

August, 2009

Dear Parents of Seniors and Seniors,

This Update addresses some of the areas regarding the college selection process which we will be discussing with the seniors in early September. Again, we ask you to share this and all other Updates with your sons.

**SAT REGISTRATION AND PREPARATION** - Registration for the October 10 SAT Reasoning Test closes on **September 9**, and for the November 7 SAT on October 1. All seniors who are applying early should take the SAT Reasoning Testing in October and the SAT Subject Tests in November. Anyone whose SAT Reasoning Test is still inadequate we will encourage to sit for it again on December 5. Students who are not applying early should take the SAT Reasoning Test in October or November and the SAT Subject Tests in November or December, unless they wish to follow the earlier schedule. Remember that our College Board number (310835) must be included on the registration form, and we advise you to indicate on the form those colleges to which you wish to have the scores sent. This will save you a great deal of money. In addition, registration for the September 12 ACT Test closes on **August 7** and for the October 24 ACT Test on **September 18**.

In addition, as to preparation for the senior year SAT/ACT Tests, YES! A student should never take such a test without careful private study amounting to at least thirty-five or forty hours spread out over five or six weeks prior to the test.

**APPLYING EARLY, REQUESTING RECOMMENDATIONS, MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS** - Extended statements regarding Delbarton's values and procedures regarding these topics have been sent and are included again in this mailing. We urge everyone to read them carefully, discuss them at home, and be in touch with us if you have any questions. Also, the final decision regarding applying early should be made as early in October as possible, if not earlier, to guarantee sufficient time for counselor/applicant interaction in preparation for the application and essays.

As indicated in an earlier Update, Delbarton recommends seven or eight applications, with consideration given to the values discussed in the enclosed statements. Furthermore, although we do not dictate where a boy should or should not apply, we do ask that he create his list with some sensitivity to the rest of the class. For example, since Notre Dame and Georgetown have distinctly different campus personalities, we encourage the boys who seem

interested in both to make their choices before the application process and apply to one or the other but not both in the **early** round. This assures a greater spread of admits to Notre Dame and Georgetown across the senior class, increases Delbarton's yield to both, and helps maintain our excellent reputations with both.

Furthermore, we try to assure that other Delbarton colleges are not overused as safeties by seniors who neither need them nor desire to attend them. For example, someone who is clearly Notre Dame bound ought to refrain from using all the other Catholic colleges as "safeties," and a clear admit to Harvard/Yale/Princeton/Dartmouth probably doesn't need to apply to additional schools of that caliber.

Again, as we commented in previous statements, none of the above is etched in stone. Delbarton is committed to each counselee as an individual with particular needs. Exceptions do exist. In the recent years, for example, of the 240 boys who applied to Notre Dame or Georgetown, twenty had important reasons to apply to both. We challenge the seniors to consider the common good as well as their own, however, because this is an important value in life. Each of us is responsible to each other. In addition, more often than not, attention to the common good benefits the individual. Attention to the common good by members of former Delbarton classes has clearly benefited members of more recent classes in the college selection process.

How to do so? "Cast the net widely!" We must broaden the base of our acceptable colleges, discovering now, in August, September and October, a larger number of schools which match our needs as well as the more common ones do. Furthermore, the more widely we cast our nets and direct our search, the more significant to our personal development will be our experience of choosing. The more schools we try to match with our needs now, the more we will embrace and own our final choice in April, whether or not it is a favorite Delbarton college.

Finally, if you are considering applying for financial aid, use the financial aid calculator on the collegeboard.com website to determine your EFC (estimated family contribution). This will give you an idea of the amount of financial aid you could get at a "need-based" institution. Additionally, there are a number of colleges which offer significant "merit-based" scholarships.

We thank you for your attention to the material in this important Update. Again, we look forward to being available to you and your sons throughout the college process. Don't hesitate to call at any time. God bless you.