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**COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR**

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# Counseling Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counselor</th>
<th>Class of 2020 Counselor Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Holland</td>
<td>Director of Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Fichter</td>
<td>A – Brh</td>
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<td>630-468-4256</td>
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<td>Bri - Eis</td>
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<td>630-468-4253</td>
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<td>Eit – Jo</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ljarman@hinsdale86.org">ljarman@hinsdale86.org</a></td>
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<td>630-468-4260</td>
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<td>Jp – Mb</td>
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<td>630-468-4259</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Katie Kamhi</td>
<td>Mc - Par</td>
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<tr>
<td>630-468-4255</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellen Jacobson</td>
<td>Pas – Sha</td>
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<td>630-468-4258</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dickerson</td>
<td>Shb – Z</td>
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<tr>
<td>630-468-4254</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliza Cattani</td>
<td>Deaf &amp; Hard of Hearing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:ecattani@hinsdale86.org">ecattani@hinsdale86.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>630-468-4601</td>
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## College Planning Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exploration Phase</th>
<th>Application Phase</th>
<th>Decision Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When?</strong></td>
<td>Freshman – Junior Year</td>
<td>Senior Year August – December</td>
<td>Senior Year January 1 – May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What to do?</strong></td>
<td>“Explore” all of your college options.</td>
<td>“Apply” to the colleges of your choice.</td>
<td>“Decide” where you are going to attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tasks</strong></td>
<td>Learn about as many schools as you would like. It is ok to create a big list of 40-50 schools that you would like to learn more about during the exploration phase. The ultimate goal is for the student to know themselves (academically, personally, future goals), know their options (over 2000 four year schools), and begin to discern the best match.</td>
<td>During the summer before senior year, students should work to narrow the big list they created during the exploration phase into a smaller list of schools to which they will apply. It is reasonable to apply to 4-8 schools. Applying to two or three reach schools, two or three match schools, and at least one clear admit is appropriate. Parents should fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 of the student’s senior year.</td>
<td>Inquire with each college to determine whether there are any other financial aid forms that must be completed (CSS Profile, scholarship applications, etc.). You will receive admission decisions and financial aid award letters during this time. The earliest a college can ask a student to commit is May 1 of senior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources</strong></td>
<td>• Naviance</td>
<td>• Senior Seminar</td>
<td>• Office of Financial Aid Websites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• District 86 College Fair</td>
<td>• Application Mania</td>
<td>• Office of Admissions Websites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• College Rep Visits</td>
<td>• HSHS Writing Lab (essay revision)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Campus Visits</td>
<td>• fafsa.ed.gov</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Junior Planning Conference</td>
<td>• College Countdown’s Financial Fit Program</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Net Price Calculators</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• College Countdown’s Financial Fit Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### College Exploration Resources

**Feel Fit**
- Call Admissions Office
- 2. Call Admissions Office

**Academic Fit**
- Campus Visits
- 1. Campus Visits

**Financial Fit**
- 2. College Rep Visits

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### How to Access the Resource

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>How to Access</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Countdown</td>
<td>1. Register to receive a coupon code at <a href="http://www.collegecountdown.com/hinsdale">www.collegecountdown.com/hinsdale</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Fit Program</td>
<td>2. Purchase Financial Fit Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Fit Program</td>
<td>3. Enter the coupon code at checkout and receive the service for free (do not forget to click apply)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Fit Program</td>
<td>4. Log-in with the username and password: Your created password</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.connection.naviance.com/hinsdale">www.connection.naviance.com/hinsdale</a></td>
<td>5. Place your cursor over my tools and click financial fit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Guiding Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution?</th>
<th>How well do I match the college admissions profile (reach, match, clear admit)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program(s) I need (majors)?</td>
<td>Does the college have the academic programs I need (majors)?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you feel comfortable at the college?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do the mission and culture match what programs you are interested in?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the school offer experiences and programs I am interested in?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I match the academic profile (reach, match, clear admit)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do I anticipate academic success at this institution?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What can you afford to pay yearly as a family?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What are you willing to borrow to pay college costs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you used Net Price Calculators to estimate aid packages?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categories of Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flagship University</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-Flagship University</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Western Michigan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Traditional Private College</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: Augustana College, Beloit College, Illinois Wesleyan University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Undergraduate focus - the number of graduate students at a liberal arts college is low or zero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Baccalaureate degrees - most degrees awarded from a liberal arts college are four-year bachelor's degrees such as a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) or B.S. (Bachelor of Science)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Small size – All colleges in this category have fewer than 5,000 students, and most are in the 1,000 to 3,000 student range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Liberal arts curriculum – Traditional private colleges generally focus on broad skills in thinking and writing, not narrow pre-professional skills. Courses such as religion, philosophy, literature and sociology are often required of all students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Faculty focus on teaching - At a large university, professors are often evaluated for their research and publishing first, and teaching second. At most liberal arts colleges, teaching has the top priority.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Focus on community - Because of their small size, liberal arts colleges often highly value the interaction of faculty and students. The overall educational environment tends to be more intimate and personal than at larger universities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Residential - The majority of students at liberal arts colleges live at college and attend full time. You'll find far more commuter students and part-time students at public universities and community colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-Sized Private College</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: University of Dayton, Creighton University, Loyola University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highly Selective Private College</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: Yale, Stanford, Northwestern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community College</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examples: College of DuPage, Joliet Junior College, College of Lake County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Aid Overview

