

Senior Packet 2018-2019

Congratulations! Your senior year is finally here! Today is the tomorrow you have been preparing for since you were freshmen! This is your College and Career Information Packet. Some of the material in this packet will be review, but much of it is new information so please keep it handy and use it as a reference guide.

POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Four-Year Colleges and Universities There are six public and many private four-year universities and colleges in Washington State, as well as a myriad of institutions offering quality four-year degrees across the nation. A four-year degree program option might be a good option if..... You have strong academic record and test scores ...you want the breadth of training a four-year education can provide ...You are pursuing a professional occupation which requires training beyond the BA

Community and Technical College Washington State has an excellent system of 33 community and technical colleges providing a broad array of technical degrees including 1 year certificate programs, 2-year non transfer Associate of Applied Science Degrees, and 2-year general education or professional degree transfer programs. A community or Technical college might be a good option for you if...You want to complete general education courses before transferring to a 4-year school.... You need to bring up you grades, or save more money before you transferYou need specific technical training available at a CTC for your chosen career.

Apprenticeship (Washington State Department of Labor and Industries website: www.LNI.WA.GOV) Apprenticeship students take at least 2000 hours on-the-job training (OJT) learning manual, mechanical or technical skills with a highly skilled craft person or trade professional with 144 hours minimum classroom instruction to learn practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. An apprenticeship might be a good option for you if... You are a hands-on learner, who learns better from application than from book learning

You would like to boost your earning power to finance your way to college... You respect people who earn money in the trades

The Military-Department of Defense: <http://www.defenselink.mil/sites/> there are more than 4,100 different officer and enlisted jobs offered by the U.S. Military for both full-time and part-time duty. The U.S. Department of Defense has developed the ASVAB Career Exploration Program to help students identify and explore potentially satisfying occupations and to develop effective strategies to realize their career goals.

The military might be a good option for you if... You like or need a structured work environment to get things done.You would like to earn money for a college you can't yet afford ... You seek adventure and opportunities for leadership

THINGS TO DO IF YOU ARE GOING ON TO COLLEGE or TECH SCHOOL

Research colleges and/or tech schools on their websites. Visit with college and tech reps when they are at CHS. Prepare a list of questions you want answered. Plan on visiting the college(s) and/or tech schools you are interested in some time in your junior or early in your senior year. Find out what test

you may need to take (SAT, ACT, ASSET, COMPASS) Attend Senior College Night at CHS. Bring your parent to this important event. Visit with the reps from the colleges you are interested in when they are at CHS. In October and November apply online to 4-6 institutions that fit your career and college plans. Attend the FAFSA night at CHS. Bring a parent; they'll need to know this information, too! Apply for your PIN for the FAFSA. www.pin.ed.gov. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) beginning October 1st. www.fafsa.ed.gov Check application deadlines on the Career Center/Scholarships page of the CHS website. Check local scholarship due dates every month for deadline dates. Some will be due as early as Feb 1st. Sign up to take the SAT, ACT, or ASSET or Compass Test

If YOU ARE CONSIDERING GOING INTO THE MILITARY: Study all programs offered. Visit with the recruiters who will visit CHS. Take the ASVAB-a military aptitude test that explores military career options Check with Mrs. Fall in the Career Center for the date . Look into the ROTC programs

Young men must register for the selective service when they are 18 years old. Register online at www.sss.gov

APPLYING TO A COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

The Process: Make a list of things that are important to you in a college or university. Talk to your school counselor and your parents as you make your list. Do internet research, choose 4-6 institutions that fit your career and college plans and apply online.

College Application Checklist The following checklist is a suggested list only. Check the specifications of each institution to which you are applying, to see if any additional information is required. Many college and university require you to apply online, so check their websites. If you are using a paper application, make sure the application is complete, signed and dated. Official high school transcripts (get these from the counseling office) Nonrefundable application fee. Talk to the counseling office to find out about application fee waivers. Personal statement List of awards, achievement and activities (if required) Official test scores from SAT or ACT (these must be sent directly from the testing agency. www.collegboard.org. Sometimes they can be sent as part of your high school transcript. Personal Letters of Recommendation (if required, usually three are adequate)

ADMISSIONS PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement is a critical part of your application for admissions and scholarships. A new shift in the admissions process is putting much more weight on the personal statement. Admissions officials are looking beyond grades and test scores to more intangible qualities that make a good college student. They want a student body with mix of experience, backgrounds and points of view-which makes the college learning environment exciting and rich. However, they also want to know that each student they enroll is motivated, willing and able to work hard and is someone who very much wants to be enrolled at that campus. The personal statement helps the admissions team reading your applications understand how you would contribute to the learning environment at their college. It lets them see you as a person as well as a student. You can also explain the obstacles and opportunities you've overcome along the way. Listed below are some tips that will help you write the best Person Statement you can.

