

Welcome Seniors!!!

1. Log on to a computer.
2. Log in to www.x2vol.com with your school email address and student ID#; minimize.
3. Log in to www.parchment.com; minimize.
4. Go to Centennial's website.
5. Click the Family Connection button (below HAC)
6. Log in with your ID# and 8 digit birthdate (unless you have changed your password).
7. Minimize the screen and turn towards the screen to listen.

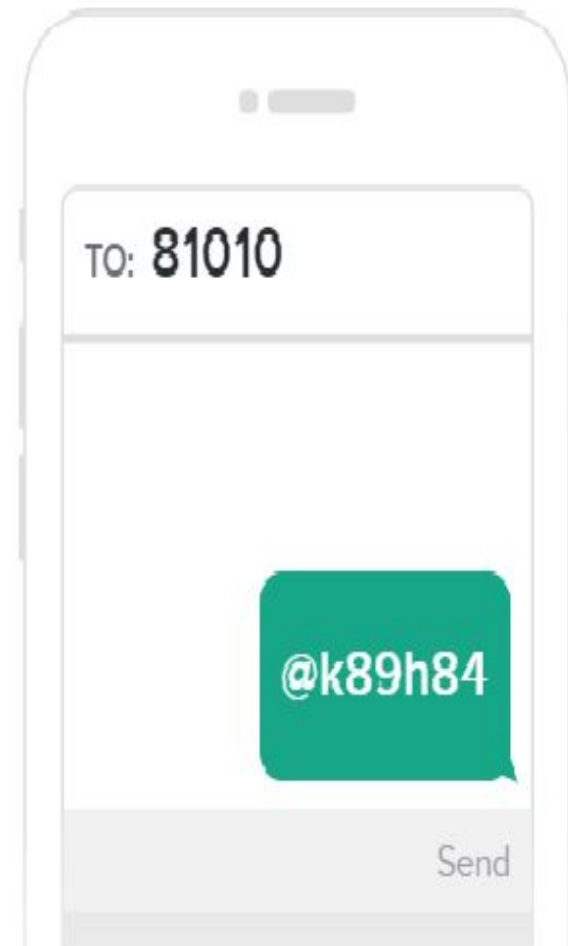
A-B: Mrs. Marshall
C-Han: Mrs. Lassiter
Hao-Mc: Mrs. Ott
Me-Sa: Ms. Green
Sb-Z: Mrs. Thompson

Class of 2018

Helpful Resources

#1 COLLEGE GO app

#2: CLASS OF 2018 REMIND GROUP



Community Service Reminders

- Any hours completed prior to June were to be entered by the end of August
- Hours earned beginning June 1 must be entered by April 1 to count towards the 100 hours for the cord
- Must follow district guidelines (nonprofit organizations only!) Not all *volunteering* qualifies as community service!*
- Hours cannot be completed during the school day, or be awarded for donating money or material goods. They must also accurately represent time spent serving the community.

DATES!

