

COMMODORE CHRONICLE

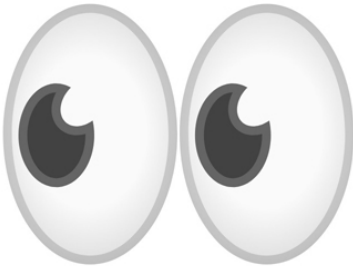


VOLUME 2122

ISSUE 2 Winter 2022

Staff - High School

Staff-Middle School

LOOK  FOR...

Coming soon...

- ★ Prom information
- ★ Powderpuff information
- ★ Class fundraisers
- ★ Graduation information

Is COLLEGE in your future? If so, think about these helpful ideas to get you ready. It's never too early to prepare.

How To Prepare For College — College Readiness Guide

What does it mean to be ready for college? There are some important steps to take during high school. Here are 11 tips to help you to be prepared academically and personally for your college education.

1. Start Planning for College Now!
2. Take the Right High School Classes to Prepare for College
3. Get Involved in Extracurricular Activities
4. Keep an Extracurricular Record
5. Get to Know your High School Guidance Counselor
6. Build Relationships with Mentors
7. Work on College Readiness Life Skills
8. College Visits - Schedule a College Campus Tour
9. College Entrance Exams - Make a Plan
10. Create an Organization System
11. Apply for College Admission, Financial Aid and Scholarships

High School is a great time to learn, explore, develop, and dream. When you start your freshman year, you may not know where you want to go to college or what you want to study. But there are things you can do that will move you towards being ready to select, apply, and be accepted to a great college. You need to be prepared for the challenges you will face once you arrive and start your college education. The following tips and details can help you prepare for academic success in college.

1. Start Planning for College Now!

If you are a high school student, or will soon be a high school student, now is the time to start preparing for your post-secondary education. College may seem like it's far away, but in some ways, it will be here before you know it! Preparing for a college education takes time, effort, and dedication.

When should I start preparing for college?

High school provides many opportunities, but it is up to you to take advantage of them. You can make the most of your high school years by thinking ahead and learning how to prepare for the future. Take the first step and make up your mind that you will make the most of the coming years, knowing your diligence will pay off later!

2. Take the Right High School Classes to Prepare for College

Plan to work hard in high school. Taking the most challenging classes available. In addition to learning the course content, such as Algebra, Chemistry, or a foreign language, college preparatory classes will also develop your skills in note-taking, studying, writing, test-taking, time management, critical thinking, and more. These important skills will prepare you for the rigor of college classes.

There are so many choices of classes. How do I choose between them?

Develop your academic interest. Especially during your junior and senior years of high school, you can often choose courses that will prepare you for the college degree program of your choice. For example, if you are considering nursing school, it can be helpful (or even required for acceptance) to take classes such as Anatomy, Physiology or Statistics in high school.

Thinking about an engineering degree? Load up on math and science courses. You don't have to know exactly what major you will choose but taking classes in your main area of academic interest will best prepare you to build upon that knowledge in college.

3. Get Involved in Extracurricular Activities

Involvement in activities outside of schoolwork makes high school a lot more interesting and fun. These extracurricular activities also provide opportunities to gain proficiencies you couldn't learn through textbooks and tests alone. Through extracurricular activities, you can develop important skills, such as teamwork, public speaking, creativity, leadership, and self-awareness.

What extracurricular activities should I do in high school?

The first step is to explore. As you start high school, you will find you have many new opportunities—sports, theater, music, art, debate, and computer science, just to name a few. While you can't do everything, try to get involved in as many clubs, teams, and

activities that you find interesting. There is not a required one-size-fits-all list of activities—what matters is that you find clubs and programs that interest you!

4. Keep an Extracurricular Record

Keep a record of your extracurricular activities. You can be asked about them in a few different ways on college applications. Your high school will keep track of your classes, grades, and credits. It is up to you to keep track of everything else.