Characteristics of a good Personal Statement: Be thoughtful and honest. Your personal statement should look different than any other personal statement the admissions officers will read. It is one only YOU can write. Go for depth, not breath. This is not a resume or laundry list of your accomplishments. Focus on particular evidence of your character and drive. Write to the prompt and follow the guidelines. Clearly and thoughtfully address the essay prompt. If you apply to six different institutions, you will write six different statements. Follow the dictates of good writing. Essay readers will read hundreds of essays. Distinguish yours with vivid descriptions only you can make. Brainstorm ideas, then draft, redraft and proofread your statements. Get feedback from others. But in the end, it is your words and your essay. If there are negative things you need to explain, here's your opportunity. It's ok to have shortcomings- you're human. Explain how you have, or will, overcome them. Show the reader that you know their institution and really WANT to attend. Don't apply to a school with no engineering program and say that you've always want to be an engineer!

What to Avoid: Repeating information provided elsewhere in your application. Complaining about your circumstances or challenges: instead, rise above them! Talking about college as a way to make more money. An essay that relies on gimmicks rather than substance. Misrepresenting yourself. Lies or half-truths get found out. Be honest. Essays clearly not written for the prompt of this particular college. An essay that is too short or too long. Essays with typos or grammar errors. Don't rely on Spell Check alone. Have someone else proof your 1st, 2nd and 3rd draft and your final. Don't put this off; this is a time-consuming and critical part of your application!

SCHOLARSHIPS: HOW TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Getting Ready: Scholarship Committees are looking for diversity in your interests and activities. They want to see that you are well rounded. Start gathering materials on yourself. Build a file or resume, making a complete and thorough lists of the following things: Grade point average, class rank, courses selected, Personal Statement (Letter of Intent) stating goals and intentions Copies of ACT or SAT test scores, if you are planning to attend a 4-year institution Significant activities such as school clubs (avoid using acronyms and make sure the club's purpose is identified), sports, leadership rolls, academic honors or other special achievements, honor society, knowledge bowl, etc. Community involvement such as: Canned food drive, volunteering at a nursing home, coaching youth sports teams, etc. Hobbies and interest, and work history from grade 9 and up.

Take appropriate tests if you haven't already. Many scholarship applications require a copy of your SAT or ACT scores. Register online at www.collegeboard.org. Keep your eye on registration dates and deadlines! Contact at least three individuals to act as references. Check to see if they would be willing to write a letter of recommendation for you. Use the Request for a Letter of Recommendation form available from Mrs. Carleton in the Career Center.

Beginning the Application Process START EARLY. Most scholarship applications require: an application form, a personal essay or letter of intent (150-500 words, letters of recommendation. Your high school transcripts. Some will require an original and some will accept a copy. Get your transcripts from the counseling office (Mrs. Courtois). Be sure to specify if you need an original or copy. Allow yourself at least 2 weeks to complete this process Complete the application forms. Many national and regional scholarships have online applications available to make applying easier. Often a school representative (teacher, counselor or administrator) will be required to complete a section of your application

confirming your academic record and perhaps recommending you. Give the Counseling Office or Career Center at least one week to complete the school's portion of your application.

BE AWARE OF DEADLINES! A late or incomplete application automatically disqualifies you.

Starting your Scholarship Personal Statement. You are writing for a purpose. Be persuasive in showing the reader you are deserving of the award. Remember your audience. State specifically your goals and major intentions for the future. State what college you will be applying to even if you are not completely sure. List all ideas--any possibilities. Be creative, brainstorm without censoring. ☑ Sort through ideas and prioritize. You can't tell them everything. Be selective. ☑ Choose information and ideas which are not reflected in other parts of your application. This is your chance to supplement your application with information you want them to know about you.

Writing the Draft--Apply what you have learned in English class. Develop paragraphs - one idea at a time. Include a topic sentence with examples of your point or convincing reasons. Make transitions between paragraphs. Select action verbs and avoid the passive voice. Use concrete examples. Often examples of behavior demonstrate an idea better than an adjective (demonstrate how or why, don't just tell). Develop exact, concrete language. Avoid vague references, wordy usage or clichés.

Editing Your Draft. Does your introduction capture the reader's attention? Are you consistent in your verb tense? Are you clear and coherent? Are you concise enough to adhere to the limits in length? ☑ Have you checked for grammatical and spelling errors? Does the essay present you as you wish to be seen? Did another person review your essay for possible mistakes? Does your closing paragraph present you as you wish to be remembered? Is your statement unique-would you remember your essay if you read two hundred others?

Completing your application. Should you type it? Some applications list a preference of either typed or hand-written work. Either way, the application should be neat and legible. Not all scholarships require the same information to be included in the application. Make sure to go over each scholarship's checklist of what to include. Most scholarships may want you to include several or all of the following: Transcript(s); check to see if they require an original or will accept a copy. College acceptance letters, letters of recommendations, list of awards and honors, your own Personal Statement or letter of intent, work record from grade 9 on up, SAT/ACT test results and/or other information pertinent to the individual scholarship for which you are applying. Make and keep a copy for your records.

Follow up your application Thank those who assisted you in the application or write letters of recommendation. Follow up with a Thank-You note. Acknowledge the scholarship's donors. If you are granted a scholarship be certain to keep in touch with the donors. It is especially crucial to maintain contact if the scholarship is renewable. A Thank-You note & follow-up on how you are doing is important!!! Clarify terms for scholarship renewal. Find out if you meet specific conditions to have your award renewed.

