

AVID Seniors Class of 2020!

College Application Items “To Do List” Before School Starts

- 1) **Complete the “Senior Packet”** for your guidance counselor. You can find the “Senior Packet” on your senior class Google Classroom page. Get this done before school starts!!! Don’t worry about having all the information on it be perfect. The most important thing is you just complete it and get to your counselor as soon as possible. You can’t get your transcripts and counselor recommendations completed until you submit your “Senior Packet.”
- 2) **Complete the “AVID College Questionnaire”** (see attached). If you already did this and submitted it to your AVID teacher, then you don’t need to do it again (unless you want to update it). Bring this questionnaire completed to our first AVID class when school starts. This questionnaire will be useful for your AVID teacher and you to figure out what colleges are good matches for you.
- 3) **Create a list of colleges** you are interested in. Have at least 15 colleges on your list. This is just a list of colleges you’re interested in (it doesn’t mean you have to apply to that college; that’s something we’ll work on figuring out when you start school). Use “family connection,” bigfuture.collegeboard.com, and other websites to help you do some research to find colleges. When you have this list completed, share it with Mr. Welch in Google Docs at ewelch@fcpschools.net.
- 4) **Write a solid draft for your college application essay for the Common App (keep working on this)**. Answer one of the essay questions on the “Common Application” (see commonapp.org). Get this done over the summer!!! Admissions counselors we have met say that the essay can be the most important part of the application and can make the difference in getting accepted. Share your draft essay with Mr. Welch in Google Docs at ewelch@fcpschools.net.
- 5) **Talk to your parents about finances for college and get your parents 2018 Tax Forms and other records**. These financial pieces of information are absolutely crucial and you must talk about this with your parents. You need to figure out how much money do you and your family have to pay for college? This may be a tough conversation to have but you MUST begin to talking to your parents if you have not started. You need the **2018 tax forms** (the one filled out this past spring) and the income information on those tax forms from your parents. You will need this information to complete the FAFSA form (which you will complete and submit in October). ***Note: Don’t freak out!!! The income information is needed so you can get the money you deserve for financial aid. This income information is confidential and will only be shared with the college financial aid office. Let your parents know you need this information to be eligible for scholarships which you deserve. By putting together this financial information, you will be able to get financial aid for college, which you want!!! (If you are undocumented, you will still need this income information to complete other forms for scholarships.)
- 6) **Plan visits to the colleges you are interested in**. You need to plan to visit colleges you want to attend. This is so you can tell if this really is the right college for you. Also, visiting the college will also help with your application as it will show the admissions reps you are interested in the college. You should consider when in the summer or fall you can visit colleges. Look ahead at the school calendar for dates that may be good for you to do a college visit (keep in mind, visiting a college can be an “excused absence” from school). To plan visits, go to the college’s admissions website and click on info for visiting the college. You can consider visiting the college during one of their prospective students’ events/weekends, or you can go on a day that suits your schedule. Obviously, many of these colleges are away and you will have to consider travel arrangements (talk to your parents and friends about coordinating a trip). Feel free to contact Mr. Welch (ewelch@fcps.edu) and Ms. Grande (agrande@fcps.edu) if you need help in planning a trip and figuring out how to visit a college. Also, some colleges have programs to help students visit the college, which can include paying for travel and accommodations. Look for these programs on the college’s website. Again, if you need help applying to one of these college visit programs, contact Mr. Welch.

Mr. Welch’s contact info: ewelch@fcps.edu; cell number: 703-980-5852