Dear Juniors and Parents of Juniors,

To continue our communication, your counselors, Mr. Rosenhaus, Mr. Flanagan and Mr. Linfante have been meeting with the juniors on the following topics:

- While class changes can be made at the end of the summer or the beginning of the fall, once the initial computer run has taken place these changes will be difficult. Consequently, juniors are encouraged to take a second look at the courses they have chosen and make any changes they wish to make before they leave for summer break.

- Final visits to colleges, which should include taking the tours and participating in the information sessions, should take place this summer. Yes, while some feel that college visits are more valuable when students are on campus, missing school days during the fall term of the senior year is not wise. We advise seniors who are going to apply early to a certain college to spend an overnight at that college in September and October, with the extended Columbus Day weekend probably being the best time for visiting. But spending too much time away from Delbarton during the fall can negatively affect the all-important fall term GPA. In addition, for students who will be choosing their colleges in April, visits to the college campuses are most appropriate at that time and much easier for the about-to-graduate senior. Consequently, members of the Class of 2018 are encouraged to do their visiting during the summer. Indeed, some last minute visits will have to take place in December and January to those additional "safeties" or "long shots" which may be suggested by the fall term GPA and SATs, but these will be the exception rather than the norm.

- You must love your safeties; and you must visit and take the tour and information session at each "safety." At all of your schools, and most assuredly at your safeties, "Ghost Applicants" who never show up are often wait-listed.

- Juniors should choose two teacher recommenders before the end of the school year. All juniors are asked to let Mr. Rosenhaus, Mr. Flanagan or Mr. Linfante know who those two teachers are after they ask those teachers, and are welcome to consult with the counselors should they not be sure who to ask.

- Cumulative three year transcripts for the Class of 2018 will be sent home in early June. At that time you can forward these to coaches and others who have legitimate reasons to receive a student's transcript. Electronic versions are available upon request.
We counselors have met with approximately 85% of the boys and their parents as of this date. These meetings usually take about an hour, and, before the end of the school year, are best held after school or weekday evenings. Parents who have not yet seen us for one of these extended and quite thorough meetings are invited to call Mr. Rosenhaus, Mr. Flanagan or Mr. Linfante to arrange such a meeting as soon as possible.

All juniors must complete a "brag sheet" which is available on the "College Counseling" page of the Delbarton website. This assignment is due August 15th and should be submitted by email to Mr. Rosenhaus. Our hope is that the boys spend a fair amount of time answering the questions on the "brag sheet" as thoroughly as possible. This exercise represents excellent remote preparation for writing college essays. When the counselors begin reviewing the "brag sheets" with members of the Class of 2018 at the beginning of September, they will both lead the students to learn more about themselves as well as increase their ability to draft cogent and effective college essays. At the end of September and the beginning of October, when the boys will know more about their priorities regarding college selection, the counselors, the senior year English teachers, and other faculty members here will help the seniors reflect on their responses and better prepare them for the exercise of college essay writing. At Delbarton, we feel that the boys should move through this process and compose their essay responses in early October, if they are going to apply early, or late November/early December, if they are applying regular decision. If they are applying early, students should be preparing their college applications in September and October.

The summer should be spent in extensive reading, travel, extensive language learning, work, camp counseling, community service, mountain climbing or other outdoor activities, and in other productive maturing activities. We feel that daily reading is the best preparation for the August and/or October SAT/September ACT reading and writing sections, and if test preparation is required (consult with the boy's counselors), that should begin in early August.

Most seniors should take the SAT Reasoning Test in August and/or October, and the SAT Reasoning Test again or the SAT Subject Tests in November. Others should be taking the ACT in September and/or October. Please note; the August 26th SAT registration deadline is July 28th and the September 9th ACT registration deadline is August 4th.

All information regarding college counseling at Delbarton, including appointment schedules, is available on our "College Counseling" web page: http://www.delbarton.org/academics/college-counseling

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us should you have any questions. (Mr. Rosenhaus at: mrosenhaus@delbarton.org, Mr. Flanagan at: sflanagan@delbarton.org or Mr. Linfante at: nlinfante@delbarton.org). Counselors will be available at Delbarton through the months of June, July, and August. E-mail is typically the best way to communicate with us during the summer months. We are looking forward to working with you.