



COLLEGE & CAREER COUNSELOR

MS. GRACELY – cgracely@maclarenschool.org

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CLASS OF 2023—SENIORS

By this time, the bulk of college applications have been submitted. Everyone has worked diligently throughout the college application process, and many seniors have started receiving acceptance letters. Some colleges accept applications through mid-February and some accept applications through July if they offer rolling admission. Now is the time to apply to any additional colleges based on new information or awareness of different priorities.

Seniors should also update their college decision status/acceptance status in Naviance. Instructions on how to do this were sent by email and have been posted on the Senior Postsecondary Google Classroom page.

Seniors should continue applying for scholarships this semester. Scholarships will continue to be posted on the Senior Postsecondary Google Classroom page. Parents and seniors should also make sure to complete the FASFA if it is not already completed. Pikes Peak State College offers free FASFA workshops to help students and their families fill out the FASFA. The next workshop is held on February 14, and there are several dates following that. You can register for one of these workshops [here](#).

SPRING SCHOLARSHIPS

Partner Colorado Foundation: This scholarship is open to all students who are permanent Colorado residents. Recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, however superior academic achievement and involvement in curricular, extracurricular and community activities are also taken into consideration. Awardees must be candidates for a degree at a qualifying educational institution. The application window is open now and closes on April 29, 2023.

Cameron Beard Scholarship: Cameron Beard loved attending school at Thomas MacLaren. This scholarship is offered in memory of him and all the goodness he shared with others. To apply, please submit a letter of recommendation, and a cover letter including your name and post-graduate plans. The deadline is May 1, 2023. Please send your application directly to beardcamille@yahoo.com. Choose two of the following questions to answer (please limit your entire response to 500 words or less): *How do you interact daily with your classmates to uplift and support them? Please give specific examples. What does integrity mean to you and how have you implemented it into your life? How did you change or grow as a person during a difficult or challenging time?*

For more scholarships open to only Colorado students, visit this [link](#).

CLASS OF 2024—JUNIORS

Junior Parent Night - There will be a virtual meeting for parents of Juniors on Tuesday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link can be found [here](#). A reminder will be sent out closer to the event.

In February, Ms. Gracely will begin meeting with 11th grade students individually to start talking about their interests, postsecondary plans, researching college or career options, and building their initial college list. On March 21, Ms. Gracely will be teaching a CommonApp workshop and will be teaching a college application essay workshop on April 17.

Standardized Testing - Juniors take the SAT on April 12 at MacLaren. The SAT is used as a college entrance exam, and students can choose to send their scores to up to six colleges at the time of the exam. Although April 12 is the only date MacLaren will be offering the SAT, students are welcome to register to take the exam additional times by logging into their CollegeBoard account. Students can get assistance registering for additional exams [here](#).

CLASS OF 2025—SOPHOMORES

Sophomores should continue focusing on their school work and build positive, productive habits. The skills needed to succeed in high school parallel those needed in college and the workforce. Students should also be focusing on extracurricular involvement. Whether it's sports, a part-time job, community service, or volunteer positions, colleges and future employers want to see the student's passions, work ethic, and skills outside the school setting.

This is a great time to start talking with your sophomore about their interests, skill sets, and potential career or college interests. Ms. Gracely will be meeting with sophomores on February 23 and 24 to get them set up in their Naviance accounts. Naviance is the online platform they will use to start exploring career and college interests, as well as the platform they will use to apply to colleges their senior year.

CLASS OF 2026—FRESHMEN

The most important college and career task for ninth graders is to focus on their school work and building positive, productive habits. The skills needed to succeed in high school parallel those needed in college and the workforce: being on time, understanding and meeting expectations, meeting deadlines, following a dress code, overcoming obstacles, self-regulation, and dealing with conflict.

RESOURCES

SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

Institutional Scholarships: Most high-dollar scholarships come from the colleges. To find available scholarships, visit the scholarship webpage for each college of interest.

General Scholarships: Smaller scholarships can be found using the National Scholarship databases:

- [Scholarships.com](https://www.scholarships.com)
- [Going Merry](https://www.goingmerry.com)
- [FastWeb](https://www.fastweb.com)
- [Naviance](https://www.naviance.com)

FAFSA & CSS/PROFILE

Financial aid forms opened on October 1. FAFSA is required by most colleges while CSS/Profile is required by a small number of private colleges.

FAFSA Help:

- [Begin FAFSA](https://fafsa.ed.gov)
- [Step-by-Step Guide](https://fafsa.ed.gov)

CSS Help:

- [Begin CSS/Profile](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)
- [Step-by-step Video Guide](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org)

MacLaren College Guidebook

- [College Guidebook link](#)