ORONO HIGH SCHOOL

COLLEGE APPLICATION INFORMATION

THIS PACKET CONTAINS INFORMATION REGARDING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS.

YOU SHOULD READ OVER THE MATERIAL CAREFULLY AND KEEP IT AVAILABLE FOR REFERENCE

* Cover Letter
* Important Dates and Events
* Senior Calendar
* College Application Process and Contact Info.
* College Application Checklist
* Financial Aid Information
* Testing Information

Orono High School - Student Services

866-2319

 September 2017

 Dear Senior Families,

Here we are, the senior year of high school. In as little as 9 months, the class of 2018 will be graduated and head onto great prospects. Some will continue their education immediately by enrolling in a college/university, while others will opt to join the military or venture into the workforce. Whatever path your student takes, we want to make sure you have the support you need to get them there. We want you to know that we understand there are lots of pieces that come into play over the course of this next year and we’re here to help make this transition as seamless as possible. From building college lists to filing financial aid forms. As always, we encourage you to call or email us throughout the upcoming school year with whatever questions/concerns you may have. Though this time maybe stressful, planning and attention to detail can make the entire process much smoother and easier to manage.

It will be important that your student check their school email on a regular basis throughout this next year. Lots of information will be coming their way and this is our most efficient form of communication. College admissions counselor visits, financial aid workshops, scholarship information and much more is provided via email.

We look forward to working with you and your students. We will do everything we can to make this year the best year yet!

Sincerely,

Holly Gunn & Troy Wagstaff

Orono High School, School Counselors

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

There will be a number of important dates for seniors to remember over the course of this next year, however the following dates are important meetings for students and parents to consider attending.

* **September and October** counselors will begin ongoing conferences with individual seniors. Seniors should see Mrs. Clarke once school starts to schedule their appointments. Appointment times fill up quickly. These meetings are imperative to ensuring that the counselors have all of the information they need in order to write appropriate and accurate letters of recommendation. Also, these meetings provide counselors an opportunity to make sure each student receives accurate and timely knowledge regarding colleges, financial aid, and other post-secondary options. Parents are always welcome to attend these meetings.
* **September 21st, 2017 @ 6:00pm** A College Admissions workshop will take place to inform students and parents on the application process. We will have guest speakers representing the community colleges, public 4-year colleges, private 4-colleges, and the University of Maine Honors College.
* **October 5th, 2016 @ 6:00pm** Financial Authority of Maine will hold a FAFSA workshop for students and parents. This session is an informational meeting, as well as a LIVE FAFSA workshop (necessary form for financial aid) in real time. We courage *EVERY SENIOR PARENT/GUARDIAN* to attend with their college bound student. [***There are new FAFSA deadlines and requirements!!***](http://www.famemaine.com/education/audiences/k-12-higher-ed-professional/early-fafsa-coming-october-1-2016/)
* **November** **15th** we will hold our University of Maine Senior Application Day. This is a unique opportunity for any senior applying to the University of Maine to sit for an interview at OHS and receive an admissions decision almost on the spot. We encourage *ALL* seniors who are applying to take advantage of this unique opportunity, even if UMaine is your back up school.
* **Other opportunities** for seniors include the annual [NEACAC College Fair](http://www.neacac.org/fall-fair-schedule), hosted by the University of Maine. This college fair takes place at the UMaine Fieldhouse Monday, September 25 from 6:30pm-8:30pm and again on Tuesday, September 26 from 9:00am-11:00am.

The guidance office will continue to communicate with you throughout the year with various mailings and emails. Keep your eyes open for these important messages as they arrive.

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is divided into three parts: the student’s part, the school counselor’s part, and the teacher’s part. Each is described below and examples are shown in this packet.

