

DE COLLEGIO

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PLEASE, MISTER POSTMAN

I have spent many hours at the computer, revising recommendations submitting them with transcripts, and sending countless e-mails to colleges, families, teachers and tech support. So far, we have sent out 107 transcripts and recommendations for 36 students to 74 different colleges (including those to Rutgers that do not accept transcripts and recommendations) by November 1 –even those who missed my October 6 deadline. This is more than double the requests from last year!

Please note that in Naviance’s current form, I have to manually update the details of what was sent, so if you “view detailed status” you may not see the details right away, but so long as it “initial materials sent” for a college, then you are all set from my end.

You may get notification from a college that they are “missing” information, even though you can see that I sent it, but keep in mind that it takes time to process thousands of applications and to update their databases and websites accordingly. I will be happy to contact the colleges if you receive such a notice and have concerns.

I know that there are many more November 10 through December 20 transcript requests awaiting me in Naviance, and I am working diligently

on those. But there are still some seniors who have not worked with me at all this fall. That said, I am pleased with the quality of the applications I have seen so far and hope that colleges feel the same way. Now let’s start hearing from the rest of you!!!

This is the time of year when rolling decision letters start returning. Some of you may have already received decision letters. If so, please forward me copies of those decisions whether the news is good or not so good. While I hope that you receive an acceptance, you might receive a deferral, wait list or rejection letter. If this is the case, please see me and we can talk about what course of action we should take, if any.

No matter what news your letter brings – good, bad or ugly – please update Naviance and bring a copy of your letter to me, for my files. It is important that I keep track of what students are accepted or not accepted to which colleges.

That said, I would like to congratulate Devon Brewster, Jake Epstein and Caitlin Miller on being the first among the seniors to report a college acceptance!

DON'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW

In October's *De Collegio*, I mentioned that I was trying to hammer out a time and date for a Financial Aid Night. As you should have seen, I am pleased to report that we will host Financial Aid Night on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00 in the Wrestling/Dance Room.

Joan Hock, Director of Financial Aid at Delaware Valley University, will provide an overview of the financial aid process and answer any questions you might have about this key aspect of the college search.

Some of the topics will include how to apply for financial aid, different types and sources of Aid, Estimated Family Contribution, Financial Aid philosophies and more.

OEDIPUS RECS

I have spoken with some teachers who have told me that some students have requested recommendations but not provided anything to assist them in writing recommendations (e.g. report cards, activities resumes). Most recommendations will go electronically through Naviance, and I will handle mailing those that aren't. Help your teachers help you by giving them as much information you can and *at least a month before it is due at the college.*

ALL'S FAIR...

College fairs are a good way to re-iterate interest in specific colleges, or you can use them to explore colleges if you are still undecided. We brought a

van full of students to the Bucks County College Fair and plan to bring more to the Philadelphia National College Fair on November 12. Additionally, we will once again will be hosting a joint college fair with George School in the spring.

Additionally, there will be a few more college fairs in the general area, the last fairs before March. They are:

National Portfolio Day
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA
Sun., Nov. 5, 12:00-4:00

Historically Black Colleges & Universities
Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Road
West Windsor, NJ
Sun., Nov. 12, 12:00-3:00

(This is the nearest of the HBCU fairs, but others in the general area can be found at <http://www.hbcu-cfnj.com/events>)

THIS IS ONLY A TEST

Many of you took advantage of the SATs on October 7 and/or plan to take it on November 4. There is also one more test date for the fall – Dec. 2.

Also, the ACT will be offered on Dec. 9. Many Midwestern and Western colleges prefer the ACT. This test has English, Math, Scientific Reasoning and Reading sections, with writing optional. Some schools also accept the ACT in lieu of SAT Subject Tests. Please check the policies of the schools to which you may apply.

I have practice information for both tests (as well as SAT Subject Tests) in my office. You can register online at www.collegeboard.org for the SAT or www.actstudent.org for the ACT.