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as the FAFSA) is a form that should be prepared annually by current and prospective college students to determine their eligibility for student financial aid (including the Pell Grant, federal student loans and federal work study). The application is not for a single federal program, being rather the gateway of consideration for:

1. federal student-aid programs
2. state aid programs
3. most of the need based institutional aid available

The U.S. Department of Education accepts applications beginning October 1st of each year for the upcoming academic year. Families should submit a FAFSA as early as possible for consideration for maximum financial assistance. The FAFSA consists of a series of questions regarding a family’s assets and income. These are entered into a formula that determines the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). It is important to note that the EFC is not a family’s net price, nor is it an indication of affordability. The EFC is a number that colleges to use to assess eligibility for all need based aid programs. You can obtain an estimated EFC from https://fafsa.ed.gov/.

Net Price Calculators*


Federal law, as amended in 2011, requires that each postsecondary institution post a net price calculator on its website that uses institutional data to provide estimated net price information to prospective students and their families based on a family’s individual circumstances. The calculators allow families to calculate an estimated net price of attendance at an institution (defined as cost of attendance minus grant and scholarship aid) based on what similar students paid in a previous year. The government requires an institution’s net price calculator clearly present a student’s estimated individual net price. The definition of net price is the amount that a student pays to attend an institution in a single academic year after subtracting scholarships and grants – forms of financial aid that a student does not have to pay back. To be in full statutory compliance, an institution must provide a net price calculation that does not take loans into consideration.

Steps for Using Net Price Calculators

1. FAFSA Forecaster – https://fafsa.ed.gov
   Visit https://fafsa.ed.gov and secure an estimated EFC. Securing this number will allow you to save a lot of time when using Net Price Calculators.

2. Find the institution’s Net Price Calculator
   Families have two options when searching for a Net Price Calculator. First, you can search the institution’s website for their Net Price Calculator. Secondarily, College Countdown’s Financial Fit program (which HSHS families have free access to) has direct links to every college’s Net Price Calculator.

3. Record & Compare Results
There are many ways to find out about a college, from brochures to videos to college fairs. But the bottom line is that nothing beats the test of going to a college and seeing it for yourself. Here are some ideas to help you make the most of a campus visit.

**Before you go:**

**Call the admissions office in advance**
Just as there’s no substitute for seeing a college firsthand, there’s no substitute for advance planning.
When you call the admissions office, tell them the date you’d like to visit and the time of day you expect to arrive. If you want to stay overnight in a residence hall, ask if they can make arrangements. Also, find out about lining up an interview (if they offer them and you’d like one) or attending an information session, visiting classes and talking with faculty.

**Read up on the college and think about questions**
Go back through the information you’ve collected about the college. Check the resources at your school’s counseling office and browse the college’s Web site, if possible. The other side of this page has lists of questions to help you get started. As you think of other questions, write them down.

**While you are there:**

**Talk to as many students as you can**
Once you are on campus, try to take advantage of a variety of ways to learn about the college:
- Meet with an admissions officer or attend an information session
- Take a tour of the campus
- Sit in on a class
- Have a meal in the cafeteria
- Pick up copies of the student newspaper and alumni magazine.
- Throughout your visit, talk to as many students as you can and don’t be bashful about asking questions!

