

Hello Seniors,

Happy Friday! We have received some great information for seniors that will help you finish off your year strong and prepare you to make your final college decisions. Please take a moment to read through the information below:

1. **National College Decision Day:** In past years, students have had until May 1 to compare acceptances and financial aid offers, and to then make a decision about which college to attend. This year, because of COVID-19 disruptions, **not all**, but many postsecondary institutions have made the decision to extend their decision deadlines. The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) is compiling revised decision deadlines on their [website](#). Please check this site, as well as college-specific admissions websites, to know when you need to notify schools of your decisions. Keep in mind that the school you decide to attend will likely require a financial deposit at this stage.
2. **NCAA initial eligibility changes:** The NCAA has recently published an update to initial eligibility due to impacts by COVID-19. The following link will provide you with a PDF for student-athletes, coaches, and parents: <http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/NCAAInitialEligibilityCOVID-19Update.pdf>
3. **Scholarships:** There are still some scholarships with deadlines in the spring. Be sure to review the scholarships listed in [Naviance](#) and visit our website for the list of local scholarships [here](#).
4. **Virtual College Visits:** When making your final college decision, attending virtual campus visits may be helpful. Many schools have added current student interviews or highlights and day in the life videos. Below is a link to an example of one at BU. Check your school's website to see what resources they have to offer. <http://www.bu.edu/admissions/why-bu/student-life/day-in-life/>
5. **Applying to school:** If you are still planning on applying to school this spring or summer, it's not too late! While many application deadlines have passed, there are still schools that accept students through the spring and summer. Reach out to your school counselor for assistance with the application process.

As always, your school counselors are here to support you as you wrap up your senior year and make these important decisions. Please reach out to your counselor with any questions or concerns so we may assist you during this time.

Todd Dyer tdyer@avon.k12.ct.us

Andrew Ellrod aellrod@avon.k12.ct.us

Lissa Irvine lirvine@avon.k12.ct.us

Laura Sullivan lsullivan@avon.k12.ct.us

Heather Toyen htoyen@avon.k12.ct.us

Hello Juniors,

Happy Friday! We have a few updates and information for you regarding your junior year and your college search process. Please take a moment to read through the information below:

1. **Junior Q&A With Your Counselors:** Please join us on **May 7th at 1:15 PM** for a virtual meeting with your school counselors to discuss important topics and answer questions about your junior year and the college process. Check your email for the flyer and the link to join the meeting.
2. **College Updates:** We understand that many juniors have questions regarding how this year will affect their college admission process. The following article, published in the Washington Post, contains a letter written to juniors by an admissions officer. We thought [this article](#) may be helpful in easing your concerns.
3. **Letters of Recommendation:** May 1st is the official start date for students to ask teachers for letters of recommendation.

FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Contact your teachers via email or google meet and ask them if they would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation. Remember to use proper edicate when reaching out to your teachers.
- **AFTER** you speak to the teacher, and they agree to write a letter for you:
 - Follow these directions to upload your request in Naviance: [click here](#). **If you do not add the request in Naviance, the teacher will not be able to upload anything for you.**

FOR COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The information you provide on the junior questionnaire will help your counselor write a detailed and informative letter of recommendation on your behalf.
- Access the two (2) links sent to your school email (your parents were sent a separate link) and **complete the questionnaire prior to July 1st** in order for your counselor letter of recommendation to be completed.
 - **Counselors will not be able to complete a letter of recommendation until both of the questionnaires are completed as they are essential for the best representation of you to the colleges.**
- Reminder: The deadline for the questionnaire submission is **July 1st**.

4. **Common App's Explore Colleges Feature:** Virtual college exploration is a great way for juniors to learn about college options. Common App's Explore Colleges feature is a great tool for students to use to learn what they want out of their college experience. This article provides an overview of this tool and highlights best practices for how to search for colleges that meet a student's unique needs, how to access virtual campus tours, and learn about application requirements. <https://www.commonapp.org/blog/navigating-common-apps-explore-colleges-profiles>
5. **Scheduling Update:** Students can review their 2020-2021 course requests by signing into their PowerSchool account.
6. **NCAA initial eligibility changes:** The NCAA has recently published an update to initial eligibility due to impacts by COVID-19. The following link will provide you with a PDF for student-athletes, coaches, and parents: <http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/NCAAInitialEligibilityCOVID-19Update.pdf>
7. **Virtual College Visits:** In lieu of visiting college campuses this spring, many schools are providing a variety of virtual options to explore their campuses. Along with utilizing the Explore Colleges feature on Common App, you can tour colleges by utilizing these links: Youvisit.com, Youniversity.com, Campustours.com, or eCampusTours.com. It is important to visit your school's website to see what virtual options they offer. Many schools have added current student interviews or highlights and day in the life videos. Below is a link to an example of one at BU. <http://www.bu.edu/admissions/why-bu/student-life/day-in-life/>

As always, your school counselors are here to support you as you wrap up your junior year and continue through your college search process. Please reach out to your counselor with any questions or concerns so we may assist you during this time.