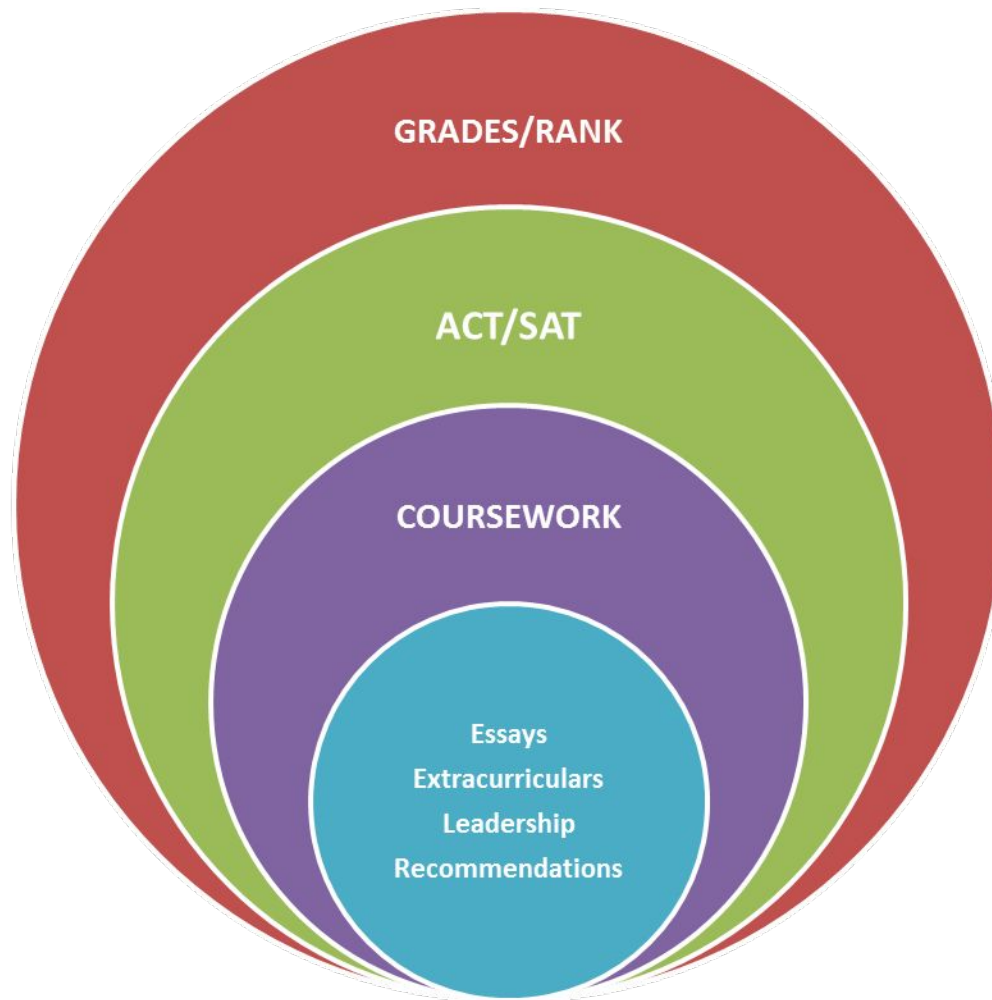
- Put the important dates in your planner or your phone!
- Calendar is at Family Connection and was emailed home on **Aug 15th**.

Admissions Approaches

- Open Admissions – no GPA or test score requirements
- Assured Admissions – sliding scale of rank and test score criteria
- Holistic Review – in addition to your academic record, essays, extracurriculars, leadership experiences, letters of recommendation, (possible) interviews, etc. are considered