(INSERT JEOPARDY! THEME SONG)

More deadlines are approaching, including one in the first week of this month. Mark your calendar with these important dates:

Nov. 2: Deadline to register for the December 2 SAT. Solebury will provide transportation for boarders only to Central Bucks High School South (Warrington, PA).

Nov. 3: Deadline to register for the December 9 ACT. Solebury will provide transportation for boarders only to Council Rock North HS (Newtown, PA).

Nov. 16: Deadline to submit transcript requests (through Naviance!) for applications with a Dec. 21-January 5 due date.

Nov. 17: Deadline for boarders to request transportation for the December 2 SAT (through Naviance!).

December 1: Deadline to submit transcript requests (through Naviance!) for applications with a January 6-31 due date.

Some of you have gotten a little lax about meeting these deadlines. Remember, given the volume of applications and care with which I look over them, it might take me up to 3 weeks (or longer!) to review, prepare and send out everything for your application. If you do not meet these

deadlines, I cannot guarantee meeting the college-imposed deadlines. I have been working late hours for all of October to get them in on time, so a little timeliness is greatly appreciated.

That said, for those of you who met the October 6 deadline that I set for any application due in early-mid November (and even those that were a little late), I have been able to send all of the transcripts with Nov. 1 deadlines (and most rolling admissions) out. I will be working on those due mid-to-late November and early December next. I will also send out updated grades and test scores at the end of the trimester, unless you tell me otherwise.

COLLEGES IN THE HOUSE

Occasionally students have signed up to meet with college representatives but do not attend the meetings. Please exercise some responsibility and let me know if you are unable to attend a meeting for which you have signed up. I have made great efforts to continue to increase college visits (they have nearly tripled since the year before I got here). When students don't show up, it makes Solebury look bad. This tells colleges that we are not interested in them, and the likelihood of our students being accepted lessens.

All of those students who *do* attend the meetings have made a favorable impression on our college representatives. I would like to thank all of those students who have been proper representatives. However, I do want to remind you of the policy of signing up at least 3 days in advance and getting a pass signed by both me and your teacher if you have to miss

class. Too many students show up the day before or even the morning of the visit asking to attend the meeting. And at that point most teachers won't let them out of class. If you have a free period, *you still must sign up in advance.*

The following colleges are planning to visit in November:

School of Visual Arts (NY): Wed., Nov. 1, 9:00
Landmark College (VT): Thu., Nov. 2, 8:30
Bryant University (RI): Thu., Nov. 2, 10:00
Elon University (RI): Thu., Nov. 2, 11:00
Juniata College (PA): Fri., Nov. 3, 11:15
Drew University (NJ): Fri., Nov. 3, 12:00
Maine College of Art: Mon., Nov. 6, 12:15
Manor College (PA): Wed., Nov. 8, 10:00
High Point University (NC): Thu., Nov. 9, 1:00
Hampshire College (MA): Mon., 11/13, 3:00

This list is subject to change so be sure to check my weekly e-mails and Naviance!

COLLEGES IN THE AREA

The following colleges have contacted me about presentations in the general vicinity:

Pratt Institute
Saturday, November 4, 10:00-6:00
Sonesta Philadelphia Downtown
Rittenhouse Square

1800 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA

Savannah College of Art & Design
Saturday., Nov. 18, 10:00 a.m.
Independence Visitor Center
1 N. Independence Mall W.
Philadelphia, PA

Johnson & Wales University
Sun., Dec. 3, 2:00
Crowne Plaza
260 Mall Blvd
King of Prussia, PA

OPEN SEASON

Many colleges host open houses in the fall, too many to list. This is a great chance to meet with professors in your intended major, talk with coaches and representatives of different activities, and get a sense of campus life. I would recommend attending an open house for any college to which you applying. In some cases, though, you may want to make this visit in the spring when colleges often hold a "Preview Day" for accepted students, which is very similar to a fall Open House, as a way of making your final decision.

THE LAST WORD

Break a leg, all who are involved with *The Hollow* this weekend!



- Tim

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College Guidance Office, 1st Floor, Carriage House
<http://www.solebury.org/academics/college-counseling/index.aspx>

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