5. Get to Know your High School Guidance Counselor

You likely have a high school guidance counselor assigned to you. Make an appointment with him or her! You don't need to wait until they reach out to you. It is important to connect with your guidance counselor regularly, starting with your freshman year.

Who can help me be prepared for college?

Your guidance counselor knows your school offerings and opportunities, including visits from college admissions counselors, college fairs, test prep classes, scholarships, and much more. Your guidance counselor is also a great resource for social and emotional support as well as career and college readiness.

Unfortunately, most guidance counselors are extremely busy and overworked. Make their job as easy as possible. Come to your appointment with your questions ready and don't expect to take too much time at each appointment. Thank your guidance counselor for information, help, and advice. Remember that you may need a letter of recommendation from your guidance counselor. To write a good letter, your guidance counselor needs to know your best characteristics and what stands out about you.

6. Work on College Readiness Life Skills

How can I get ready for college life?

Make a list of the life skills you would like to learn, then keep adding to it. Think through the best way for you to learn about each skill. Can your dad teach you to cook your favorite meal? Can your neighbor teach you how to check your oil or change a tire? Can your mom teach you the basics of doing laundry? Can your teacher or mentor help you set short term goals and make a plan to achieve them? What about grocery shopping, money management, and personal safety? Some things you can teach yourself, like remembering to set your alarm clock so you wake up on time. Many skills you can learn by watching a tutorial online. Depending on the number of life skills you want to learn, make a plan and set a goal— such as learning and practicing one new skill every month.

7. College Visits - Schedule a College Campus Tour

Try to visit as many college campuses as possible early on during your high school years. Don't wait to do every visit during your senior year. While it is best to visit during the school year when campus life is active, a visit in the summer is better than no visit at all, and a campus visit can be easily added to most summer vacation trips. Campus visits can range from a few hours to a whole day, but typically plan to spend an afternoon..

You can also make an appointment with the Office of Financial Aid. This is a great chance to ask about scholarships and learn how to apply for financial aid. You may want to learn more about a particular degree or program. For example, if you want to become a teacher, it is helpful to meet with someone in that department and possibly sit in on an education class. Keep in mind that while campus tours are a great way to gain a lot of information, be sure to walk around the college campus on your own as well. To get a true feel for the school, take some time to talk to college students and explore, using a campus map as your guide.

8. College Entrance Exams - Make a Plan

Make no mistake, colleges and universities consider college entrance exams to be one of the most important new student benchmarks. Familiarize yourself with standard college entrance exams and what is required or recommended by the colleges that interest you. U.S. schools will generally accept the ACT or the SAT, but some may prefer one over the other. Some colleges also recommend or require the optional writing portion of the exams. You will need to decide which test you will take, and some students take both standardized tests. It is best to take college entrance exams during your junior year, although some motivated high school sophomores will take the tests just see how they do and as part of their preparation.

How do I prepare to take the SAT or ACT test?

There are no easy shortcuts. The best way to prepare for college entrance exams like the SAT or ACT is to take challenging coursework while in high school and to learn the material well. For example, the best way to prepare for the math section in the ACT or SAT is to study math! Beyond that, it is helpful to practice and learn tips to help you do your best.

Ask your guidance counselor for suggestions that are specific to you and how you test. He or she may be able to recommend specific test prep classes or tutors helpful for the SAT and ACT exams.

Many students need to learn strategies for pacing themselves since the tests are timed. If the first test doesn't go as well as you hoped, don't give up. Many students choose to take the entrance exams more than once. You can use your prior results to focus your preparation for the future test. For example, if math was your lowest score, spend time reviewing for that portion of the test.

Set a goal to complete your last SAT or ACT test by the summer after your junior year. That will allow you to send your test scores to the colleges at the beginning of your senior year.

9. Create an Organization System

How to stay organized researching colleges?