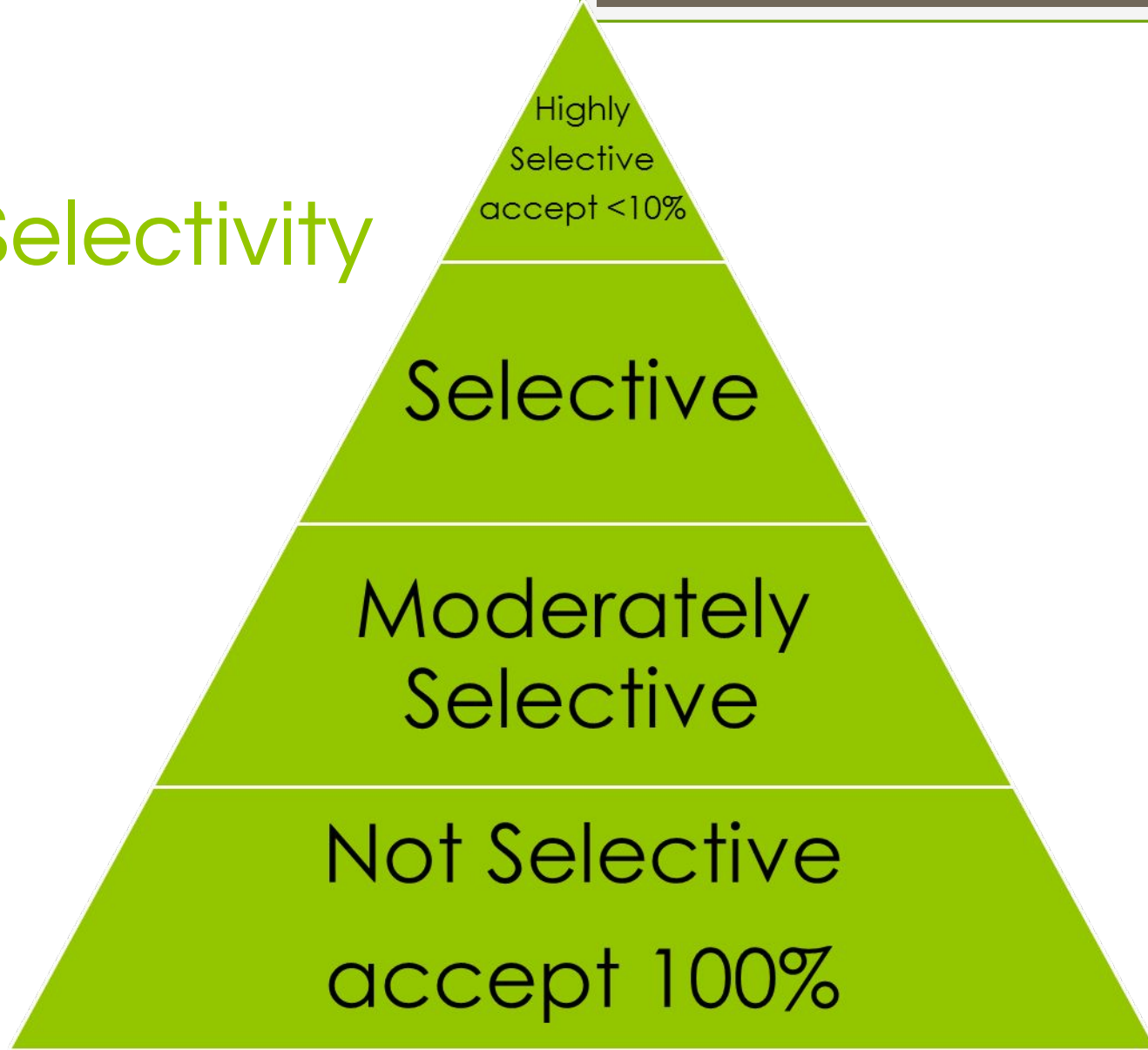
GPA is typically recalculated based on which courses they value most.

What Counts Most?



GPA game
reflections

Selectivity



Selectivity Specifics

- Highly Selective Colleges (ie. Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Rice) admit fewer than 10% of applicants and look for highly ranked students with very high test scores (at least 1300 or 30); may also require additional testing and interviews.
- Selective Colleges (ie. SMU, A&M, UT, OU, UTD) are looking for students ranked in the top 10-25% with strong test scores (at least 1100 or 24)
- Somewhat Selective Colleges (ie. SFA, Midwestern, Texas State) target students in the top 50% with average test scores (at least 1000 or 21)
- Non-Selective Colleges (ie. Collin College, technical/trade schools) accept 100% of applicants; **no SAT/ACT needed
- Top 10% Rule (7% at UT this year)

Applying to Highly Selective Colleges

- 37,000+ high schools in the US = 37,000+ valedictorians
- 24,149 college freshmen admitted to Ivy League schools last year → nearly 13,000 fewer spots than the number of valedictorians in the country!
- There are no guarantees with holistic review schools. Don't put all of your eggs in one basket!

College Visits

- Strongly recommended before committing to a college!
- Call the admissions office for an appointment
- Check college websites for Preview Days
- Go when students are in session if at all possible (CHS closed, but colleges open on 10/6, 10/9, 11/20, & 11/21)
- Bring a list of questions (see FC for ideas)
- Return paper documentation from the school, and turn it in to the attendance office within 3 days of absence.
- Two days of excused absences are allowed for documented college visits.

Apply to 3-5 “Good Fit” Colleges by Thanksgiving!

- Reach – admissions criteria are somewhat beyond your credentials
- Match – admissions criteria match your credentials fairly closely
- Safety – admissions criteria are below your credentials

- Watch deadlines carefully! A&M and UT are December 1st!

College Application Steps

- ✓ Take college exams; send in scores
- ✓ Apply on-line
- ✓ Send in application fee (~\$20-\$90)
- ✓ Request transcript at www.parchment.com
- ✓ Apply for FSA ID now – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- ✓ Apply FAFSA on-line after Oct 1st
- ✓ Apply for housing
- ✓ Compare offers in spring
- ✓ Notify schools of your decision
- ✓ Take TSI if needed
- ✓ Texas colleges require bacterial meningitis vaccine before attending (less than 5 years old)

Process

Colleges do not expect to receive everything at once. Send what you can as soon as it is ready. A file will be created for you once an item is received at the college.

