** Students who have taken PLTW courses may be eligible for credit in various technology programs at ECC. You may obtain a High School Articulation Credit/Reference Form from your Counselor.

These are important for determining course placement, course credit and/or course exemption.

Please utilize your School Counselor for assistance.  
We are here to help you!



### Avoiding the Epidemic

**Senioritis** (*n.*) A less than moderate interest in school-related activities, especially academics, that students usually acquire around the last semester of their senior year; symptoms include having a reduced attention to studies and extracurricular activities, making up excuses not to attend classes, sleeping during class, and suffering from a severe fixation with partying.

If you have yet to experience these symptoms, be careful because this disease is contagious. It is easily spread among high school seniors everywhere. Below are just a couple of the dangers of contracting this disease.

- **Colleges can revoke their offer of admission.** This seems harsh, but many colleges have revoked their admission offers to students due to senioritis. Many college acceptance letters even include warnings to students such as, "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." If your grades start to slip during your senior year, many colleges take that as a sign that you don't want to continue your education. So, don't slump on academics once those college acceptance letters arrive.
- **Your college performance can be affected.** If you choose to slack off during your senior year, you will not be ready for the challenges of college. Many students who were affected by senioritis in high school required remedial help once they entered college.

Now that you know of the dangers of coming into contact with this disease, you may be wondering if there is a cure for senioritis. Unfortunately, the only real cure for this disease is graduation. However, you can utilize preventative care to ensure that you are not infected with this disease. Here's how:

- **Challenge yourself.** Take the most rigorous courses available at your school. During class discussions, bring up new ideas. When studying, don't just memorize; think outside the box. Continue to set academic goals that you want to reach, such as making an A on that research paper.
- **Make schoolwork more interesting.** Form study groups with your friends. Invent academic games to make studying more fun and easier. Ask your teacher(s) to organize class field trips.
- **Stay involved.** If you stay active in sports, volunteer work, and other extracurricular activities, you will be more likely to remain focused throughout your senior year.

- **Take a college course.** What better way to avoid an academic slump than to take a college course? If you excel in high school classes, you should consider taking one evening class at a local college. This will not only introduce you to the rigors of college work, but you will also receive college credit.

Senioritis is extremely easy to catch and once you have it, it can be hard to get rid of. So, try to keep the above-mentioned preventative measures in mind while you enjoy your last few months of high school. It'll be worth it in the end.

## IMPORTANT EVENTS 2016-2017

- **Wednesday September 14**  
Counselors visit Seniors during English classes to review information in the newsletter
- **September 15 - October 31**  
Schedule your Senior Exit Interview & submit your Activity Resume
- **Wednesday September 21**  
“Senior Parent College/Financial Aid Information Night” at 6:30pm in the cafe of DHS  
Other Financial Aid Information programs you may attend:
  - **Thursday September 29** at Maryvale High School, 6:30pm
- **Tuesday October 4**  
FAFSA/TAP Application Assistance at 7pm in Room 207 at DHS  
Other FAFSA/TAP Application Assistance programs you may attend:
  - **Thursday October 6** at Cleveland High School, 6:30pm
  - **Thursday November 17** at Cheektowaga Central High School, 6:00pm  
*Registration is required*
- **Monday October 17**  
WNY College Consortium, 10:40am – 11:00am, DHS small gym
- **Wednesday October 19**  
College Night for Students with Disabilities at University of Buffalo, 6:15pm  
*Registration is required*
- **Wednesday October 26**  
Volunteer Fair in the cafe during all lunch periods
- **Tuesday November 15**  
“What’s Next? Life After High School - Post Secondary Options”  
Collaborative Event sponsored by 5 Cheektowaga Schools at 6:00pm at Cleveland Hill HS  
*Registration is required*
- **Thursday March 9**  
Post-Secondary Options Fair - DHS Small Gym, 6pm-7pm

- **Monday March 20 - Friday March 24**  
Senior Check-ins with School Counselors
- **Tuesday April 25**  
Summer Job Fair in the cafe during all lunch periods.
- **Monday May 1**  
Deadline to submit "Post Secondary Plans" Report

## **YOU'RE INVITED!**

### SENIOR PARENT NIGHT: The College Application Process & Financial Aid



**Wednesday, September 21st**  
**6:30pm-8:30pm**  
**DHS Café**

The High School Counselors will walk you through the college application process. A Financial Aid expert from a local college will speak about financial aid.

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COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA & TAP APPLICATIONS WITH US...



We will have Financial Aid Advisors from local colleges/universities available for one-on-one application assistance.

**Tuesday, October 4th**

**7pm - 9pm**

**DHS Room 207**