**Prepare for the interview**
If you have scheduled an interview, take along your list of questions, so you are sure to cover everything you wanted to find out. You’ll probably be asked about your academic background, interests, hobbies, goals and why you are interested in the college, so be ready to talk about that. As with any interview, be on time, or call ahead if you know you’ll be delayed.

**Take time to look around on your own**
Take some time to explore the campus on your own and absorb the atmosphere. While organized activities can give you information you can’t get on your own, the reverse is also true.
When you talk to students, ask . . .

1. How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?
2. Are faculty members interested in students and accessible outside of class?
3. Do many students go home on weekends?
4. Are the athletic facilities open to all students or only to athletes?
5. Is it possible to study in your dorm room?
6. Are campus jobs readily available?
7. Is the food good?
8. What is the library like as a place to study? To do research?
9. What do you like most about this college? Least?
10. If you could change something about this school, what would it be?
11. How easy is it to get the classes you want?

If you attend a class, ask yourself . . .

1. Are students prepared for the class? Do they seem interested in the material?
2. Do I feel that the students are learning—either new facts or new ways of thinking about a subject?
3. Is there time for questions and discussion? Do students participate?
4. Am I intellectually challenged by what is taking place in the class?
5. Is there good rapport between professors and students?

As you tour the campus, ask yourself . . .

1. Are the buildings in good repair? Are the grounds well-kept?
2. Are the residence halls pleasant and quiet enough to study in? Are there laundry and kitchen facilities?
3. What is the cafeteria like?
4. What is the surrounding town or city like?

In an interview or information session, you could ask . . .

1. Does the college have academic programs that fit my interests?
2. Will I have access to special equipment (such as an electron microscope) as a first-year student?
3. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the college’s advising system?
4. How many students will there be in courses I’m likely to take in my first year?
5. Are those courses taught by professors or graduate assistants?
6. What kinds of campus jobs are available for first-year students?
7. Will there be any new programs or facilities in the next two years?
8. What are the college’s recent graduates doing now?

After the visit

Write down your impressions

1. Were the people you met friendly? Did they answer your questions fully and candidly?
2. What do you think of the quality of instruction and the academic atmosphere?
3. Were the students the kind of people you’d like to get to know?
4. Did you like the social atmosphere?
5. Would you like to spend more time there?
About 150 College Admission Representatives visit Hinsdale South throughout the school year. These appointments are scheduled during the school day, and the meetings take place in the Counseling Office. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to receive first-hand information directly from universities. The College Rep Visit List is posted on the Counseling website, in the hallway outside of the Counseling Office, in the daily announcements, and on Naviance.

**SIGNING UP TO SEE A COLLEGE REP**

1. Review the list of Reps scheduled to visit Hinsdale South on the Counseling Website:

2. Students wishing to visit with a college rep should come to the Counseling Office and sign up with one of the Counseling Office Administrative Assistants. Students are issued passes, which need to be signed by the teacher whose class the student will be missing. Students must have this pass in order to attend the college visit. Without it, they will not be admitted to the meeting. Teachers may or may not excuse the student, depending on the student’s need to be in class based on their grade and the activity that will occur on that day. The College Rep visit will usually last about 30-45 minutes and the student’s pass will be validated before they return to class.
Steps of the College Application Process

1. Complete the Application Online
   a. Application Form - You must complete all material required for application and submit your application on or before the published deadlines. You should be the sole author of your applications.
   b. Essay or Personal Statement, if needed.
   c. Supplemental Information (resume, portfolio, etc.), if needed.
   d. Application Fee – paid online (see your counselor for a waiver if you receive Free or Reduced Lunch)

2. Transcript Request Form
   a. You must submit a transcript request form to your counselor EVERY time you apply to a school. There are no exceptions—your transcript cannot be transmitted to any institution without a completed Transcript Request Form. Transcript Request Forms are available in the Counseling Office.