Complete application on line, pay your application fee and send test scores (SAT/ACT) to school if not sent when you tested.

AFTER you have submitted your application- request transcript at www.parchment.com and update “My Colleges” link, moving the school to “Applied”

IF you need a letter of recommendation from your counselor (private schools and selective schools usually), follow the directions at Family Connection

College Admissions Tests

- Required by most 4 year universities
- Scores must be sent directly from these testing agencies. They do not appear on your transcript!
- ACT - www.act.org (Optional writing test)
(Sept 22nd deadline for Oct 28th test)
AND/OR
- SAT- www.sat.org
(September 8th deadline for October 7th test)

School (CEEB) Code: 442-633



*****The name you register with MUST MATCH the name on your photo ID exactly, or you could be turned away. *****

Preparing for SAT and ACT

- Link on the homepage of Family Connection directs you to free and inexpensive test prep resources for SAT and ACT. ***Khan Academy***
- Face to face classes available on FISD campuses through partnership with Princeton Review – see document library in Family Connection for more information.
- Perfect overall SAT or ACT score? Let your counselor know!!!

How to Get Applications

- COMMON APPLICATIONS – efficient way to apply to multiple colleges.
****Please use these if available****
- **Texas Public** Schools (2 or 4 year) -- Apply Texas
www.applytexas.org
- **Private** Schools & OU -- single application for 500 private schools (Rice, SMU, Duke, Princeton, Stanford, Brown, etc.)
www.commonapp.org
- If your school does not use either of these applications, find the application in the admissions section of the college's website.
- Lots of great info --
<http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/>

College Essays

DO

- Write it yourself, and *as yourself*
- Choose a simple, but interesting topic
- Answer the prompt
- Write about a personal, meaningful experience you've had
- Aim for thorough, but succinct
- Be careful with controversial topics
- Use correct "voice" for your audience
- PROOFREAD

DON'T

- Choose a very complicated/involved topic that you think will impress colleges
- Make the essay brief and superficial
- Choose cliché topics
- Make claims you can't back up
- Throw in broad generalizations
- (Over)use a thesaurus.
- Use language that is too casual, or text shorthand
- List things the rep can see elsewhere on your application

Counselor Letters of Rec-

These items are required!!

- Letter of Rec questions linked on FC
- Parent letter of rec questions on FC
- *About Me* Personality Test on FC
- Resume/Activity List
- Input from 4 teachers
- Allow **10 school days** after these steps for your letter to be completed.
- Public colleges usually do not ask for letters of recommendation.
- Common App schools automatically require a letter. **Don't request via Common App website!!!**
- Letters are confidential and are **NEVER** released to a student or parent. We will send them directly to your college.

Teacher Letters of Recommendation

- Highly selective schools *may* require a letter. If the content teacher is not specified, choose wisely. It should be someone who thinks highly of you!
- ASK; it is something above and beyond their job.
- For non Common App schools, provide the teacher with a stamped envelope addressed to the proper office at the college.
- Do not ask for more than you need.
- Thank the teacher!
- If a letter of rec is optional, and you want to send one, ask a staff member who knows you well and thinks highly of you...usually a teacher, coach, director, etc.

About Deadlines

- Your application (including essays), application fee, transcript, test scores, and letters of rec (if required) must **ALL** be in the admissions office **BEFORE** the deadline.
- Plan ahead! Nobody will be at school to complete any requests for you during Thanksgiving Break or Winter Break...especially important if you have **Dec. 1 or Jan. 1 deadlines!**
- Some college scholarship deadlines are before their application deadlines...go by the earlier deadline!



PROCRASTINATE
NOW
AND
PANIC
LATER

Terms to Know

- Early decision – binding agreement; only do this for the school you absolutely will go to if accepted
- Early action – submit applications for early consideration; not binding
- Waitlist – you may still get in if space becomes available
- Deferred – permission granted by a college to postpone your enrollment
- See glossary of college terminology link on FC

Email and Social Media

- Email - does it reflect what you want the colleges to know about you?
partydude@hotmail.com
- ilovetexastech@gmail.com, and you are applying to Texas A&M?
- Social Media...if you don't want your counselor or your principal or your mom to see it, don't post it. Employers and some colleges do check social media sites. Clean it up.

