



THOMAS MACLAREN SCHOOL

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER

COLLEGE & CAREER COUNSELOR

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AP EXAMS

Thomas MacLaren School does not offer the Advanced Placement (AP) curriculum, so we are not able to offer AP exams. If your child is interested in taking any AP exams this year, please follow the instructions for registration found in the [College Guidebook](#) or on the [College Board](#) website. Please note, the deadline for schools to order exams is November 15, so begin the process of contacting schools that offer the tests as soon as possible. It is highly recommended for any student attempting to take an AP exam to obtain official AP study materials. While MacLaren courses cover some of the material on the exam, MacLaren courses do not directly align with the Advance Placement curriculum.

CLASS OF 2024—SENIORS

This year is off to a great start as seniors begin college applications. Students begin their individual meetings with Mr. von Boeck this week. In the upcoming weeks, we will be discussing college application logistics including forming a college application list, determining application requirements and deadlines, requesting recommendations, and beginning the application essay.

Financial aid applications open October 1. Although the FAFSA is not yet open, you and your child can set up your Federal Student Aid Identification (FSA ID) by visiting the [Federal Student Aid](#) website. To allow for processing time, it is recommended to set up your FSA ID several days before you are ready to begin the FAFSA. If you have an FSA ID for a previous child, you do not need another one but your high school senior will need his or her own.

Parent Night: Mr. von Boeck will host a virtual meeting for parents of seniors on **Wednesday, September 6th, at 6:30 p.m.** The Zoom link can be found [here](#).

***See page 3 for scholarship details**

CLASS OF 2025—JUNIORS

Junior Parent Night - Mr. von Boeck will host a virtual meeting for parents of Juniors on **Monday, October 16th, at 6:30 p.m.** The Zoom link can be found [here](#).

In October, Mr. von Boeck will begin meeting with 11th grade students to discuss financial aid basics including grants, scholarships and net price calculators, how to use Naviance, and resources for researching colleges.

Many of the questions pertaining to college applications and financial aid for MacLaren students are addressed in the [College Guidebook](#) found on the school website under the *Students tab > College & Career > College Planning Resources > College Guidebook*.

Standardized Testing - The 11th graders take two College Board tests this year. In October, each student has the opportunity to take the PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). This test is additional practice for the SAT that will be taken in April 2024 and is the only qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship.

CLASS OF 2026—SOPHOMORES

The most important college and career task for 10th graders is to focus 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.

In math class this year, 10th graders will learn about compounding interest and how it pertains to loans. They will discuss options for paying for college and learn how to use a net price calculator to calculate an estimated cost of a particular college.

Sophomores will take the CLT-10 on Wednesday, September 27th. This is the 10th grade version of the Classic Learning Test (CLT) that students can elect to take as a college entrance exam for some colleges. To learn more about the CLT and colleges that accept this exam, please visit the [CLT](#) website. As in previous years, students in 10th grade will also take the PSAT10 in April.

Parent Night: Mr. von Boeck will be hosting a Parent Night for 9th and 10th grade parents on **Monday, November 6th**. The zoom link can be found [here](#).

CLASS OF 2027—FRESHMEN

The most important college and career task for 9th 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.

Later this year, 9th graders will learn about high school credits, the courses taken during high school, what a GPA is and how it impacts college applications. They will also discuss the MacLaren curriculum, what the liberal arts are, and why they take such a wide variety of classes.

Parent Night: Mr. von Boeck will be hosting a Parent Night for 9th and 10th grade parents on **Monday, November 6th, at 6:30 PM**. The zoom link can be found [here](#).

FALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Boettcher Scholarship: The Boettcher Foundation supports Colorado's high-potential graduating seniors by providing them with a comprehensive scholarship program to attend a Colorado college or university. Applications open on September 1st and are due November 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Daniel's Fund Scholarship: The Daniels Scholarship Program offers a four-year college scholarship that provides financial and personal support focused on helping Daniels Scholars succeed in college, and in life. The Daniels Scholarship can be used at any accredited nonprofit college or university in the United States. This program is geared for lower income families. Please visit the Daniel's Fund website for financial eligibility requirements. The application window is September 15th - October 15th, 2023

QuestBridge National College Match: The National College Match is a college admission and scholarship process through which high-achieving, low-income students can be admitted early with full four-year scholarships to QuestBridge college partners. Applications due September 26, 2023.

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 National Scholarship databases:

- [Scholarships.com](#)
- [Going Merry](#)
- [FastWeb](#)
- [Naviance](#)
- [College Board](#)
- [Niche](#)

FAFSA AND 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](#)
[Step-by-step Guide](#)

CSS Help: [Begin CSS/Profile](#)
[Step-by-step Video Guide](#)