Todd Dyer tdyer@avon.k12.ct.us

Andrew Ellrod aellrod@avon.k12.ct.us

Lissa Irvine lirvine@avon.k12.ct.us

Laura Sullivan lsullivan@avon.k12.ct.us

Heather Toyen htoyen@avon.k12.ct.us

Hello Sophomores,

Happy Friday! We have a few updates and information for you regarding your sophomore year. Please take a moment to read through the information below:

1. **Finding balance:** Please keep us informed if you need anything; we are here to support you academically, personally, and as you continue to prepare for next year and your future beyond AHS. We are available via email, Google meet, and good ol' fashioned phone calls! 😊
2. **Scheduling Update:** Students can review their 2020-2021 course requests by signing into their PowerSchool account.
3. **College research resources (for those curious sophomores):** We are providing college search resources as a courtesy. Our expectation is that the majority of sophomores will begin their search in earnest during junior year. The tools we are sharing are for those sophomores who are eager to begin their college search. Both [Naviance](#) and [CollegeBoard](#) offer college search tools that allow students to research and identify schools that would be good fits.
 - **Virtual college visits:** In place of visiting college campuses this spring, many schools are providing a variety of virtual options to explore their campuses. Along with utilizing the Explore Colleges feature on Common App, attending a college fair, you can tour colleges by utilizing these links: [Youvisit.com](#), [Youniversity.com](#), [Campustours.com](#), or [eCampusTours.com](#). It is important to visit your school's website to see what virtual options they offer. Many schools have added current student interviews or highlights and day in the life videos. Below is a link to an example of one at BU.
<http://www.bu.edu/admissions/why-bu/student-life/day-in-life/>
 - **Virtual College Fairs** - Several companies are offering virtual college fairs this year. These fairs will provide you with information on the application process, financial aid, programs, and more.
 - [Navigate 2020 - Virtual College Fair & Conference](#). May 4 - 6 from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM. This will provide information on the impact of COVID-19 on the admission process, financial aid and financial award programs how to balance the application, multicultural, first generation, and accessibility/disabilities resources on college campuses, how to find the best college fit and chose your major, and what to expect the first year on campus.

- [Strive Virtual College Exploration](#). April 20 - May 8. This will provide three weeks of virtual presentations for juniors to explore college opportunities. Students will have the opportunity to hear tips from admission officers, gain important college knowledge through 300+ presentations and information sessions, attend 200+ college information sessions, and learn about 450+ colleges and universities from 43 states and 13 countries.
4. **Naviance Updates** - Naviance has announced some updates that will help you with your career & college search. For more information, click [here](#) to read their announcement.

As always, your school counselors are here to support you. Please reach out to your counselor with any questions or concerns so we may assist you during this time.

Todd Dyer tdyer@avon.k12.ct.us

Andrew Ellrod aellrod@avon.k12.ct.us

Lissa Irvine lirvine@avon.k12.ct.us

Laura Sullivan lsullivan@avon.k12.ct.us

Heather Toyen htoyen@avon.k12.ct.us

Hello Freshman,

Happy Friday! We have a few updates and information for you regarding your freshman year. Please take a moment to read through the information below:

- 1. Finding Balance:** Please keep us informed if you need anything; we are here to support you academically, personally, and as you continue to prepare for next year and your future beyond AHS. We are available via email, google meets, and good ol' fashioned phone calls! 😊
- 2. Scheduling Update:** Students can review their 2020-2021 course requests by signing into their PowerSchool account.

As always, your school counselors are here to support you. Please reach out to your counselor with any questions or concerns so we may assist you during this time.

Todd Dyer tdyer@avon.k12.ct.us

Andrew Ellrod aellrod@avon.k12.ct.us

Lissa Irvine lirvine@avon.k12.ct.us

Laura Sullivan lsullivan@avon.k12.ct.us

Heather Toyen htoyen@avon.k12.ct.us