3. Possible Supporting Documentation
   a. Secondary School Report/Counselor Form (if needed)
      The Secondary School Report is a form generated by some colleges that is completed by a student’s school counselor. It often asks counselors to comment on topics such as the rigor of the student’s schedule, after-school activities, and personal character. A counselor letter of recommendation is sometimes needed with this form as well.
   b. Teacher Recommendations (if needed)

Types of Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Restrictive Application Plans</th>
<th>Restrictive Application Plans</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Regular Decision</strong>: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time. Commitment: Non-binding</td>
<td><strong>Early Decision (ED)</strong>: Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. Commitment: Binding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rolling Admission</strong>: Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. Commitment: Non-binding</td>
<td><strong>Restrictive Early Action (REA)</strong>: Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm. Commitment: Non-Binding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early Action (EA)</strong>: Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution’s regular response date. Commitment: Non-binding</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Some highly selective colleges use variations of the specific types of application plans described above. It is important to research the rules any application plan you are using. Please see your counselor with any questions.**
Letters of Recommendation

- **Determine how many letters you need:** Research the applications of the colleges you are interested in. Some colleges require two letters of recommendation while some don’t require any.

**Common Application:** If you are using the Common Application, check on the Common Application website to see how many letters are required by each school you are applying to. Make sure that you request that teachers complete the Common Application Teacher Evaluation Form online when you ask for a letter.

- **Determine who to ask:** Choose adults in the school who know you the best. Think about which teachers, coaches, or sponsors know your personality as well as your talents and abilities.

- **Prepare Recommendation Information Sheet or Resume:** Forms are available on the Counseling website. Fill out one Recommendation Information Sheet form and make copies to give to each teacher – this is a general form that lists activities, awards, and other academic information. This form is a valuable resource to the teacher writing the letter of recommendation so put some time into them. The more information you can provide to the teacher, the better the letter can be.

- **Ask each teacher:** Ask politely and give the teacher plenty of time to write. **Allow a minimum of two weeks,** preferably longer, for the teacher to complete the letter. Remember that the teacher has a busy schedule and he/she is doing you a favor, so make sure you plan ahead. If the teacher says no, don’t take it personally. It doesn’t mean that the teacher doesn’t like you or doesn’t think that you are a quality candidate – it may be that they have too many other letters to write or don’t have time in their schedule. Thank them regardless and move on to another teacher. Remember, your recommendation letter is part of your confidential information and is not expected to be shared with you. Ask the teacher to give it directly to your counselor.

- **Thank the teacher:** Thank the teacher in person for their time spent. Also, it is a nice touch to show your gratitude by writing a thank you note.
College Application Essay Tips

- Read and answer the question asked. If you are re-using an essay from a different application, make sure your answer applies AND it does not reference another school!
- There is no right answer. Do not say what you think the colleges want to hear. Be yourself and share your own voice expressing only your opinions, values and passion.
- Do not rewrite what is already listed in your application in paragraph form. This is your chance to control what you say and share the non-academic portion of your application. Show what you can uniquely contribute to this campus as far as your character and convictions.
- Avoid slang, funny fonts, text abbreviations and misspellings!
- Follow directions. Do not write 500 words when the school asks for 250. If it says put ID # or name on top of the page, do it.
- Do not plagiarize or let your parents write your essay. The colleges know the websites that will write you an essay, and they can tell when your essay is written in your mom’s voice, not yours. Plagiarizing is academic fraud, it will get your application thrown out.
- You can tell a school why it is great, they like to hear that, BUT go one step further and say why this makes the school a good fit for you.
- Be careful with humor. It is hard to pull off, and you don’t know your audience.
- Use recent examples. It is best to focus on issues in high school. If you do share a significant experience from before high school, spend the most time focusing on how it affected you in recent years.
- Use the 1/3, 2/3 rule: If you are starting with an incident or person, give that 1/3, then make sure you move into 2/3 of how this made you who you are now.
- Be positive!

GETTING STARTED

- Start as early as possible. A good essay takes weeks, not days, to write. Value the writing process by completing several drafts and enlisting several readers.
- Organize essays according to due date, topic, and length.
  a. Complete them in order of major due dates.
  b. See where topics overlap and “reuse” parts. You can use an essay more than once!
  c. Longer essays can be daunting and well written and concise short answers can be difficult. Complete the ones you are most comfortable with first.
- Use active writing and power verbs: avoid passive sentences.
- Spell-check and proof read. (Spell-check does not always catch everything. An example being if the mistake is actually a word but not the right word i.e. write vs. right)
- Write in the first person, be proud of your accomplishments, and seize this opportunity to come alive on paper!
**Example Resume**

**Danny Darien**

**School Address**
7401 Clarendon Hills Road  
Darien, IL 60561  
(630) 468-4000  
[111111@hinsdale86.org](mailto:111111@hinsdale86.org)

**Home Address**
1 Hornet Lane  
Darien, IL 60561  
(630) 555-1212  
[ddarien@zipnet.com](mailto:ddarien@zipnet.com)

**Educational History**
2016 - present  
Hinsdale South High School, Darien, Illinois.  
Projected date of graduation: June, 2020  
CEEB 141-428

**Academic and Career Interests**
I plan to major in audio and sound production technology, with a minor in music therapy. My goal is to establish a retreat/recovery spa for rock stars and their families.