\$\$\$ Paying for College \$\$\$

- Financial Aid Info – search for “financial aid” at www.friscoisd.org
- FEF opens Nov. 27th and closes Dec. 15th.
- Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and request a FSA ID. You and your parent will each need one as your electronic signature. FAFSA is the starting point for financial aid from your college! Use 2016 tax info.
- Don't think you'll qualify? Check out the FAFSA Forecaster link on Family Connection. You might be surprised!
- Raise.me scholarship website

Potential College Athletes

- Athletes hoping to play sports at a D1 or D2 college must register with NCAA at www.eligibilitycenter.org if you have not already done so.
- Be aware there is an academic component to your eligibility to play D1 or D2 sports.
- Verify with your counselor that you are in NCAA approved classes.
- Remember that the admissions office decides whether you get in, not the coaches!

Texas Success Initiative (TSI)

- Placement test. NOT an entrance/admissions exam.
- Required by Texas public, colleges and universities (2 & 4 year schools)
- Identifies college readiness in Math and English
- Passing grade on TSI required in order to take college credit-bearing classes.
- Timing and process vary by college. You will receive more information *after you have applied.*

TSI Exemptions

- Students who meet the qualifying standards may be exempt from taking the TSI.

**You can check your scores under the
About Me tab in Family Connection**

- **SAT**- combined score of 1070 on critical reading and math with a 480 or better on the critical reading + 530 or better on math.
- **ACT**- a composite score of 23 with a 19 on the math and English sections

Career Inventory- ASVAB

- Could be useful in deciding on a major
- Funded by the military, but not specific to military jobs.
- CTE Center after school on October 17th or April 17th, 5:00-7:00.
- You will receive an email from the CTE Counselor when it is time to sign up.

College Fair

- Wed, 9/13 at Lebanon Trail High School, 6-8 PM
- Juniors and Seniors only
- Registration is not required but will save you time and hand cramps! An email was sent on 9/1 with instructions -- be sure to print and bring the bar code with you if you choose to register

College Admissions Reps

- They want to talk to you! Talk to them at lunch visits, college fair, and whenever you have questions.
- Over 5800 colleges in the US; so much changes annually, it would be impossible for high school counselors to be experts on them all.
- Use your high school counselor or our new College & Career Counselor for questions about the general process. For questions specific to a college, your best bet is to contact their admissions office directly...**YOU**, not your parents!
- Your level of interest in the college can influence the rep's decision. Show interest, but don't be a stalker.

Transcripts

- Students **must** order transcripts online through www.parchment.com (use Google Chrome). This is the **ONLY** way! SENDedu requests, requests by email, etc. **will not be fulfilled.**
- The first three electronic transcripts are free; after that, they are \$3 each.
- For institutions requiring a paper copy, the cost is \$2.50 for the first three; after that, they are \$5.50 each.
- Transcripts should be requested **AFTER** you have submitted your application.
- Rank will be updated in mid-September. The credential page doesn't automatically show the updated transcript, even though that is what is sent. You click the "update" button to see what was sent.

First time on Parchment

- Use registration code provided.
- Click the “NO” box for scholarships unless you want to spend 20-30 more minutes registering.
- You must waive your FERPA rights, or we will not be allowed to send your transcripts through Parchment.
- Check the remaining boxes on this screen after you waive your FERPA rights.

October 11th

- 10th & 11th graders will take the PSAT
- 9th & 12th graders will arrive at 12:30
- Regular classes in the afternoon



Did You Learn Something
Useful Today?

**Tweet about it
and mention
@Cen10Titans**

Transcripts for UT and A&M

Some universities do not accept electronic score reports through Parchment.

- ❑ In your Parchment account, click on **Credentials-->Order (under CHS)-->search for college**
- ❑ If you are taken directly to a page where it says you owe \$2.50, click the **BACK** button
- ❑ Choose **Electronic Delivery** instead of the default US Mail, -->**Continue** (should show \$0 balance and Send Now option defaulted)-->**Continue** until you have completed the process.

Questions??? See Mrs. Curtiss in B100.