STUDENTS are responsible for making sure scholarship applications are postmarked and/or received by the organization offering the scholarship by the designated deadline. Contact information is listed for each scholarship offered in this packet. The Counseling Office and Career Center are available to help you complete applications and to review required essays. If you would like your essays proofread, you must give the proof reader at least one week so there is sufficient time for quality proofreading to be

done. Local scholarships use either the standard application form or a form specific to the organization. If a scholarship has a specific application form, that will be indicated by “See Career Center for specific form” under the listing. Qualifications for scholarships are most generally based on academics, financial need, service, and career choice. Some scholarship committees put emphasis on one or more of these areas and completely forget about others. Don’t think that your chances for a scholarship are poor because you have a lower GPA or have never been in athletics. There are scholarships available for everyone!

Check the list of regional, statewide and national scholarships on the CHS website– Click on Career Center! These scholarships almost always have a specific application form and must be accessed through the organization’s website (if applicable) or picked up from Mrs. Courtois in the Career Center. The standard local scholarship form cannot be used for these scholarships. Follow instruction for submitting these applications carefully. Apply for all scholarships for which you qualify. Scholarships are awarded toward the latter part of the school year.

ACTION PLAN FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GOING TO COLLEGE

Fall: Pull Your Applications Together Narrow your list of colleges to approximately four to six, and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible Sign up to visit College Representatives who visit Cashmere High School Sign up for October or November SAT and/or ACT Make a master calendar and note: Test dates, fees and deadline College application due dates, required financial aid applications and their deadlines, recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials Ask for letters of recommendations. Allow 2-4 weeks for each person writing a letter for you. Follow up with a Thank-You note. Write applications essays and ask teachers, counselor and family members to read first drafts.

Decide Whether to Apply Early Action or Early Decision November 1: For early admission, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT scores. Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility

Get Financial Aid Info: Attend financial aid info events in your area. FAFSA Night at Cashmere High School is usually in January.

Research National, Regional and Local Scholarships. Log on to the Career Center/Scholarships page of the CHS website to find scholarship information

Winter: Review Application Details Most regular applications are due between early December and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges. Ask the high school counseling office to send your transcripts to colleges. Contact colleges to make sure they’ve received all applications materials

Keep an eye on Local Scholarship Deadlines. This may be one of the best ways to help finance your education. Deadlines range from mid-February to June 1st. Log on to the Cashmere High School web page and go to the scholarship page. Lists of all the local and many regional and national scholarships are included in this webpage. See Mrs. Courtois in the Career Center for details.

Apply for Financial Aid. You and your family should save this year’s pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you’ll file early next year. You and a parent will need to apply for your FAFSA Pin number.

This serves as your electronic signature when filing online. Submit your FAFSA as soon as possible beginning January 1. Men who are 18 years of age or older must register with Selective Service to receive federal financial aid. If the SAR (Student Aid Report) asks for updated information, or you need to make a correction, do so ASAP. Failure to respond could cost you financial aid many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send. Check to make sure you have submitted all required materials: admissions application, FAFSA and scholarship applications.

Spring Review Acceptance Letters. You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Use Compare Your Aid Awards (www.collegeboard.com) to compare awards from different colleges. Talk to financial aid officers at your college if you have questions about the award offered. If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.

Make your Final Choice by May 1. You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose. Apply for on or off campus housing. Respond to all letters from your college of choice by due dates. Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions officer your intent and ask how to strengthen your applications. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

- ____ 1. Read the Fin. Aid information of the college websites that you interested in.
- ____ 2. Research scholarships and financial aid. <http://www.collegeboard.com/pay>
- ____ 3. Call or e-mail the financial aid office of the college/vocational school you plan to attend requesting financial aid literature, applications, etc.
- ____ 4. Visit the Career Center and find out how local, state and national scholarships are announced and deadlines for applying.
- ____ 5. Check with your parents to determine if their employers, unions, lodges or churches offer scholarships. If so, apply. Check to see if you have to take the SAT or ACT to qualify.
- ____ 6. Do you have special talents in the arts, athletics, or vocational talents? Check with the institution you plan to attend to determine if they offer scholarships for these talents.
- ____ 7. Apply for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning JANUARY 1st. A FAFSA on the Web Worksheet is available online www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will need to apply for your FAFSA pin number (your electronic signature) before submitting your FAFSA application. This may be done PRIOR to January 1st.
- ____ 8. Are you interested and do you qualify for ROTC and/or service academy programs that pay for most or a major portion of your education? Tune into deadlines and continuing obligations!
- ____ 9. Have you determined a major? If so, contact the department head at the college, vocational or technical school to determine if there are scholarships available for these majors.

___10. Middle of your senior year: It may be appropriate to make a personal contact with the financial aid officers at the college, vocational or technical school you plan to attend.

___11. Interested in a loan? Guaranteed Student Loans may be received only if you apply for Financial Aid (FAFSA) the loan is awarded through financial aid.

___12. Your bank may have a student college loan program. Check with them.

___13. Saving money is like getting a scholarship!

*NOTE: Financial aid is granted to those students who apply and are accepted