**Academic and Research Experience**
2014 - 2015  
Research Mentorship: Study of blood toxicology at the University of Chicago Hospital with Dr. Edward Chomp.

2016 - 2017  
Inquiry project: The effect of music on body relaxation.

2016  
Concordia Language Summer Program – 4 week immersion experience in Arabic language and culture.

**Activities and Honors**
2016 - present  
Scholastic Bowl

2016 - present  
Math Team - Second Place, Sectionals (2015)

2016 - present  
Madrigals Choir

2016 - present  
Junior Varsity Golf - Most Improved Player (2014)

2016 - present  
Junior Varsity Basketball – **Defensive Intimidator Award** (2015)

2016 - present  
The Stinger - HSHS’ student newspaper – Music Review Editor

2016 - 2017  
Illinois Music Educator’s Association - 1st place, Irish Harp

2017  
National High School Model United Nations

2016 - 2017  
Diversion – South’s hip-hop dance club

2016 - present  
Gymnastics Team (State Champions)

**Work and Volunteer Experience**
2016 - present  
Hinsdale Hospital Work Service  

2016 - present  
Habitat for Humanity

Summer 2017  
The **Wild Hare, Singing Armadillo Cantina** – assistant chef

**Other Interests and Hobbies**
I enjoy reading mysteries and historical biographies. I spend my free time either cooking or playing ultimate frisbee with my friends.
Decision Phase Timeline:
1. File the FAFSA after October 1st of senior year
2. List all the colleges to which you apply on the FAFSA
3. Complete all supplemental financial aid forms that the colleges’ request (Example: CSS Profile)
4. Await your official financial aid award letters, which should be received in March or April
5. Analyze your award letters to compare the net price of one school vs. other schools
6. Make your final college decision by May 1st

Award letters will list three very important items:
1. **The Cost of Attendance** (sticker price) should include tuition and fees, room and board, transportation, books and supplies, and personal expenses.
2. **Grants and Scholarships** (free money or gift aid) offered should be subtracted from the total cost of attendance.
3. **Net Price** is the out of pocket cost of college when gift aid is subtracted from total estimated cost of attendance (sticker price). Many colleges will include loans or campus employment in their aid package. If you decide to also include work and loans; all students are eligible to borrow $5500 in freshmen year and most industrious students can work on a college campus and earn anywhere from $1000 to $4000 per year in a campus job. Use net prices to compare costs between colleges.

**EXAMPLE FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>TOTAL:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant</td>
<td>$5550</td>
<td>$5550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal SEOG Grant</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois MAP Grant</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Presidential Scholarship (Academic)</td>
<td>$4000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Need-based Grant</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Work Study</strong></td>
<td>$1850</td>
<td>$1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Direct Stafford Loan (subsidized)</td>
<td>$2500</td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan (subsidized)</td>
<td>$1000</td>
<td>$1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal PLUS Loan</td>
<td>$7150</td>
<td>$7150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL AWARD:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19800.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$19800.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Gift Aid: $9150
Total Loan Eligibility: $10650

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost of Attendance</td>
<td>$28000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Gift Aid</td>
<td>-$9150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cost</td>
<td>$18850</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students applying to college have the right to certain information about colleges and universities, and about how much it costs to go to college. The U.S. government requires that colleges and universities provide prospective students with the following information. Most colleges and universities post this information on their web sites. In addition, campuses are required to dedicate at least one staff member as a “customer service” information provider. College admission offices will be able to direct you to that staff member to answer your questions. You should seek the assistance of your high school counselor early and throughout the application period. Follow the process recommended by your high school for filing college applications.

