

SECTION FIFTEEN

Computer Resources

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Internet Use and Email



Students are advised to use caution when searching the Internet. Always know if your source is reliable. Never input personal and private information without knowing your sources and security.

Use the Internet to check out college websites. Gone are the days of mass mailing, colorful viewbooks and thick catalogs. Everything you want to know about a college is now listed on their website. Spend some time and explore all the resources found there. (You can also access college websites through Naviance under the "COLLEGE" tab and click on "COLLEGE LOOKUP")

- Sign up for the college mailing list usually found under "prospective student", admissions or similar. Once you are on their mailing list, you will receive information directly from the school about local visits, deadlines and scholarships.

Internet Beware! Scams:

Be cautious of scholarship scams, credit card applications and blogs with inaccurate information. *Every year, several thousand students and parents are defrauded by scholarship scams. The victims of these scams lose more than \$100 million annually. Scam operations often imitate legitimate government agencies, grant giving foundations, education lenders and scholarship matching services, using official sounding names containing words like "National", "Foundation" or "Administration".* Go to: <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/scams.phtml> to identify and report scams. The Federal Trade Commission also has information on scholarship scam cases: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/scholarship/cases.shtm>

Website Similarities:

Watch out for website addresses that are similar, but not the real thing.

For example: www.fafsa.ed.gov NOT www.fafsa.com
www.commonapp.org NOT www.commonap.org (one "p")

We strongly advise students to set up a separate email for college contacts. Be professional... `firstname_lastname@...`
Keep your personal email among friends.



Observe proper etiquette when using email to contact colleges. BTW, Never use abbreviations or e-speak in email to admissions officers..LOL

Email chains, myths and urban legends... true or false? Don't believe everything you read on the Internet. Check it out on www.snopes.com

facebook

Keep it private! Don't post your crazy photos for everyone to see. Don't "friend" any Admissions officer, not only it is a bad idea, it is inappropriate. You should not "friend" a teacher. Keep in mind they write your recommendations and are not interested in your social life.



Junk Mail! Do you wonder where it comes from? Chances are it comes from the PSAT, SAT, PLAN or EXPLORE. Schools purchase lists from these organizations. But rest assured, the junk mail stops when you graduate high school and some of it may turn out not to be junk mail after all.