As soon as you start meeting with college reps and visiting colleges, you will gather important information you'll need to keep organized. If you can't visit a campus in person, you can learn a lot by "visiting" a college online and reviewing their website. Create a document where you can record important information, so you don't forget. If you learn about a school that offers a particular major, write it down. If you hear about a Study Abroad program that sounds amazing, add this to your notes. If you had a great campus tour, be sure to record your experiences. Make a note of everything that excites you and is important to you so you don't forget. Include notes about scholarships, internship programs, professors, research programs, outdoor opportunities, campus clubs, and more.

As you move towards your senior year, you will narrow your list of colleges that you think are the best fit for you. All the information you have gathered—as well as all the self-discovery you have gained during high school—will help you make the best decision.

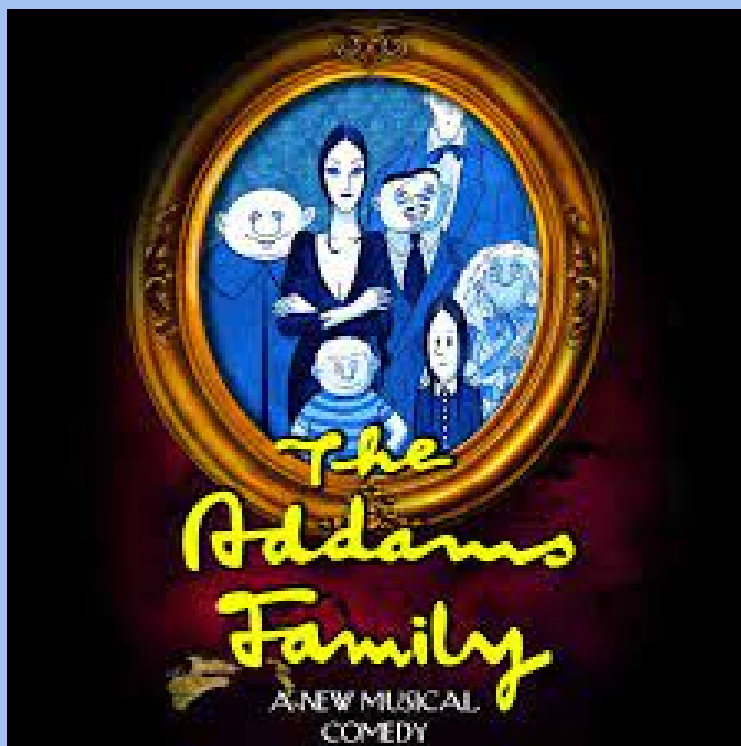
10. Apply for College Admission, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Once you've made a list of your favorite colleges, create a new document (or re-organize the document you used to record important college information) to help you during the application and admissions process. Make notes of all application deadlines, guidelines, and any other requirements. If you asked teachers and mentors for letters of recommendation, create reminders to follow up and confirm the college has received them.

Plan time into your schedule during the start of your senior year so you can properly focus on your college applications, as well as pursue financial aid and scholarships. Remember that financial aid can include not only scholarships and grants (money you don't have to repay) but also loans (that you do have to repay). If you need a part-time job, you can browse university jobs to find many opportunities. This vital research will help you develop a plan to pay for college.



Drama Club



The Addams Family
Friday, March 4, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

&

**Saturday, March 5, 2022 @
2:00 pm and 6:00 pm**

General Admission \$8









Submit your sports photos and relevant information to vrafail@fraziersd.org and we will publish them in the next issue.



The university is organized into three main colleges: the College of Engineering and Business, which includes the Dahlkemper School of Business Administration; the College of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences; and the Morosky College of Health Professions and Sciences. The following academic programs are offered:

- 60 Bachelor's degrees
- 6 Associate degrees
- 26 Master's degrees
- 6 Doctoral degrees
- 11 Pre-professional programs
- 20 Cooperative professional school options