When You Are Offered Admission:

- You have the right to wait until May 1 to respond to an offer of admission and/or financial aid.
- Colleges that request commitments to offers of admission and/or financial assistance prior to May 1 must clearly offer you the opportunity to request (in writing) an extension until May 1. They must grant you this extension and your request may not jeopardize your status for admission and/or financial aid.
- Candidates admitted under early decision programs are a recognized exception to the May 1 deadline. If you are accepted under an early decision plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications. If you are an early decision candidate and are seeking financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial aid.
- You must notify each college or university that accepts you whether you are accepting or rejecting its offer. You should make these notifications as soon as you have made a final decision as to the college you wish to attend, but no later than May 1. It is understood that May 1 will be the postmark date.
- You may confirm your intention to enroll and, if required, submit a deposit to only one college or university. The exception to this arises if you are put on a wait list by a college or university and are later admitted to that institution. You may accept the offer and send a deposit. However, you must immediately notify a college or university at which you previously indicated your intention to enroll.

If You Are Placed on a Wait/Alternate List:

- The letter that notifies you of that placement should provide a history that describes the number of students on the wait list, the number offered admission, and the availability of financial aid and housing.
- Colleges may require neither a deposit nor a written commitment as a condition of remaining on a wait list.
- Colleges are expected to notify you of the resolution of your wait list status by August 1 at the latest.
Colleges Must Provide:

Academic Information:
- The academic program of the institution, including degrees, programs of study, and facilities.
- A list of faculty and other instructional personnel.
- A report on completion or graduation rates at the college.
- At schools that typically prepare students for transfer to a four-year college, such as a community college, information about the transfer out rate.

Financial Aid Information:
- The types of financial aid, including federal, state and local government, need-based and non-need based, and private scholarships and awards.
- The methods by which a school determines eligibility for financial aid; how and when the aid is distributed.
- Terms and conditions of campus employment, if financial aid is delivered through a work-study aid program.

Campus Security Information:
- The number and types of crime reported on and around campus*.
- The school’s drug offense policy, as well as descriptions of the school’s drug awareness and drug use prevention programs.

**February**

- **Naviance**
  Begin your college planning process by accessing Naviance online and searching for schools that are an academic fit. We recommend building a large list of schools that you want to learn more about (20-30 schools).
  - [https://student.naviance.com/hshsil](https://student.naviance.com/hshsil)
  - Username: ID#@hinsdale86.org
  - Password: Your created password

- **STANDARDIZED TESTING – SAT and ACT**
  We recommend that students take the SAT on a National Test Date in May or June, in addition to the free SAT test that students are required to take in April. The state pays for the SAT in April, but families will need to register and pay for the National Test Dates on their own. Please see your student’s counselor for a fee waiver if your student participates in the free or reduced lunch program. Register for SAT exams online at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). Students considering the most selective colleges may need to take 2 or 3 SAT Subject Tests. (ACT exams are optional).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAT Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 9, 2019</td>
<td>February 8, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9, 2019*</td>
<td>Free SAT during the school day, no registration required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 4, 2019</td>
<td>April 5, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1, 2019</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 13, 2019</td>
<td>March 8, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8, 2019 (at Hinsdale South)</td>
<td>May 3, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES, WORK**
  Continue the activities you enjoy, and consider taking on a leadership role. Joining everything in sight isn’t the answer. Selective colleges are looking for sustained interest and involvement, and demonstrated leadership.

- **EMAIL**
  Students should get in the habit of checking their school email account. You will receive important communications this way.

- **COLLEGE BOARD EXAMS**
  Register for AP exams and SAT II (Subject) tests to be taken in May, if appropriate.
March

✓ JUNIOR PLANNING CONFERENCES
   Attend your individual Junior Planning Conference as scheduled with your counselor in February, March or April. Bring your college possibility lists.

✓ SPRING BREAK COLLEGE VISITS
   Consider visiting colleges during spring break.

April

✓ DISTRICT 86 COLLEGE NIGHT
   Attend District 86 College Night—April 24th, 2019, at 6:00 pm in the Hinsdale Central. Prepare and bring mailing labels to save yourself some time. Check our Counseling Website to see which colleges are attending and plan your strategy for the evening.

✓ NARROW YOUR COLLEGE LIST
   Visit colleges, read college information, review information online, and start refining your college list of your top 15-20 choices. Remember to have stretch/reach schools, probable/match schools, and at least one clear admit.

May / June

✓ CAMPUS VISITS
   Plan on visiting several schools of your choice over summer vacation. Follow up with thank you notes as needed after any interviews. Take college road trips with your parents and your friends! The best time to check out a campus is when school is in session, but tours and interviews can be arranged any time. Always call the office of admission to verify visit times.

