



26 January 2010

Dear Class of 2012,

Your Senior Year will be here before you know it and college will be right around the corner! We want to prepare you early so you are put in the best position come next fall when you will be applying to colleges.

Attached you will find **Grace Brethren's College Recommendation Packet**. It is required to be filled out if you request a letter of recommendation to be written by a Student Services representative—and, just so you know, some schools require a letter of recommendation from your Guidance and/or College Counselor. As you scan the pages, you might believe that it is far too long and would require far too much work to fill out. It is a lot of work; however, I guarantee that the work you put into this packet will be extremely helpful as you begin to apply to colleges in the fall. Completing this packet will force you to gather the necessary information you will want to have at your fingertips when filling out college applications in just a few months!

The due date is November 01, 2010. However, I am going to encourage you to work on this before that time and turn it in as soon as you have it done. Take time this spring or early this summer to really devote to working on this packet. The earlier you turn it in, the more time it gives the Student Services staff to write a detailed, comprehensive and compelling letter of recommendation on your behalf.

This last fall, Mrs. Windham and I went to a seminar for College Counselors discussing the College Admissions Process. A representative from a prestigious school told us clearly that often times there are applicants that have similar test scores, comparable GPAs and identical extra curricular activities. **What sets applicants apart from one another is their college essay and/or letters of recommendation.** The College Admissions representatives want to know who you are—these aspects of the college admissions process provide a glimpse of who you are outside of your GPA and test scores. It paints a more detailed picture of your character and individual gifts. However insignificant the essay and/or letters of recommendation may seem to you, they can make or break you in the College Admissions process! Please keep this in mind as you are beginning to prepare for college.

Also, it is important **who you choose to write your letters of recommendation.** Make sure the people you choose know you well **and** will write a favorable letter on your behalf. Although Student Services requires this packet if we write a letter of recommendation for you, I would highly encourage you to make a copy of this packet and give it to each teacher and/or person who writes a letter of recommendation on your behalf. The information included in this packet can provide great insight which could lend to a very strong and detailed letter of recommendation which could grant you much favor in the eyes of an Admissions Counselor.

If you have any further questions about this Recommendation Packet, please do not hesitate to e-mail me at ccanet@gracebrethren.com.

Blessings,

Ms. Carol Canet

GBHS College Counselor