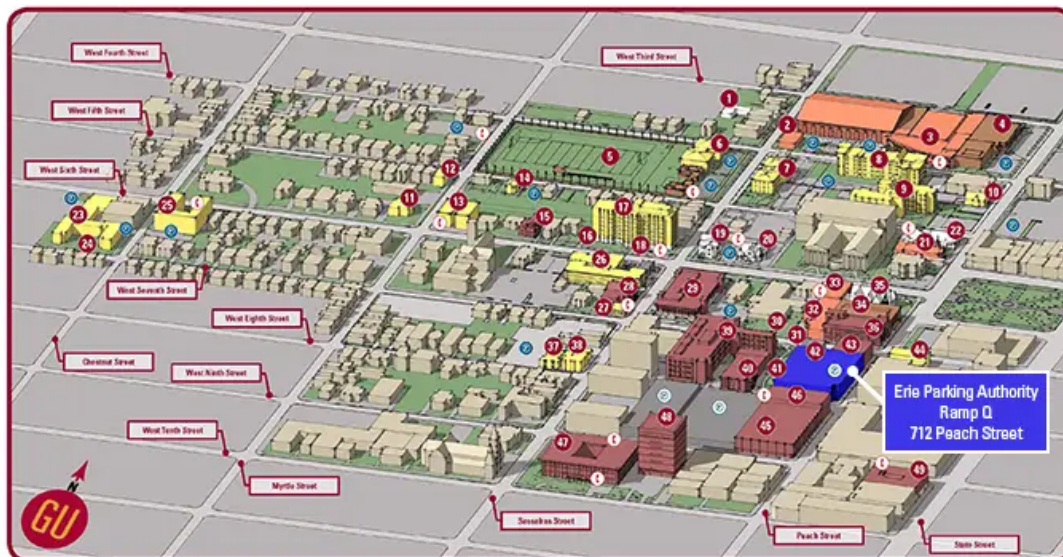
HOW TO SETUP A CAMPUS VISIT

If you are interested in attending part-time or are over age 21 and will be attending college for the first time, please contact the Center for Adult Learning to schedule a visit. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call: **814-871-5563** or email: theisen008@gannon.edu to make an appointment.

<https://www.gannon.edu/>



GANNON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP



ADMINISTRATION ○

- 36 Admissions- Global (International)
- 20 Admissions- Graduate
- 19 Admissions- Undergraduate
- 16 Campus Police & Safety
- 42 Campus Services
- 20 Cashier
- 20 Courthouse Commons
- 49 Erie Technology Incubator (ETI)
- 19 Gitnik Manse
- 22 Human Resources
- 35 Old Main
- 1 Physical Plant
- 20 Registrar
- 49 Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

STUDENT SERVICES ●

- 18 Health & Counseling Services
- 2 The Knight Club
- 33 Keim Commons
- 21 Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel
- 3 Recreation & Wellness Center
- 22 Student Services Building
- 46 University Bookstore
- 32 Waldron Campus Center

ACADEMIC ●

- 45 A.J. Palumbo Academic Center
- 36 Beyer Hall
- 40 Center for Advanced Engineering
- 49 Center for Business Ingenuity
- 43 Center for Communication and the Arts
- 15 Forensic Investigation Center
- 48 Knight Tower
- 29 Nash Library
- 47 Robert H. Morosky Academic Center
- 28 Schuster Theatre/Scottino Hall
- 39 Zum Science Center

ATHLETIC FACILITIES ●

- 4 Carneval Athletic Pavilion
- 34 Hammermill Center
- 5 McConnell Family Stadium

LANDMARKS

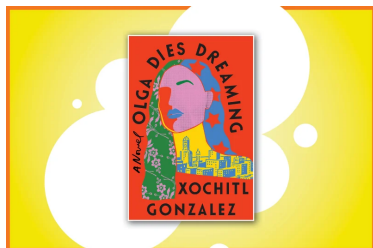
- 41 A.J.'s Way
- 30 Friendship Green
- 31 Gannon Arch
- 24 Gannon Goodwill Garden

RESIDENCE ●

- 12 301 & 305 W. Fifth St. Apartments
- 27 632 Sassafras
- 14 Alpha Sigma Tau House
- 11 Bishop Donald W. Trautman House
- 10 Delta Kappa Epsilon House
- 9 Finegan Hall
- 6 Freeman Hall
- 17 Harborview Apartments
- 25 Kenilworth Apartments
- 7 Lubiak Apartments
- 8 North Hall
- 38 Phi Sigma Sigma House
- 44 Walker Building
- 26 Wehrle Hall
- 37 W. Eighth St. Apartments
- 23 West Hall
- 13 Wickford Apartments

- Gannon Assigned Parking
- Public Parking
- Emergency Call Box

Check out these new books!



