

“Superior Education in a Christian Atmosphere”

Altamonte Christian School

601 Palm Springs Drive/Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

PHONE 407-831-0950/ FAX 407-831-6840



Dear Senior,

This is it! You are a senior and this is the year you will be making many important decisions. I hope you spent this summer investigating and praying about what college you would like to attend. Since we are a Christian school and have tried to make sure you are fully aware of following the Lord's plan for your life, I would like for you to seriously consider attending a Christian university where you can continue to receive instruction through the light of God's Word. There are many Christian universities that are fully accredited and can help you reach your goals. Whether you are going to a Christian university or a public university, I want you to be ready. Please take time to read the information below and share this letter with your parents.

- On the back shelf in Mrs. Kelley's classroom (G101), we have a variety of material: Christian university catalogues, public university catalogues, armed forces material, ACT and SAT practice tests and materials, Bright Future pamphlets. Feel free to take and keep anything on the shelf of which there are duplicates. The one of a kind catalogues need to stay in the room, but feel free to look over them in your spare time.
- Early admission in colleges usually begins in September. Colleges are extremely selective. Many four-year state universities will accept most of their quota by Christmas. After Christmas, they will be much more selective and you will more than likely be put on a waiting list. Apply early, as early as September.
- You can always turn down a college, but to be admitted during the second semester of the senior year can be difficult for selective colleges. Many of the community colleges and Christian universities open their admission process a little later in the school year. Times vary, so you will want to contact the school of your choice to determine admission date procedures.
- Check with the college regarding its testing requirements. Not all colleges accept the same tests for admission.
- You will find out that the application process for college will not be complete until you have fulfilled the appropriate testing requirements, either the ACT or SAT.
- To apply for the Bright Futures Scholarship, please go to <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>. Seniors may apply after December 1, and before graduation. Community service hours, grade point averages, and test scores must meet specific requirements. Please view the official website to determine the exact requirements. More of our students qualify for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship with scores from the ACT than the SAT. However, I highly recommend taking both tests. You may take the tests more than once and have the best score count for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. The Florida Department of Education takes the highest of each category to determine eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. You will also want to know that although FLDOE selects the best scores from each test sitting, the individual universities usually do not follow the same procedure. They will look at the complete sittings.
- You should have taken the ACT or SAT last year, but if not, you need to immediately register to take the ACT (www.act.org) or SAT (www.collegeboard.com). If you register in September, you can take an October test, which means you won't get results back until the end of October. That means the earliest you can apply for a university will be November. This is cutting it close if you want to get into a competitive university like UCF. In fact, it may even be too late. It is for this very reason that I requested last year that you take the ACT and SAT over the summer. Several of you did take the exams and have high enough scores to apply to the college of your choice. If this is the case, please go ahead and apply immediately.
- In January, every student will need to apply for financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov, even if you do not plan to get scholarships. This is the official electronic application for federal student aid. Most colleges will not give out any scholarship money unless the student has signed up with FAFSA. (Note: You will need tax information from your parents to complete this form.)
- You should go to the website of the college of your choice and look for "in house" scholarship money. Many colleges have scholarships for specific grade point averages, rank in class, and community service. If you or your parents work for a large organization, that company may have scholarship opportunities.
- Once you are accepted, I highly recommend that you call the college and ask to speak with the financial aid officer and ask for advice. It never hurts to personally know someone at the college who may be able to lend a helping hand and offer advice. Most colleges cannot consider someone for financial aid until he has been accepted.
- When you are ready to make a college choice, you must ask our front office to send a transcript to the college. This does not happen automatically.
- You should regularly view the ACT and SAT websites. They have wonderful study and writing hints. You should also be using your **My Road** account to review your PSAT scores.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I will continue to pray for you during this very busy time of the year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon Nix
Academic Principal