



September 2, 2023

Hello Senior Parents,

I wanted to give you a brief update on where we are in relation to guidance and your senior.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Many of them have already been busy completing college and scholarship applications. Make sure they are reading the announcements where I continue to list scholarship opportunities. I will also be posting college/scholarship information in the senior hallway. I have met with them to set up their Parchment account, which is how they request their transcript be sent out to schools. October is also College Application Month, so many schools have waived their application fees! We will spend some time this month working on applications, as well as hearing from many college reps. I have encouraged every senior to make sure that they get ALL of their college applications out by Thanksgiving weekend.

SCHEDULE A VISIT:

I strongly encourage you and your senior to take a trip to visit some of these colleges and universities. You can usually schedule a visit online, or contact the admissions office and they will schedule a tour for you. I recommend going on a weekday if possible, so you can meet with professors teaching in the field they are interested in and your senior can sit in on a college class. It really helps them get an idea of what the college is like if they can see the campus, and speak to people who are most knowledgeable about the college. This will be classified as a school related absence. There are also many "visit days" on Saturday's that are geared toward incoming freshmen...these are GREAT!

FINANCIAL AID:

This year there have been some changes made to the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and the application will not be opening until December. I will be arranging to have someone from the Financial Aid office at NCMC come to speak to the seniors about the FAFSA sometime in early January, and that person will also be able to answer any questions you may have. This will be held during the school day but you are welcome to attend. It will be more of a work session, so they will have the opportunity to get started on their FAFSA.

FAFSA ID:

Lastly, you and your student can apply for a FAFSA ID beforehand by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov and clicking on FSA ID. This ID will allow you to login to your FAFSA as well as sign it. The student applying for financial aid as well as the parent will need their own FSA ID. If a parent has created an FSA ID in the past for themselves OR an older child in college, they will use the same FSA ID.

I know that this is a ton of info, and a little overwhelming perhaps, but my job is to assist you and your student through this process. Please encourage your senior to come see me if they have any questions. They are in the homestretch, and I want to help keep them on the right track so they can continue to pursue their dreams after high school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or would like to set up a meeting with me.

Sincerely,

Jessica Pletcher
Counselor
Ellsworth Community School
jpletcher@ellsworth.k12.mi.us
231-588-2544

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY SCHOOL

"Small School Relationships ... Big School Opportunities!"

9467 Park Street
Ellsworth, Michigan 49729
Telephone: (231) 588-2544
Fax: (231) 588-6183

www.ellsworth.k12.mi.us
info@ellsworth.k12.mi.us
www.facebook.com/EllsworthLancers
search **Ellsworth Lancers, MI** in the App Store and on Google Play