

CLASS OF 2023

COLLEGE COUNSELING SUMMER ASSIGNMENT – DUE AUGUST 17

1. **AP English Summer Reading** Read & be prepared to discuss *Hamnet: A Novel of the Plague* by Maggie O'Farrell.
2. **Develop & Research College List** *An electronic copy is due to Ms. Christiansen by Aug 17.*
 - **Conduct your college search in earnest this summer.** Attend virtual sessions, visit campus if possible, schedule official tours & info sessions, spend time on college websites, learn about programs, talk to students & thoroughly research your colleges (use the *Fiske Guide to Colleges*). Helpful websites include:
<http://www.unigo.com/colleges> <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search> <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
<http://www.youvisit.com/search> <https://colleges.niche.com/> <https://www.campusreel.org/> *College Match on Naviance*
 - **Guidelines for your College List:**
 - 8-12 schools, spread across the 3 categories of selectivity: Likely, Target, & Reach. More than 8-12 is okay for now, but the goal is to narrow your list to no more than 10 apps this fall.
 - In most cases, categories are based on a comparison of your academic profile – grades & test scores with the profile of the recently admitted first-year class. The most selective schools with admit rates under 15% will ***always*** be considered Reach schools, no matter how strong the applicant.
 - Include ***at least*** 2 Likely schools, 2-3 Target schools, and 2-3 Reach schools on your list.
 - Fall in love with your list. Make sure that you can see yourself at EVERY college on your list.
 - **Include the following information for each school on your list. Submit as a google doc, spreadsheet, or word doc electronically. Use the KS application tracker shared by Ms. C to organize your research.**
 - Indicate college, application plan, & corresponding deadline. (ED/REA/EA/RD)
 - Explain why you have chosen each school. Do your research and be specific! Your rationale must be more than location or reputation. The research you do over the summer will help finalize your list & prepare for the “why us?” supplement or interview question. You're not locked into this list – you should continue to investigate schools, talk to admission counselors and current students, and you may end up adding/dropping schools from your list.
 - Make note of interview options, deadline to request an interview, and process at each school.
 - Talk to your parents about completing net price calculators. Include a TX public option to compare costs.
 - Identify merit scholarships at the colleges where you intend to apply, along with deadlines & special requirements for any scholarship opportunities.
3. **Write your college essay.** This essay will be graded and will constitute your first grade in AP English Literature. Refer to our essay brown bag slides & handouts. Select a prompt from Common App. You can share drafts over the summer to receive feedback before it is due. Email the final version to Mrs. Hall and Ms. C by Aug 17 to be graded.
4. **Final Resume** Update the resume you worked on this spring to include summer activities and any new awards. Don't forget to add senior year activities that you plan to continue.
5. **Counselor Letter Questionnaire in Naviance** Complete the counselor letter questionnaire in Naviance. The more information you share with me, the better. Save your work as you go to avoid losing responses or complete in a word doc and cut/paste into Naviance.
6. **Ask 2 teachers who have taught you in 11th or 12th to write a recommendation letter** Ask your teachers, “Are you willing to write a positive letter of recommendation for me?” Complete & share the teacher rec questionnaire emailed this spring. Follow up with your resume.