

Welcome Back Seniors!!

You are in for a *challenging, exciting, hopeful, emotional and fun year* and I will be here to guide you through the entire college process! Let's get started with an email full of important and useful items. As with all my emails, long though they may be, please read the ENTIRE email since you never know what might apply to you.

Remember to check daily for emails from the CAP office and also check the Facebook page every other day at Coral Gables Senior High CAP Office.

1. I will be visiting all of your English classes to give you a comprehensive presentation on how to apply to college and many important things you will need to know to be successful this year. These visits start now and will end on August 29th **so please do not be absent for your English class in the first 2 weeks of school because it will be very hard to catch up. If, after August 29th you did not see the presentation, please come to see me immediately.**
2. Schools Board member Carlos Curbelo is having a **College Night TONIGHT** in case you are interested.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/l8k7u8q10kn9ufw/Carlos%20Curbelo%20College%20Night%202014-15.pdf>
3. Remember if you know a senior who is not getting my emails, please have them go to www.coralgablescavaliers.org and click on the CAP Page. On the top, there is a CAP REGISTRATION link. They should fill it out and submit it and they will start getting my emails in about 3 weeks.
4. Many of you have already started filling out your Common App. I wanted to make you aware that for some colleges, the supplemental essays appear in the Writing Column on the Dashboard. However, for others, there is a dash (indicating no Writing Supplement) and the supplemental essay questions are actually buried *within* the Questions section of the supplement (i.e. where

you are asked about term, on campus housing, aid, etc.) (also known as the “Member Screen”). **This is misleading to students who are using the Dashboard to access and complete additional essays because they may conclude that the supplements are not required when this is not the case.** Additionally, as happened last year, many of the supplemental essays do not show a word count requirement yet there is a limit when you go to cut and paste an essay into the box. I have been told that Common App is currently in the process of creating a resource that students and counselors can use to identify each college's writing requirements, including those that are conditional based on responses to other questions but we do not have a roll out date for this yet. Please keep this in mind when applying – 99% of colleges on Common App require a supplemental essay or short answers, so if you don't see it at first, keep digging.

5. For those of you who still plan to take the SAT and ACT, here are the dates of the tests and the registration dates:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/p7rqkidkq88ut8t/2014-2015%20SAT%20%20ACT%20Test%20Dates.pdf>
6. For those of you wondering which colleges require subject tests and how many, here is a list.
http://www.compassprep.com/admissions_req_subjects.aspx
7. For those of you who may not have done as well on your SAT and ACT as you hoped and are now wondering which colleges are “test optional” here is a list:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/45v9sh450mhwo04/Optional%20testing%20schools%202014-2015.pdf>
8. I will go into more details about the application process when I visit your classes, but for now here is a helpful list that my colleague Bob Roddy put together that I thought you would find helpful:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lurrjc0at78mzye/College%20Application%20Requirements.pdf>

9. It may be helpful to have a look at this list of colleges that *require* TWO teacher letters of recommendation so you can be prepared if any of these is on your list:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3yd6ubjz8zi5z4s/Colleges%20that%20require%20%20teacher%20letters%20of%20Recc%2014-15.pdf>
10. If you are curious what colleges DO NOT superscore SAT results, here is a list:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hkwrtzmoz1sgeav/Colleges%20that%20do%20NOT%20superscore%20SAT%2014-15.pdf>
11. Many colleges have diversity weekends in the early fall. If you are interested in going to see a college that you otherwise cannot afford to visit and you fit the criteria for the weekend, I suggest you apply. You can apply to several. Do this soon as many deadlines have passed already. These are all expense paid trips!
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/owq00pbi0ozzx2/Multicultural%20Fly%20In%20Programs%202014-2015.pdf>
12. Since many colleges will be visiting Gables in the next few months, here is a guide to some helpful questions to ask:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/b7ax2pbhs7p9sls/Questions%20to%20ask%20College%20Reps%2014-15.pdf>
13. Here is a reality check:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z55u4hkodw294sd/REALITY%20CHECK.pdf>
14. If you are a senior athlete, please read this:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/y4kityultujz2ok/Tips%20for%20Student%20Athletes%20final.pdf>
15. All of you should already be looking for ways to pay for college including scholarships. In your portal your ConnectEDU account has a scholarship platform with thousands of scholarship listed. I suggest you activate your account and have a look. While you are there, look at the financial aid platform and familiarize yourself with the costs of college so you can be prepared for January.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/efclgg6w3i8p24z/ConnectEDU%20Student%20Activation.pdf>

