

# THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



# WHY IN GIFTED SERVICES?



**CASELOAD OF COUNSELORS**



**NATURE OF GIFTED  
STUDENTS**



**COMPETITIVE  
APPLICATIONS**

**CONTEXT –  
STARTS IN  
FRESHMAN  
YEAR**

**Grades, Test Scores,  
Course Selection**

**Extracurriculars that  
reflect student**

**Don't assume a 36 will get  
you in everywhere**

# **OVERVIEW**

**English AP/Honors  
Classes**

**Essay just one piece of  
the application**

# APPLICATION

THE COMMON  
APPLICATION

- **Application**
- **Essay**
- **Transcript/Test Scores**
- **Letters of Recommendation**

# KNOW THE REQUIREMENTS



**PLAN AHEAD –  
7<sup>TH</sup> CLASS**



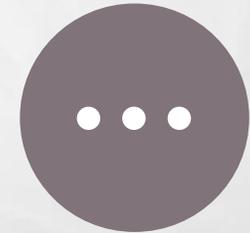
**UNDERSTAND  
WHAT THE  
ADMISSIONS  
OFFICE IS  
REQUESTING**



**MAKE EVERY  
INTERACTION  
PROFESSIONAL**



**DEADLINES ARE  
REAL...EVEN TWO  
MINUTES IS LATE**



**PROOFREAD  
EVERYTHING...AND  
AGAIN**

# REC LETTER ETIQUETTE



- **TEACHERS NEED (AND DESERVE):**
  - **COURTESY**
  - **PLENTY OF LEAD TIME**
  - **SUPPLIES (ENVELOPES, INSTRUCTIONS ETC.)**
  - **SPEND A MOMENT CHATTING**
  - **SOME TEACHERS MAY ASK YOU TO FILL OUT A QUESTIONNAIRE TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR LETTER OR ASK FOR A RESUMÉ**
  - **HEARTFELT/AUTHENTIC THANK YOU – HANDWRITTEN NOTE**

**WHAT DO  
COLLEGES  
WANT?**

**STUDENTS  
WHO...**

**--will be successful**

**--will contribute to campus**

**--will be part of a well-rounded  
freshman class – NOT a well-rounded  
student**

**DO "YOU" !**

**Be**

**YOU need to be in charge of the process – NOT your parents**



**Know**

**Know who you are –  
BE AUTHENTIC**



**Embrace**

**Embrace your "learning opportunities" a.k.a. failures**

# **“THE TRUTH IS....**

**Most essays are typical. Many are boring. Some are just plain bad. But occasionally one will make an admissions officer tear down the hallway to find a colleague to whom she can say, “You have to read what this Math Olympiad girl said about *Hamlet*” (Toor, 2017, NYT, p. 11).**

**Please...NOT another “Mission Trip Essay”**



# QUESTIONS?



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