



PROVIDENCE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1800 W. Lincoln Highway • New Lenox, Illinois 60451 • (815) 485-2136 • www.providencatholic.org

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Dear Parents,

March 9, 2018

As we continue our Lenten journey, approach Easter and anticipate the weather warming up, it can be difficult for students to put in the time that they should on their school work. Especially in the case of any third quarter failures, please encourage your students to keep working to raise that grade. Semester failures must be made up in summer school in order for students to qualify for readmission in the fall. Courses must be approved in advance by our Assistant Principal. Those of you who have students with semester failures will be contacted by the Assistant Principal. Seniors will not receive their diplomas until all course failures are made up and all graduation requirements fulfilled.

Scheduling of next year's classes for students has been completed. Classroom presentations were made, and individual student concerns were addressed. Graduation requirements were explained as students made course selections. You should have approved the choices that were made by your student via the ParentPlus portal. No student may drop any AP course after May 1st.

Saturday mornings have been busy around here as some of the juniors are taking our ACT Preparation Class which is taught by our faculty members. Held on five consecutive Saturdays, the purpose of the class is to better acquaint students with the format of the ACT and the types of questions on the exam.

Several years ago, ACT added a Writing Test as an optional component to the ACT Assessment. For admission, some colleges will require the Writing Test; others will not. Most colleges will accept scores for the Writing Test even if they do not require the test. Students who take the ACT Assessment will decide whether to include the Writing Test based on the requirements of the institutions to which they are applying; most of our students take the writing test. You may visit <https://actapps.act.org/writPrefRM/> for more information.

Our College Night for Juniors and Their Parents will be held on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:00 pm in our small gym. Julie Nelson, Regional Recruitment Director at Xavier University in Ohio, has been guiding students and families through the college search process for more than 20 years. During that time, she has fielded millions of questions, read thousands of essays, and claims she has earned gold status at Starbucks! While the process has changed a bit over the last two decades, the end result remains the same: finding the right college fit. This presentation will help juniors and their parents navigate the college search and give them a few peeks into the admission committee. It's a great follow-up to the small group college planning meetings that juniors and their parents have attended here that have been hosted by our college counselors, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Palmasani. Come prepared with your questions for this interactive, entertaining presentation on March 27 at 7 pm.

On Friday, April 20, we will be hosting our annual Spring College Fair during fourth period (10:25 – 12:05) in our Sacred Heart gym. Students who are sophomores and juniors will have the opportunity to meet with college representatives at this time. We will give students a list of questions as they enter the gym to ask these representatives. Students attend this during fourth period TDT times. **All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend as well.** Please join us and take advantage of this opportunity. We have invited over 60 schools to attend.

The High School Years notes for February and March are included in this email. They focus on respect, investigating future careers, driving danger zones, successful note taking strategies and resilient teens among other topics. You can also access past issues on the Counseling Department page on the Providence Catholic website. We hope you take the time to read this helpful information.

Have you used Naviance Family Connection with your son or daughter? It is a web-based software program that assists in managing the college selection process as well as assisting in career searches. All students have been instructed in its use. Each class, freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, have been assigned tasks which can be found on their own Family Connection homepage. Please ask your children to share this program with you. It can be accessed through the Counseling Department page on our website. To log in, students use their school email as their username. Their password is the same one they use to log in to our Providence Catholic network. All students must complete their assigned tasks by the end of the school year. Some of our junior parents who have attended our college planning meetings with their sons and daughters have commented that they wish they would have used Naviance sooner.

Many colleges and universities offer summer enrichment programs for high school students. These are wonderful opportunities for them to experience life on a college campus. They can investigate careers, develop new skills, make new friends and just have fun! We have information from many summer youth programs and camps and receive more each week. Topics may include music and the arts, leadership, engineering, journalism, architecture, and cinema/media to name a few. Many offer a variety of recreational and cultural activities. Information on these summer youth programs can be found under the "Newsworthy" section on the PCHS homepage or on the Counseling page of our website under "Summer Enrichment." This chart lists some of the many summer programs offered at colleges across the country with direct links to each individual webpage for more details and applications. The chart may be accessed here for your convenience: "[Summer Enrichment 2018](#)."

As we look forward to the fourth quarter, continue to support and encourage your kids. We'll be doing the same here.

Have a blessed Easter,



Pamela J. Ryan
Director of Counseling

PJR:lb