16. Do you want to chat with a bunch of colleges and get ready for the application season, go to the College Week Live event tomorrow:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/em5avxzwr9k0q3/College%20Week%20Live%20Back%20to%20School.pdf>
17. Check out these great resources for finding the right College Match for you!
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/eyot56p1gpanq6z/JUNIORS%20AND%20SENIORS%20LOOKING%20TO%20MATCH%20COLLEGES.pdf>
18. Are you a woman or minority interested in going into STEM?
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/l1d630412s3ma1p/RENSELAER%20STAR%20PROGRAM.pdf>
19. If you are interested in attending a historically black college here is a list:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1tcu6vtzjgiu7tv/Historically%20Black%20Colleges%2014-15.pdf>
20. If you are interested in colleges that are historically Hispanic serving colleges, here is a list:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/p1hi5eg9i9nbchu/Historically%20Hispanic%20Serving%20Colleges%2014-15.pdf>
21. Many colleges from all over the US have preview nights in Miami where the Admission reps talk about the schools and you can ask questions. As I hear about them I will post them on Facebook and try to get them up on Bulletin Boards as well (I typically will not email them). Please keep checking so you don't miss these opportunities to connect with reps from schools you might be interested in attending.
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/wl0cig3hwlct7uf/NYU%20In%20Miami.pdf>;
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sdarbafgjk0kyf2/Wash%20U%20in%20Miami%2014-15.pdf>.
22. It may be helpful to share this list with your parents and use it when putting the finishing touches on your college list. It is a list of colleges that claim to

meet 100% of demonstrated financial need. (Caveat: although many of these schools claim to meet all of your need, keep in mind that part of the “meeting of the need” can come in the form of loan packages, so investigate their policies further before jumping to conclusions).

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zhuyec16n19fzxm/Colleges%20and%20universities%20that%20claimed%20to%20meet%20100%20percent%20of%20demonstrated%20financial%20need%20for%20full.pdf>; It is important to get a sense of the financial aid practices used by the colleges you are considering before you begin the actual **application and then the FAFSA** process in the spring beginning in January.

Colleges that profess to meet full-demonstrated financial need are schools that will close the tuition gap between what you can afford and what the Government says you can afford. For example, Currently Duke University has a total cost of attendance of \$56,056. If you do your financial aid forms for Duke (FAFSA and CSS Profile) and their financial aid determines that you can contribute only \$5,000 the cost of an education at Duke, you will then have a "gap" of \$51,056. This is referred to as your "demonstrated" need. Most colleges and universities will attempt to meet your need but will routinely not meet your full demonstrated need (perhaps leaving you \$10,000 to \$20,000 short). Colleges and universities that profess to meet full demonstrated need will, offer you a financial aid package including scholarships, grants, work study and loans covering the total amount need of \$51,056. Some institutions like Amherst and the University of Pennsylvania and others will offer the total amount without any loans. This, of course, is very good for those in need of financial aid.

62 Colleges Meet 100% of Students' Financial Need. This will help make college affordable to even the most economically disadvantaged students through their generous financial aid packages. These schools meet 100 percent of a student's documented financial need. Please take a close look at some of these colleges if you are considering additional schools to apply to.

Source: U.S. News & World Report, Colleges That Claim to Meet Full Financial Need

23. News from U Chicago: If applying to U Chicago
We are excited to announce that for the first time students applying to The University of Chicago may use **either** the Universal Application **or** the Common

Application. We view both applications equally, so students should feel free to use whichever method they prefer.

As in the past, students will also need to submit the UChicago Supplement in order to complete their application. New this year, we offer the option for students to submit the UChicago Supplement through their UChicago Accounts. Students who choose to apply through the Common Application may submit their supplement either directly through the Common Application or through their UChicago account; while students who apply through the Universal Application must submit the supplement through their UChicago account. Additionally, students can now get a head start on their UChicago Supplement before they begin working on the Common or Universal application by creating a UChicago Account at getstarted.uchicago.edu.

The UChicago writing supplement will remain the same and asks students to write up to three essays: one required short essay asking “Why UChicago?”, one optional short essay asking students to tell us about their ‘favorites’, and one required extended essay responding to one of our [five essay prompts](#). Students will be able to upload a document for each of these essays—allowing them to be as creative as they would like and eliminating concerns about formatting and strict word counts.

That’s it for today folks!

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