

Hey There Grizzly Senior!

Welcome to senior year! My name is Danielle Stadick and I currently serve as the College and Career Counselor for Grand Oaks High School. Mrs. Aguilar (my better half and assistant) and I are very excited to begin working with you as you begin exploring/planning your next adventure after high school. I hope this becomes a powerful year for you as you work with your parent/guardian, counselor, administrator and me to execute the best plan for you.

It's also very important for you to take a step back and recognize that this is your last year in High School. Try to also ensure you fill it with fun-filled adventures and experiences that you can look back on fondly. Make the best out of this year because it is going to go by so fast! But don't worry, Mrs. Aguilar and I will be here every step of the way. This email is the first of several that will help to remind you of some important information to consider on your timeline, provide access to helpful resources and share exciting opportunities with you. We also CC all parents on our email blasts, so if you are receiving this email, check with your friend, your parent, or your student to make sure they also received it. If they didn't, please have them log into their Naviance account and check the email they have listed on their profile. Click on "about me" and then "my account" to access this information.

Now for the good stuff.

I know MANY of you are already getting a head start on your applications. Even though Common App and Apply Texas aren't open yet (coming soon!), you can still craft your applications list and HS resume, prepare brag sheets for letter of recommendation requests, and start working on your college essay(s). On the flip side, applying to college the day it opens doesn't guarantee you admission/admission to your first choice major. Depending on what colleges you are applying to, applying early can help, but applications take time, planning, effort and organization (which is why we are sharing so much here on the first email). It is MUCH better to feel confident about the application you are submitting rather than rushing to get it in super early.

Additionally, we understand that in today's world, we may not be planning on college right after HS - and that's ok too. We will also be working alongside our military recruiters and trade schools/community businesses to bring you information about other options. Full disclosure, you will see us kicking out A LOT of information about college -because there are so many moving parts that continually change. However, the LAST thing we want is for you to think of the GOHS College & Career Center (CCC) as just for "college-going students". We can help you with WHATEVER your plan is... or help you research and develop a plan that is a great fit for you :).

For your convenience, I have a google doc that gives a helpful breakdown (and links to some resources) of applications and helpful information as you begin crafting your lists. [Getting Started - College Applications 101](#) is a lot of information that I INTENTIONALLY placed in one place. It's not intended to overwhelm you, but provide as a guide help you organize your thoughts and develop your game plan.

This information is just the "tip of the iceberg" so to speak - regarding all the things the GOHS College and Career Center (CCC) can assist with, so know that we will be presenting many important things in more detail throughout the year as they approach. For example, we will be pulling ALL SENIORS into the CCC during their English 4 class for Senior Orientation in September to go over many post-secondary planning items in more detail (such as how to request a transcript, request a letter of recommendation, and important things to consider when working on your applications/essay). Also - new this year will be "lunch and learn" sessions where we schedule helpful presentations (like college essay tips and tricks or financial aid help) during your lunches.

Another important update for you to know, is that CISD has updated our procedure for rising senior transcripts with rank/GPA. We have JUST completed verifying rank/GPA for our rising seniors and it has been posted in Naviance (in the same place as your email mentioned above). This rank/GPA verification is in ADDITION to the rank/GPA we will run for seniors near September 15. This is to help service those students who may be on the cusp of top 10% or automatic admission status (depending on what schools you are

applying to). If your rank is right on the cusp, we would suggest submitting your application early and requesting a transcript before September 15 re-ranking just to be safe.

You ARE able to make transcript requests in Naviance at this time, but the program will not allow us to upload transcripts and send them until the beginning of August. As soon as the system opens, we will send another email to notify you that we can now begin processing transcript requests. **DO NOT REQUEST A TRANSCRIPT UNLESS YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION.** If you do, it is very likely it will get misplaced on the college end because they do not have an application on file for you yet.

This information should get you started - so let me share with you what the next few weeks will look like (an inside look):

(7/26-7/29) - I'll be working on short how-to videos and cheat sheets to walk you through some frequent tasks you will do (these resources are updated every year to include all the new features of applytexas, commonapp and Naviance).

(8/1) - Grizzly GROWL camp for all incoming freshmen and new students - I'll be presenting tons of important info to parents with our lead counselor, Mrs. Amos. Juniors and Seniors can come pick up their schedules from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

(8/2) - Application help session in the CCC during sophomore schedule pick up from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. This is NOT a 1:1 session, but helpful workshop for you to pull up your things and get help, get started on research, and have access to me to ask any questions you may have to help you.

(8/3) - Application help session in the CCC from 9:00AM to 12:00 PM for those who could not come 8/2 afternoon.

(8/4-8/9) - I'll be in professional development and back-to-school sessions with teachers, but will respond to emails as best as I can.

(8/10) - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!!! WOO HOO!

All this information (and more) will also be included in a "Class of 2023" Canvas Course you will have access to as soon as Canvas is up and running.

One more resource I'd like to share with you is our [Calendar of Events for the CCC and Counseling Department](#). It's VERY important for you to understand that this is a live document for a reason. DO NOT just print it and put it on your fridge, as this information is subject to change - especially in the spring. Many of the spring dates are TENTATIVE. It's meant to help keep you informed of upcoming events and help you plan your year (like knowing that the FAFSA won't open until Oct 1 and that we will provide an info session before and help sessions after it opens).

Geez this email became a bit of a novel. I promise they won't all be this long :) Many will be very short and sweet. Please don't feel overwhelmed by all this info we just shared. If anything, we hope it instills some confidence that the GOHS CCC can be very helpful and will be here all year long to assist you with your post-secondary planning!

As always, please let us know if you need anything!

Your Friendly Neighborhood College & Career Counselor,

Danielle Stadick

Prof Counselor/High School/College

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