✓ COLLEGE ADMISSION ESSAYS
   Look up the essay prompts at some of your favorite schools, and consider beginning a draft of your personal statement.
**Senior Year**

**Late Summer**

- **KEEP RESEARCHING**
  Don’t stop investigating after you’ve found one or two good matches. You should have a final list of 5-8 colleges that you would like to apply to in the fall.

- **NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER**
  Athletes considering NCAA Division I or Division II athletics should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. See Mr. Dickerson in the counseling office with any questions about NCAA Eligibility.
  
  - [www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org/](http://www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org/)

- **SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST**
  Watch the mail for your senior scholarship check list. Complete and return to the Counseling Office.

- **RESUME**
  Start to prepare your Recommendation Information Sheet if you plan on requesting letters of recommendation.

**September**

- **SENIOR SEMINARS**
  All senior students meet with their counselor in early September to conduct Senior Seminars. At this meeting, your counselor will recap topics covered during your Junior Planning Conference and kick off the college application process with you. It helps if you share with them where you are planning to apply and how you are keeping track of admission requirements. Be sure to process all applications through your counselor. All colleges will require your official transcripts, so you must use the official transcript request form which is available in the counseling office.

- **COLLEGE APPLICATIONS**
  Begin submitting college applications online in early September. Remember, you must submit a completed transcript request form to your counselor for every college that you apply to. This is the only way that your transcript will be sent to the colleges of your choice. Request recommendation letters only if the schools you are applying to require letters of recommendation. Provide the writer with a recommendation information sheet or your resume. Give the writer everything they will need to complete the best letter, including any required forms. *The Common Application* requires the use of their forms, such as the Teacher Evaluation.

- **OFFICIAL TEST SCORES**
  Send official test scores from ACT or SAT directly to the colleges that you apply to.

- **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
October

- COLUMBUS DAY – CAMPUS VISIT
  You have Columbus Day off from classes—plan to take a trip to visit a campus during that long weekend.

- FINANCIAL AID NIGHT
  Attend Hinsdale South’s Financial Aid Night.

- APPLICATION MANIA
  Attend Application Mania events with all of your “almost-finished” and “not even started yet” applications. This is an event where counselors are available to answer all questions related to the college application process. Laptops and printers will be available for use. Keep in mind that it is ideal to submit applications to four year universities before Halloween.

- FAFSA - FINANCIAL AID FORMS
  The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, called FAFSA, can be filed online any time after October 1st of senior year at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

November/December

- JANUARY DEADLINES
  IMPORTANT: Applications with January deadlines MUST be given to your counselor by the end of the second week in December. Hinsdale South’s operations are closed over winter break, so you must submit your requests at least one week prior to the beginning of break to ensure that they are processed before the school is shut down.

January

- PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIPS
  Scholarship information is available on the Counseling Website under the link titled “Scholarship List”.

February / March

- 7th SEMESTER TRANSCRIPTS
  Request that your counselor send in your mid-year (7th semester) grades, if needed.

- SPRING BREAK – CAMPUS VISITS
  Revisit colleges where you have been accepted to make comparisons.

- CONSULT YOUR COUNSELOR
  Upon receiving a college decision (acceptance, wait list, defer, denial), notify your counselor. (Counselors will only know this if you share the news—they are not notified automatically.) If you are placed on a wait list, or told that you are deferred, be patient. You should receive a decision by May.
April / May

✓ FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS
Compare awards and official net prices from different colleges with your parents. If possible, visit your final college choice before accepting.

✓ MAY 1 DEADLINE
Finalize plans with the college you will attend; send in deposits and final notifications by May 1st at the earliest. It is appropriate to begin exploring housing options, and other details related to enrollment. Notify the colleges that you definitely will not attend to open your spot for someone else. If you remain undecided, see your counselor for help. Attend all orientation programs. There are usually college placement exams that you will need to schedule. Attend college orientation programs and college placement testing sessions as scheduled.

✓ SENIOR EXIT INTERVIEWS
Counselors meet individually with every senior student in mid-May to conduct Senior Exit Interviews. You will be asked to confirm your final college choice so that your final high school transcript will be sent to the appropriate institution. NCAA Division I or II athletes should also request that their final transcript be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center.