



## Northfield Mount Hermon School

FOUNDED IN 1879

November!

The leaves have changed and most have fallen. Fall teams are finishing up their seasons, some with hopes of post-season tournaments. Outside of my office, the sounds of construction continue through the frosty mornings as the Rhodes Center for the Arts continues to take shape. Our musicians, singers, dancers and actors have done well without a home to call their own, including impressive performances this fall. It is exciting to think what they will all do right next door, in the not too distant future.

November is also the beginning of the end of this admission cycle for colleges and universities. Nearly 40% of our class of '08 (217 seniors and PGs) have already submitted applications for early decision, early action or rolling decision deadlines. All have seen their first set of grades at interim, and many have received a new set of standardized test scores (either SATs, SAT Subject Tests, ACTs or TOEFL) There are, of course, several test dates still ahead.

Most of your children will soon be coming home for a short Thanksgiving break. It is a time for family, and lots of relatives will descend collectively to the big meal, no doubt. Many can also descend collectively on the college bound senior who will probably answer that same set of questions over and over: "Where are you applying? What is your number one school? What are you going to major in? What are your chances of getting in? What did you write about in your essay?" If you can help diffuse some of that attention from your children, they would "give thanks."

Of course, the answers should be known to them and to you. Thanksgiving break (not, perhaps, Thanksgiving Day) is a good time to finish up the applications and to make any last adjustments to the list. If your senior or PG has a clear first choice, many schools have an Early Decision II program which has the same deadline as regular decision, but an acceptance would be received in February would be binding. This may be a good option to explore for some.

Attached, please find a hand-out that all members of NMH '08 have received from their college counselors. It outlines the process and who does what. Just a reminder, the student must send standardized test scores to the colleges. By law, the scores are "owned" by the student and they are the only ones who have the authority to share them.

Also, it is a good time for the family to begin to work on the financial side of things. The Naviance Family Connection web site has links to FAFSA and the College Board Profile, two financial documents you will be required to submit if you have asked for aid.

As always, we are here to answer your questions.

Peter Jenkins (for the Office)  
Senior Associate Director