



# NEW CANAAN HIGH SCHOOL

## SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE

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August, 2021

Dear Senior,

Congratulations! You face the exciting prospect of planning for your life after New Canaan High School and we will help you move through the process successfully.

This letter is a follow up to our junior College/Career Planning appointment last spring. We realize how stressful the next few months can be as you try to manage all the steps necessary to complete your college applications while, at the same time, staying on top of your classes and finding time to enjoy your senior year. As your counselors, we are here to help you every step of the way. We expect that you will have a lot of questions so, meet with us often, stay focused and try to be organized, and before you know it, you will be enjoying all your options.

### **Important steps before you come back to school!**

#### **The Senior Profile**

It is **critical** that you fill out "The Senior Profile". This must be completed, as it is an essential document for your letter of recommendation. **Please note that almost all college applications require a counselor recommendation as part of a completed application for admission. This form incorporates activity information that is essential to generating an appropriate letter.** You can access the Senior Forms enclosed here or on the NCHS home page under the 'School Counseling' tab, 'Senior Information' link.

#### **Update your Naviance account**

You can access your Naviance account through the NCHS website ([www.ncps-k12.org](http://www.ncps-k12.org)) under the "Student" tab. Go to the Colleges tab and add the colleges you plan to apply to under Colleges I am Thinking About. Remember when signing into Naviance, use the "single sign-on" function. Do not enter a username and password, your Naviance is linked to your school Gmail account. It is important that you complete this step **before you come back to school** as you will need it soon after your return.

#### **Review Senior Schedule**

Please review each of your colleges' websites as to their high school course requirements for admission (world language, fine arts electives, etc.) so your senior course schedule can be adjusted if needed.

#### **Update your Common Application Account**

After August 1, 2021 please go into your Common Application account ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) and follow the steps to roll over your information to the fall 2022 admissions application. If you did not create a Common Application account, please do so now.

## **Review the Planning Handbook**

Prior to your junior appointment this spring, you were mailed a post-secondary planning handbook with a wealth of information. This is a good time to review it and find answers to the many questions you may have regarding teacher recommendations, standardized testing, early decision, visiting schools and financial aid.

## **Parent Questionnaire**

It is common at many secondary schools to ask parents to share information about children as part of the college admission process. This is certainly not a requirement, but the more input the counselors have concerning each individual, the better the base of information to draw upon when writing references for students. We will be encouraging your parent/guardian to fill out the questionnaire and return it to your counselor. This information will not be part of your permanent folder. You can access this form enclosed here or on the NCHS home page under the 'School Counseling' link, Senior Forms.

## **What's next?**

In early September, the counselors will be going into your English classes to address the "nuts and bolts" of the admissions process. New Canaan High School sends supporting documentation (transcripts, school profiles, recommendations, etc) via electronic submission through Naviance for most colleges. During our visits to the English classes, we will take you through the steps needed to implement this process but again, **it is important to update your Naviance account** before we arrive in your class.

Following our visit to your class, it will be essential to set up your **Senior Appointment** with your counselor to go over the Senior Profile and answer your individual questions. There will be more information about this in class.

We also realize that your parents will have lots of questions, whether this is their first time through the process or they are trying to learn about the changes in college admission since their last child applied for admission. Because of this, we have scheduled a **virtual meeting for senior parents on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.**

While a letter cannot address all the issues that will arise over the year, our programs are designed to try to help you deal successfully with the process. It is critically important that you stay in touch with your counselor as you traverse the next few months. Our goal is to make sure you have a balanced and appropriate list of colleges that you are applying to and that you have acceptable options at the end of the process. We are here to answer all of your questions, no matter how small, and help you to make decisions as you move toward graduation.

Finally, as we congratulate Jane Mitchell on her new adventures in retirement, we welcome Daniel Farina to our department. Some of you may know Dan through his work as a coach and mentor to many of our young students. His empathy and kindness will lend itself well to our counseling staff and we look forward to him joining our talented team.

We hope that you have a fantastic end to your summer, and look forward to hitting the ground running with you this September!

The School Counseling Staff

Daniel Farina	Cynthia Rivera
Lori Keen	Erica Schaedler
Linda McGann	Ann Vernon
Lindsay Reihl	Nick Willett

*Enclosure*