

# HAMMOND

## College Counseling Senior Bulletin October 2007

1. Seniors are reminded to check the *Daily Announcements* every day.
2. Be aware: Colleges routinely use *email* as their communication tool of choice. Seniors should regularly check their email.
3. College reps continue to visit campus. Check the College Counseling website, the College Counseling bulletin board in Manning Hall, and the Daily Announcements for the visit schedule. Most visits are scheduled during Break. If perchance a visit takes place during class, make arrangements in advance to attend. You are responsible for getting permission from your teacher *prior to attending* a session and are responsible for any work you might miss.
4. Seniors are reminded that Mrs. Bickley needs to proof all essays *before* completed application packets are submitted. However, essay conferences need to be scheduled with Mrs. Bickley *after* you have worked diligently through the drafting process and sought essay advice from a trusted faculty member.
5. If you have not fully completed your **first application**, you need to do so. Simply applying online does not constitute a completed application. Your entire *application packet* must be submitted to the College Counseling Office. Applications are processed on a first-come-first-served basis and are mailed by the Office of College Counseling as soon as possible.
6. **Please Note:** If a college specifies a postmark deadline, you must submit your *completed application packet* to the College Counseling Office *two weeks* prior to that deadline. No exceptions. Deadlines are real in college admissions. Plan accordingly.
7. Please do not leave anything on Mrs. Bickley's desk or on Ms. Easler's desk. We cannot be responsible for misplaced items or items that escape our attention when we are not aware of their original placement.
8. If you are applying ED/EN/EA and have not notified Mrs. Bickley of your decision, you need to do so immediately.
9. If you plan to take the November 3 SAT or SAT II's, the October 2 deadline is just around the corner. If you miss it, you will need to register under a Late Registration status.
10. If you plan to take the December 1 SAT or SAT II's, registration deadline is October 30.
11. The ACT is offered October 27. Late Registration is available through October 5. The ACT is offered again December 8. Registration deadline is November 2.
12. Don't forget to write thank you notes to the people who have been kind enough to write letters of recommendation. This includes teachers as well as outside recommenders.
13. Many seniors plan college visits during the fall. These visits can be valuable if you plan ahead and take advantage of the time you have on campus.
  - It is your responsibility to check with your teachers before you plan a trip and to complete any work that you will miss.
  - Schedule a campus tour and attend an information session. Ask questions.

- Ask to speak with an admission counselor while you are on campus and ask any questions not answered during the tour/info session.
  - Ask the admissions office/visitors center to arrange a class visit while you are on campus as well.
14. Make use of the websites provided in your **College Information Guide** and on the **Hammond School College Counseling website** to explore scholarship opportunities. You will also want to call individual college/university financial aid offices and inquire about institutional scholarships. Check college/university websites as well. Additional scholarships are posted on the **Hammond School College Counseling website** as they come to our attention. Check the site often.
  15. If you plan to apply for financial aid, your family will need to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. The *FAFSA* cannot be completed/submitted prior to January 2008; however, in order to complete the *FAFSA*, you will need a federal PIN. PIN number applications can be made ahead of time at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).
  16. Some private institutions require families to complete the *CSS Profile* in order to be eligible for financial aid. Contact college financial aid offices, for details concerning specific school requirements. The *CSS Profile* is available at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  17. Included in this mailing is an excellent article recently published in the *Wall Street Journal* concerning financial aid and when it's worthwhile to apply.
  18. The *University of South Carolina* now allows students to check application status online at <https://as.sa.sc.edu>. The *College of Charleston* also encourages students to use its online application status check at <https://cougartrail.cofc.edu>.
  19. Remember: You must have test scores *officially submitted* to the colleges to which you are applying by College Board or ACT. Mrs. Bickley cannot do this for you. Rare is the college that will accept test scores from your high school.

## Mark Your Calendars

*Financial Aid Night for Senior Parents: Tuesday, November 27, 5:00, in the Lecture Hall.*