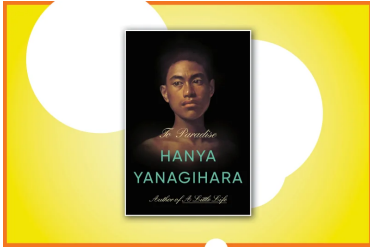
Olga Dies Dreaming, Xochitl Gonzalez (Jan. 4)

Xochitl Gonzalez delivers a healthy dose of tough love with her buzzy debut *Olga Dies Dreaming*. The novel dives into the complex family dynamics of Olga and Prieto Acevedo, siblings taking New York City by storm. Prieto is a rising star in the local politics scene and Olga is a wedding planner to the city's elite, but their lives are turned upside down once their mother Blanca, a radical activist for Puerto Rico's independence who left them as children, returns to the rapidly gentrifying Brooklyn neighborhood where they grew up. With Blanca back in town, Olga and Prieto must revisit their family's past in order to forge a new path for their future.



Fiona and Jane, Jean Chen Ho (Jan. 4)

The **complex depth of female friendship** provides endless fodder for Jean Chen Ho in her debut novel, *Fiona and Jane*. Centering on nearly two decades of best friendship between the two titular Taiwanese American women, the novel reads like a love letter to the beauty and intensity of their relationship. Bonded by their shared experience of coming of age in Los Angeles in immigrant families, Fiona and Jane's friendship is challenged over the years by distance, romantic relationships and betrayal. But throughout it all, they are constants in each other's lives—reminders for one another of who they once were and all that they can be.



To Paradise, Hanya Yanagihara (Jan. 11)

Hanya Yanagihara follows her celebrated 2015 novel, **A Little Life**, with *To Paradise*, a deeply vulnerable exploration of love and loss. Tracing three fantastical, heartbreaking narratives across distinct timelines, the novel follows the lives of multiple characters who, despite being separated by centuries, find connection through the shared space of a townhouse on the edge of Washington Square Park in New York City. Yanagihara ties their lives together through recurring themes of illness and death, privilege and poverty, affection and desire, and their ever-dogged pursuit of utopia in a country that is anything but.



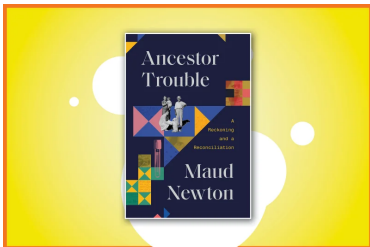
Moon Witch, Spider King, Marlon James (Feb. 15)

Marlon James opened his *Dark Star* trilogy in 2019 with **Black Leopard, Red Wolf**, a National Book Award finalist that's set to be adapted for film by Michael B. Jordan. In the much-anticipated second installment, *Moon Witch, Spider King*, Sogolon the Moon Witch—who's 177 years old—provides her own perspective on the events of the first book, retelling the adventure tale from a separate point of view. James has crafted yet another dark fantasy that blends history and mythology in an epic setting.



