

January's Newsletter Contains:

- Midyear Madness
- What to Do if You Are Deferred
- Welcome Ms. Bo!
- Counseling Supports
- Juniors—College Selection Conferences
- WIMAHI Mentoring Update

Important January & February Counseling Dates:

1/1 – FAFSA open for seniors to complete

2/3 – Diploma Curriculum Night for current 10th graders

2/22 – Priority deadline for seniors to complete CAS and Enrichment submissions

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WIHI Counseling Department Newsletter

January 2016 Edition

MIDYEAR MADNESS

Friday, January 15 marks the end of WIHI's first semester and the mid-way point of the 2015-16 school year! All students are likely experiencing some mix of fatigue, relief, sadness over classes that have ended and excitement for what's to come with the fresh start of semester two! Parents can help during this time by encouraging strong study and organizational habits such as students:

- Clearing out first-semester materials from binders (especially for classes that have ended!)
- Resuming regular planner use for daily assignments
- Healthy bedtime and morning routines

Midyear Report FAQs for Senior Parents

1. Will colleges see my first-semester grades from senior year? Generally **YES**. All Common Application colleges, and some non-Common App schools, require your counselor to upload a Midyear Report in February of senior year.
2. How do I make sure colleges get the Midyear Report? Simple— on or after February 5, log in to your account at commonapp.org. For each application, you'll see an entry for Midyear Report. When that field says "Submitted," you know the college has gotten your updated transcript.
3. Do I need to tell my counselor to send my Midyear Report? **NO**. When you added you're counselor's name and email address to your Common App in the fall, that submission serves as the request from you to your counselor to have the Midyear Report uploaded.
4. Will my first-semester grades help me get in to a college? It depends. If a college has not yet notified you of your admission decision, then chances are that the college is still reviewing your file, and a strong transcript from senior year would help!
5. Will my first-semester grades make a college change their decision? In the vast, vast majority of cases, no. If a college has already decided to accept you, that decision will hold as long as your first-semester grades are generally in the same range as your grades prior to 12th grade.

WIHI Counseling Supports

- Individual Counseling
- Peer Mentoring
- Support Groups
- Teachers After School
- Writing Center
- Learning Lab Tutoring
- College Resource Center

Contact your counselor today for information on how to access these and more great resources!

Junior Conferences for College Selection

All 11th grade students and parents are encouraged to complete a College Selection Conference with Mr. Nemo. Links to schedule a conference and complete advance questionnaires are at wihi.org/college-counseling.

Welcome Ms. Bo!

From January-April 2016, the WIMAHI Counseling Department will have an additional resource for student support—Ms. Bo Young Jun. “Ms. Bo” is a graduate student at Eastern Michigan University finishing up her Masters in School Counseling. She will be working under the supervision of Mr. Nemo, Mrs. Hoover, and Mrs. Do until April. As a counseling intern, similar to a student teacher, Ms. Bo will have opportunities to learn, experience, and sharpen her skills and knowledge that will prepare her to become a school counselor. As part of the process, Ms. Bo will be working collaboratively with WIHI & WIMA staffs to provide services and support to meet the needs of our students.

I Just Got Deferred from My Top Choice– What Do I Do?

A deferral from a college admissions office means that a college didn’t admit you in the early round but will reevaluate your application during the regular admissions period. It is difficult to address an individual student with an idea of his or her chances, because it depends on what all the other regular admission applicants are bringing to the table.

So, what are your chances of getting in after a deferral? Should you hold out hope for your top-choice school? California-based college admissions consultant Steven Mercer tells his clients that a deferral is good news, because in most cases it means that a college is still seriously considering you.

Even if being admitted from the deferred list is a long shot, you can still do things to increase your chances of being admitted. The first step is reevaluating your list of colleges to decide whether that school is still your top choice. If so, here are some ways to make your application stronger:

- **Write the admissions office** identifying yourself, thanking them for looking at your application, explaining why you want to attend that school, and asking if there’s anything you can do to help make your case.
- **Give more information.** Send grades from the first semester of your senior year (see Midyear Report section) and updated test scores if you re-tested.

Lastly, fall in love with your other colleges! Hopefully you have a well-balanced list of “sure thing” and “good fit” schools, and you’ve already submitted applications to them. Make sure those colleges have all the information they need from you and that you give yourself full opportunity to appreciate why those schools are great for you. Another campus visit or meeting with a WIHI grade at that college can help you gain a new “top choice” school!

Adapted from: Mulhere, Kaitlin. “You Were Deferred by Your Top College-What Now?” *Time*. <http://time.com/money/4150613/what-to-do-after-college-deferral/>

WIMAHI Mentoring Program Update: Great News!

Our Mentoring Program has Grown! We began the year with 15 WIHI students mentoring WIMA’s sixth grade. They did a wonderful job building relationships, acting as role models and teaching them Conflict Resolution Strategies. Our WIMAHI Mentoring Program has now grown to 33 mentors, with our second successful training having taken place on January 7. We now have ninth through eleventh graders mentoring all 173 WIMA students in sixth through eighth grades once per week for the rest of the school year! WIHI mentors also meet once per month after school to reflect and receive guidance about the process. It not only is a wonderful community service opportunity within our own school, but teaches invaluable leadership skills to our mentors. Our WIHI and WIMA students look forward to making these positive connections each week. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Hoover at khoover@wihi.org.

