



# AuSable Valley Middle-High School

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**PATRIOTS**

**COUNSELING OFFICE**

**PATRIOTS**

**To: SENIORS & PARENT/GUARDIAN**  
**From: Mr. Rogers**  
**Date: September 1, 2016**

Below is a list of pertinent information that you will need for the school year. **Please take time to read this through... there is something in here for everyone.** If you have any questions regarding any of this information please don't hesitate to see me in my office.

**College Entrance Exam Dates (SAT/ACT) – See attached information sheet and also listed on website**

**SENIOR CONFERENCES:** Senior conferences are now being scheduled. Please schedule your conference as soon as possible with Mr. Rogers.

**TIPS FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND:** BE A SECONDARY SCHOOL "GIVER" - a student who gives back to his/her community and his/her school. Examples: officers of student organizations, chairpersons of a working committee for a student organization, volunteering in your community. **The secondary school "giver" scores big points with the college admissions committee.** Be a "risk taker" especially with rigorous academic courses. An admissions committee will be very interested in what you are taking in your senior year as well as your grades in 9-11. Take challenging courses whenever you can.

**COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY, DON'T WAIT.** Please be aware of application deadlines. If you are applying early it is crucial you give yourself enough time to get all of the application pieces together and sent out. If you have questions about deadlines please see Mr. Rogers

The overwhelming majority of college applications are done online, either by the Common Application, SUNY online application or the Colleges own online application. Paper applications are still available if needed. Please see Mr. Rogers if submitting paper applications.

Here are a few Do's and Don'ts when you fill out your applications:

- **Do** create user names, PIN numbers and passwords that you'll remember easily. Write them down and keep them in a safe place
- **Don't** treat an online application casually – it's an important document that is a reflection of you. So never use "email-ese" as if you were instant messaging.
- **Don't** be too quick to click. Take your time, follow all directions and complete each step with care. Scroll each page from top to bottom and read every pop-up to be sure you don't miss any information.
- **Don't** forget to periodically save your work. You might get "timed out" if you don't enter anything for a while (usually 30 minutes). If you need to take a break, use the save/log-out feature to store your application, then log back in.
- **Don't** compose your essay or personal statement in the space allotted online. Draft (and redraft) these separately in a word-processing application, such as Microsoft Word, then copy and paste the final draft into the online application.
- **Do** print and save a hard copy of the completed application. Proofread it before you hit the "send" button – sometimes your information in text boxes can get cut off.
- **Do** ask someone else to review the application for errors before you send it. Two sets of eyes are always better than one.
- **Do** print and save a copy of the confirmation page that should appear after you submit the application, so that you'll have a record of your application ID number.

- **Do** tell your school counselor about every online application you submit. Better yet, give your counselor a hard copy printout. This is critical because your application won't be complete until your counselor forwards your transcript and any other materials the college may require.
- **Don't** apply online and then send a paper copy in the mail. That will just confuse things.
- **Do** call or e-mail the college if you haven't received an e-mail confirmation of receipt within 48 hours. Online submissions do get lost occasionally (that's why it's so important to print and save).

Each application requires a fee. The cost varies from college to college, In some cases these fees can be waived. Please see Mr. Rogers to inquire about fee waivers.

Often colleges require supplemental application pieces beyond the standard application. They are required for acceptance and students must meet indicated deadlines. It is the student's responsibility to obtain and submit application supplements. See Mr. Rogers with any questions or concerns about the application process

**RECOMMENDATION LETTERS:** There is a form available in the Counseling Office that you should complete when requesting a recommendation letter for your college and/or scholarship applications. See Mrs. McCallister for this form.

**ASVAB:** 11th or 12th grade students who are contemplating military service upon graduation can take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery. Check with Mr. Rogers for registration information.

**RECRUITER VISITATION SCHEDULE:** If you are not considering college at this time or the local job market, Armed Services Recruiters are available for visits and programs. Please see Mr. Rogers for a schedule.

**COLLEGE NIGHT:** This year's "College Night" program will be held at Plattsburgh State Field House on **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** The Counseling Office has a list of the colleges attending and the list is also posted around the school. This is a great opportunity to gather information on select colleges and universities. This is also a great time to pick up college catalogs and applications for admission.

**FAFSA:** The Free Application for Financial Aid will be here in December for a January distribution. This can only be done on-line. Please check your college catalog to see what financial aid forms need to be filed. An additional form, the Profile, is now required by some private colleges. Check with Mr. Rogers. **A Financial Aid Night** will be scheduled for all Juniors and Seniors in November, details to follow.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The Counseling Office receives scholarship applications throughout the school year. Please listen for announcements, check the avcs website (counseling), and check with the Counseling Office to see any scholarships that have been received that you may be eligible to apply. Please check the **ELIGIBILITY/CRITERIA** before picking up an application. The requirements for eligibility are very specific. Also check the deadline for returning the application to the School Counseling Office. The list of local scholarships from organizations and those offered by school organizations will be available in **February**.

**COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS & IMMUNIZATIONS:** All students attending New York State colleges and universities will be required to show proof of immunity against measles, mumps and rubella. Proof of immunity to measles will be defined as two doses of measles vaccine on or after the first birthday and at least 30 days apart, physician documented history of disease, or serologic evidence of immunity. Proof of rubella immunity will mean one dose of rubella vaccine on or after the first birthday or serologic evidence of immunity. Proof of mumps will mean one dose of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday, a physician documented history of disease or serologic evidence of immunity.

**SELECTIVE SERVICE:** Federal law requires that every young man register with the Selective Service within a month of his 18th birthday. If he **doesn't**, he **won't** be eligible for many benefits, such as federal student aid, job training, and most federal employment. **Go to your local post office for more information concerning the Selective Service. You may also register online at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov). See Mr. Rogers, if you have questions.**

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:** Make sure the schedule you now have assures your successful graduation in June 2017. Are all requirements completed? Are all required courses and Regents Exams? We have been meeting with you individually over the past several years and have discussed all of the above. However, this is **YOUR** responsibility. If you have any questions and/or concerns about **ANY** of the above, see Mr. Rogers **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.