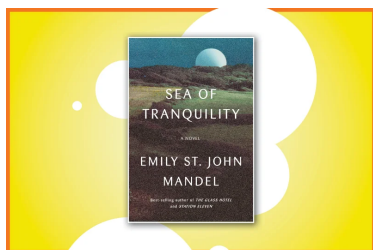
In the Margins: On the Pleasures of Reading and Writing, Elena Ferrante (March 15)

Though the true identity of Elena Ferrante remains unconfirmed, curious fans can at least get a candid look inside her writing process thanks to *In the Margins*, a collection of razor-sharp essays that detail her journey to becoming the internationally renowned author she is today. On topics from her early love of reading and entry into writing to the trials and tribulations of handling language, the essays are a candid look into Ferrante's development of not only her craft, but also her life-long passion for literature. The most poignant of the pieces deals with the complex legacy of women writers, a topic that Ferrante no doubt knows intimately.



Ancestor Trouble: A Reckoning and a Reconciliation, Maud Newton (March 29)

Maud Newton delves deep into her family's unconventional—and at times, shocking—past in her debut book, *Ancestor Trouble: A Reckoning and a Reconciliation*. Newton has long been fascinated by her family's colorful, almost folkloric history; she had a grandfather who was shot by one of his 13 wives and a female ancestor who was accused of being a witch in puritanical New England. But a closer look at her family tree prompted Newton to reckon with darker secrets, like her family's role in slavery and native genocide. In grappling with her history, Newton explores intergenerational trauma, genetics and epigenetics, considering all the ways in which getting to know our ancestors can help us gain perspective on ourselves.



Sea of Tranquility, Emily St. John Mandel (April 5)

Over the past year or so, while readers around the world have rediscovered *Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel's 2014 novel about a swine flu pandemic, the author herself passed the time writing her sixth book. After crossing the Atlantic into exile, Edwin St. Andrews finds himself in a forest on Vancouver Island in 1912, where the notes of a violin playing from an airship terminal send a shock to his system. Two centuries later, writer Olive Llewellyn, far from her home on one of the moon's colonies, is traveling across earth on a book tour for her novel—which contains a striking passage about a man playing a violin on an airship terminal, surrounded by forest. Their stories are brought together by a detective investigating the North American wilderness. *Sea of Tranquility* explores parallel worlds in a resonant tale of art, time travel and, yes, plague.



Tracy Flick Can't Win, Tom Perrotta (June 7)

In his 1998 novel *Election*, adapted into a celebrated film starring Reese Witherspoon, Tom Perrotta introduced readers to Tracy Flick, a high school student determined to win student body president. Nearly 25 years later, Perrotta returns to Tracy, now a high school assistant principal who is finally up for a promotion. Determined to show her worth, Tracy agrees to help choose students to induct into Green Meadow High School's new Hall of Fame. But as her male colleagues insist on honoring Vito Falcone, a former star-quarterback with an unremarkable NFL career, Tracy is forced into an unwelcome trip down memory lane, re-examining how sexism and male power have continued to impact her own experiences.

Do you have a book you would like to recommend? Please email the title, author, and a summary (max 500 words) to vrafail@fraziersd.org.

MS Students Focus on Patriotism

8th grade memorializes 9/11 Patriots' Day



Students paint the letters “USA” on the hillside visible as drivers enter the parking lots. Flags line the letters to remember Patriots’ Day.



Students brought in memorabilia from 9/11. Even though the eighth graders were not born at the time, they had many stories and experiences to share with classmates.



A special memorial commemorating the lives of the 40 lives lost at Shanksville was designed and presented by students. Each flag had the name of a hero from Flight 93 and names were read aloud by the class.



The official 9/11 memorial flag was replicated by students.



The eighth grade hallway was decorated with student art and patriotic designs.



Mr Bird's homeroom.



Mr Rafail's homeroom.



Mrs Szcl's homeroom.



Mrs Wildman's homeroom.

Applelicious Easter/Spring Sale

MS Student Gov is selling Applelicious products.

Place your order by emailing vrafail@fraziersd.org

All orders are due March 11, 2022

LARGE APPLE \$16	SMALL APPLE \$13	PRETZEL \$4
Cashew apple Pecan apple Reese's apple M&M apple Plain apple	Cashew apple Pecan apple Reese's apple M&M apple Plain apple	Cashew Pecan Reese's M&M Plain

