



October 6, 2021

Hello Senior Parents,

I wanted to give you a brief update on where we are at in relation to guidance and your senior. Many of them have already been busy applying to colleges and for scholarships. Make sure they are reading the announcements for I will have scholarships listed there. I will also be posting scholarship information in the commons on the bulletin board. I have encouraged all seniors to make sure that they get ALL of their college applications out by Thanksgiving weekend, if possible.

I strongly encourage you and your senior to take a trip to visit some of these schools. You can usually schedule a visit online, or contact the admissions office and they will schedule a tour for you. Many are offering virtual tours as well, which is something that would be nice to do together. If doing in person, I recommend going on a weekday, so they can meet with professors teaching in the field they are interested in and they can sit in on a college class. It really helps them get an idea of what the college is like if they can see the campus, and speak to people who are most knowledgeable about the college. This will be classified as a school related absence.

Another important topic is scholarships and financial aid. You may submit a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) now using last year's tax information. **I have scheduled a FAFSA work session for Friday, October 15 at 9 am in the HS library.** You are welcome to come work on this with your student, we just ask that you wear a mask while inside the building. Someone from North Central Michigan College will be here to answer any questions you may have.

I encourage you and your student to apply for an FSA ID before then by going to <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. This ID will allow you to login to your FAFSA as well as sign it. The student applying for aid AND the parent will each need their own FSA ID. If you have an older student in college, you as the parent can use the same FSA ID for all of your children, but each child needs their own unique FSA ID.

I know that this is a ton of info, and a little overwhelming perhaps, but my job is to assist you and your student through this process. Please encourage your senior to come see me if they have any questions. They are in the homestretch, and I want to help keep them on the right track so they can continue to pursue their dreams after high school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or would like to set up a meeting with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jessica Pletcher'.

Jessica Pletcher
Counselor
Ellsworth Community School