

## SCHOOL COUNSELOR NEWS NOVEMBER

It's hard to believe we are a week away from Thanksgiving and just over three weeks away from the start of Intensives. Our new students are settling in well and many of them have told me how much they like being at Steller. We are lucky to have dedicated and community oriented students and we have good role models in our older students.

### ***ASD iSchool and King Tech Second Semester***

Students interested in online classes can sign up any time. They can find enrollment forms online ASD iSchool's website, or they can stop by my office and I will print one for them. I recommend that they check in with their advisor as soon as possible.

King Tech enrolled current students last week and will open up for new enrollment this week or next week. Spots are limited so please come and see me as soon as possible.

### ***Seniors – College Application***

Have you filled out and submitted the **FAFSA**? If not, please submit it as soon as possible. Some funds are limited. Please come and see me if you have questions or need help.

Students applying to college through the **Common Application** will need letters of recommendation. Please **invite recommenders (counselor and teachers) to the Common App at least 2 weeks before your application is due**. It takes time to write a good letter of recommendation and sometimes we cannot complete a recommendation on short notice (other deadlines, illness, jury duty, professional development, personal leave, every day duties, etc.). Recommenders need a **"brag sheet"** for the letter of recommendation/evaluation. I have the forms in my office. All your recommenders need a copy.

I would also appreciate if you allow me to view your Common App application. It gives me an opportunity to learn more about you and put me in a better place to evaluate you. Colleges want an evaluation based on academic performance, choice of curriculum and extracurricular activities compared to other seniors in your class. They also ask for an evaluation of character and personal traits. Please remember that your teacher recommenders should be core teachers you have had the two last years of high school.

### ***Scholarships***

I will post scholarships on Flash. You can look for old postings and check your eligibility. Check college websites for scholarships and application procedures. Sometimes it is enough to submit the FAFSA but you may have to submit a separate application for some scholarships. ASD has a list of scholarships on their website: <https://www.asdk12.org/counseling/scholarships/> Please note that scholarships may have different, and sometimes earlier, due dates than college application deadlines.

### ***Applying to Alaska Colleges***

Alaska colleges have a late application deadline. I recommend that you still apply in January or February. The **University of Alaska** system requires **placement tests in Math and English**. With the application processed and the placement tests completed, you will be ready to enroll in

classes as soon as the Freshman registration opens up in the spring. Applying early to Alaska Pacific University (**APU**) will put you in a better position for financial aid.

### ***Juniors – To-Do-List***

I recommend that you sign up for the **SAT or ACT in March or May**. Taking the college entrance test in the spring allows you to retake it in August, before the senior year becomes busy with the college application process. You can prep for the SAT by enrolling in **Khan Academy**, which is free.

ASD's **Gifted Mentorship Program** has two application windows. The main window is March 1 – April 27. Here is a link to information: <https://www.asdk12.org/giftedmentorships>

Steller does not have a gifted program so your eligibility will be based on GPA and SAT/ACT scores. Here is a link to the Gifted Mentorship Handbook:

[https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1212/GiftedMentorshipHandbook18-19\\_Fillable\\_3\\_5\\_18.pdf](https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/1212/GiftedMentorshipHandbook18-19_Fillable_3_5_18.pdf)

Juniors planning to participate in college sports should check the **NCAA** requirements and rules for the different divisions. Here is a link to basic information about NCAA eligibility:

<https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/prepare/athletes/ncaa-eligibility-basics>

NCAA asks students to register at the beginning of their junior year. Please come and see me if you plan on doing sports in college.

### ***Second Semester***

One of the most important things Steller is doing next semester is **Outreach**, which means setting up times for students to visit elementary schools with parent chaperones. Denise Flake has offered to help out with scheduling presentations with schools, which is very much appreciated.

**Testing** is always on the spring schedule. This year, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will also participate in **NAEP** testing, which takes place in February. **PEAKS** will take place in March/April as usual.

I am looking out my window and see blue skies, sunshine and mountains. I hope you get out there and enjoy the outdoors. The lakes will freeze up again quickly and I think I saw some snow in the forecast. There should be something to do for everyone, whether it's on the trails, sledding hills or on the lakes.

Marianne