**Student’s Part**

* Application – Common Application (<http://www.commonapp.org>) or college specific application.
* Orono school code is 200767
* Essay(s)
* Supplement material (if necessary as assigned by College Board)
* Requirements for counselor recommendations
* Requirements for teacher recommendations
* Request SAT/ACT scores be mailed to each institution
	+ www.collegeboard.com/scores OR www.actstudent.org/scores
* Inform the Guidance office every time you apply to a college – mail/online
	+ Complete yellow half sheet

★★When downloading applications from the Internet or applying online, it is important to remember to download and complete *ALL* required forms.★★

**School Counselor’s Part**

* Secondary School Report (Common Application or college specific application)
* Official transcript
* Counselor recommendation
* School profile
* Mid Year Report (the guidance office will send automatically to all schools that you have applied to beginning of February)
* Final Report (the guidance office will send to the school you are attending)

**Teacher’s Part**

* Teacher recommendation form (Common Application or college specific)
	+ NOTE: Not all applications include a teacher recommendation form: please check each application carefully
* Letter of recommendation (varies by each school – consider getting at least 2)

NOTE: Teachers will submit recommendations to the Guidance Office. These recommendations will be stored in your senior file and photocopied for use as necessary.

**Holly Gunn (hgunn@rsu26.org) Troy Wagstaff (twagstaff@rsu26.org)**

**Orono High School** **School Code** – 200767

**14 Goodridge Drive** **School Counseling Office**: (207) 866-2319

**Orono, Maine 04473**  **School Fax**: (207) 866-7116

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST

The Orono Guidance Office provides significant support for students and parents in the college application process. We take our responsibilities in this regard quite seriously.

In order for us to accommodate the needs for all students, it is imperative that the following timelines be strictly adhered to. **We cannot guarantee timely mailings if the materials are turned in late to the Counselors Office!**

Students are responsible for notifying the Guidance office when application material (i.e.: transcripts, letters of recommendations, etc.) need to be mailed to perspective colleges. These materials must be received to the school counselor according to the deadline schedule listed below.

**The college application deadline**

**is a postmark date *not* received by date**

**College Deadline OHS Deadline**

 November 1 October 23

 November 15 November 6

 December 1 November 17

 December 15 December 8

 January 1 December 15

 January 15 January 5

 February 1 January 26

 February 15 February 9

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

**THERE WILL BE A MEETING FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS REGARDING FINANCIAL AID AND A LIVE FAFSA WORKSHOP**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT ­­­­­­­­­6:00PM**

**IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY**

What you need to know before then:

1. There is one financial aid form nearly every family should complete – FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The [FAFSA](https://fafsa.ed.gov/) is free and is available for completion beginning October 1, 2017. You must complete this form online.

<WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV>

1. The PROFILE is another financial aid form colleges may ask for. Complete the PROFILE only if you college(s) require it. There is a fee to register and a cost per school you send the PROFILE to. You must complete this form online.

<WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM/PROFILE>

1. Most scholarship deadlines are not until after winter break. Make sure you check the Student Services website for a list of the most current scholarships as well as other sites referenced in your materials. A Google folder will be shared with you once scholarships become available. Here you will find an abundance of scholarship resources and deadlines.

TESTING INFORMATION

* If you don’t have a College Board account, you need to get one! It’s easy, free, and helpful in the college search and application process – <http://www.collegeboard.org>
* We suggest that most students consider taking the SAT exam more than once. See your counselor and the senior calendar provided for testing dates and registration deadlines.
* Colleges that REQUIRE the SAT scores want them to come *directly from College Board* not Orono High School.
* To send SAT scores, visit <http://www.collegeboard.org>- There is a fee for every school you send your report to.
* It can take up to five weeks for scores to arrive at the college of your choice – Plan Ahead!
* Some students may consider taking the ACT exam in addition to or in lieu of the SAT exam. Test dates, fees, and registration deadlines are available on the senior calendar provided or online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
* Whether you choose to take the SAT exam, SAT Subject tests, or the ACT exam, always remember it can take up to 4 weeks before the colleges receive your scores! Plan ahead!