Excerpt continued…*College Admission from Application to Acceptance, Step by Step* by Robin Mamlet and Christine Vandevelde

“9 Things Admission Officers Look for in an Application

5. Intellectual vitality. Defining this characteristic is tricky, but admissions officers cite it constantly. If a spark of the bright mind comes out in your essays, if your activities seem to suggest that you are looking for academic adventures, or your recommendations speak of your eager and creative contributions to the classroom, these all hint at intellectual lift. Do you seem like someone who would add life to a study group or be a great lab partner? Do you appear to enjoy conversations of substance? Much of college is spent in those environments, so admissions folks are on the hunt for students who demonstrate this hard-to-define, but I-know-it-when-I-see-it character trait.

6. Emotional maturity. Making good choices, taking personal responsibility, having a goal in your life and having some idea how to achieve it—all of these are signs of your emotional maturity: that you’re thinking and acting more like a college student than a high school student. The admissions officer is trying to imagine how you’ll fit into their first-year class (and beyond). Help them out by showing your (soon-to-be-in) college side.”

Parents of 10th, 11th and 12th graders:

The window to apply for NHS and CSF is January 7 – January 18, 2019. The application forms will be available in the College and Career Center beginning January 7. The forms are also available online at: [http://bdhsmultimedia.org/application-forms.html](http://bdhsmultimedia.org/application-forms.html).

In order to complete the CSF and NHS applications students will need a copy of their Semester One grades, which won’t be available in PCR until Christmas vacation. Please mark your calendar for the CSF and NHS application window in January. If you have questions, contact Mrs. Carpenter.
Each semester, NHS students are required to fulfill 2 hours of Bishop Peer-Tutoring. Hours can be counted toward students' Christian Service Hours and are to be signed-off by Ms. Anderson.

Parents of 10th and 11th graders:

Please join us for the Scores Back Event on Monday, January 7 at 5:00pm. At this event, we will review PSAT scores and Mock ACT scores in context of college admission standards and whether or not test prep is warranted for your individual student. Meeting location: Library.

Parents of 11th graders:

Please join us for the College Information Session planned on Monday, January 7 at 6:00pm in the Library. Agenda includes a discussion on the application process/standards for the UC system, the CSU system, and broad discussion of how to apply to liberal arts colleges.

Junior College Planning Curriculum and Activities:

We have been hosting college planning sessions with juniors on Thursdays during Family Homeroom all year. Here is what we’ve been up to:

- In August, every junior was given a binder with a cover titled COLLEGE SEMINAR.
- The binders stay in the classroom until April 18. After this date, students will be instructed to bring home the binder to share with parents.

What’s in the binder?
- Tips on building a college list
- Tips on campus visits
- The elements of the college application with specific focus on UCs, CSUs and Private colleges
- Tips on writing the college essays
- Information about SAT & ACT exams
- Information about the Financial Aid Process
- Helpful websites
What have we covered so far as a group?
• Myths about College Admission
• How to find a college that is a personal match
• Logging into SCOIR for College Research
• How to use YouScience for aptitude assessment and career exploration
• Research University vs. Liberal Arts College
• Students have been asked to get going on their personal/academic resumes. A template is in their binder. I encourage students to start gathering information about their awards, achievements, work experience, and extra-curricular experience to enter into the resume. The resume will be used for college applications.

What is coming second semester?
• How students build a list of five “match” or “target” schools. I call this the “First Five” list.
• Basic college entrance requirements and what colleges are seeking in candidates
• The importance of a rigorous, academic year in 12th grade
• The elements of college applications
• How and when to request transcripts
• How and when to request letters of recommendation
• Private College application essays and UC Personal Insight Questions training

Juniors are encouraged to begin touring colleges if possible. It is recommended that students sign up for an official tour through each College Admissions webpage. Try to tour when the college is in session, but when Bishop is not. For example, during Easter Vacation, is there a college you can visit that will be in session that week?

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