

COLD SPRING HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL

Counseling Center

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Andrew S. Rosenberg
Director of Guidance

Laurie Conlon • Heather Friedland • Mary-Jo Hannity • Jennifer Pickering • Kevin Purrone, Ph.D
School Counselors

Dear Class of 2017:

We cordially invite Juniors and their families to meet with their school counselor to discuss postsecondary plans. Counselors wish to see all Junior families even if the student is unsure about directions for the years after high school.

Juniors must submit the Junior Biography to The Counseling Center in order to schedule a Junior College Planning Family Conference so that the counselor can prepare appropriately for the meeting and write a comprehensive letter of recommendation on behalf of the student. Please be as detailed and thorough as possible in completing this packet. Please come for a meeting even if you employ a private counselor; we have much to tell you!

The Junior Biography is to be completed and consists of three parts:

1. This Junior Biography packet (a simulated Common Application form)
2. The Parent Statement
3. The Appointment Availability form

Submit the original to Ms. Cuneo or Ms. DiPietro in the Counseling Center as soon as it is complete.

Giving us as much advance notice as you can increases the likelihood of securing the conference time and date your family prefers.

Be sure to save a copy of the Junior Biography before you submit it, as it will help you immeasurably when you begin to prepare applications next summer.

Andrew Rosenberg
Laurie Conlon, Heather Friedland,
Mary-Jo Hannity, Kevin Purrone

Student's last name

Student's first name

Student's email address – Please make sure it is appropriate for colleges to see

Date of birth

Place of birth (city, country) – citizenship status

Your first language, if not English

Primary language spoken at home

Answers to the following questions are very helpful for the counselor to determine admission and scholarship opportunities, as well as to match college options with college match family preferences. All information is confidential.

What is your religious preference, if any? _____

Degree of religious observance, if any? _____

What is your ethnic background? _____

Will you apply for financial aid? _____ Yes _____ No _____ Undecided

Some students are considering other plans after high school. Please circle any of the options you are considering:

Post graduate year (prep school)

Military service

Gap year

Enter the work force

Vocational training school

Other, please specify:

Parent or Guardian 1 information

Name Country of birth

Home phone Cell phone Business phone

Email address

Occupation Name of employer

College attended (if any) Degree and year earned

Graduate school #1 attended (if any) Degree and year earned

Graduate school #2 attended (if any) Degree and year earned

Parent or Guardian 2 information

Name Country of birth

Home phone Cell phone Business phone

Email address

Occupation Name of employer

College attended (if any) Degree and year earned

Graduate school #1 attended (if any) Degree and year earned

Graduate school #2 attended (if any) Degree and year earned

Complete this Sibling Information Page

Sibling 1:

_____	_____	_____
Name	Age	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
College/School attended	Degree	Date of degree or dates attended

Sibling 2:

_____	_____	_____
Name	Age	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
College/School attended	Degree	Date of degree or dates attended

Sibling 3:

_____	_____	_____
Name	Age	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
College/School attended	Degree	Date of degree or dates attended

Add an additional sheet if necessary.

Please check which region(s) of the United States you will consider for college. Please be specific. If there are several states within each region you will consider, please circle them.

_____ **New England**
(Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island)

_____ **Mid-Atlantic**
(New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Delaware)

_____ **South**
(Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Florida)

_____ **Mid-West**
(Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota)

_____ **West**
(Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, California, Washington, Oregon)

Which campus setting(s) will you consider:		
_____ Urban	_____ Suburban	_____ Rural

Preferred enrollment at your college:					_____ no preference
_____ Very small Under 1,000	_____ Small 1,000-2,000	_____ Medium 2,000-5,000	_____ Large 5,000-8,000	_____ Very large 8,000 +	

Type(s) of institution you will consider:					
_____ 4 year college	_____ 2 year college	_____ 2 year technical college	_____ private		
_____ public	_____ SUNY	_____ CUNY	_____ Nursing college		
_____ out-of-state	_____ in NY	_____ Co-ed	_____ single-sex		
_____ religiously affiliated: If so, please specify: _____					

Under which categories might you apply to college? You may check more than one:

_____Agriculture _____Architecture

_____Business _____Computer

Education:

_____Elementary _____Secondary Education (specify):_____

_____Engineering (General) _____Engineering (specify):_____

Fine Arts:

_____Fine Art _____Dance _____Design _____Music _____Theatre

_____Hospitality _____Liberal Arts _____Undecided

_____Nursing _____Other (specify):_____

Are there any special programs in college that are important to you? (ROTC, performing arts, athletics, writing robotics, etc.)

Please describe your career goals. Describe the subjects, majors or interests you have if your career goals are not specific. Although your major may be undecided, the answer to this question should not be "undecided."

Please list the colleges you are considering at this time:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



*****Students with disabilities:** Please indicate which level services

_____testing accommodations only _____a formal learning disabilities services program

*****Your disability or learning difference is a private matter and information about it may not be revealed without your permission and that of a parent. If you wish your counselor to reflect on your disability in the letter of recommendation that will accompany your school records, please provide the appropriate electronic signatures below:**

*****My counselor has permission to discuss my disability in the letter of recommendation for college or in conversations with college admissions personnel.**

Student signature

Parent/Guardian signature

Date

Honors – list any academic honors you have received since the beginning of grade 9. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Description	Grade level(s)

Work Experience – list any part-time jobs or summer employment since September of grade 9. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

Nature of work	Employer	Dates	Hours weekly

Additional Programs – list any summer, school year or college programs you have attended since the beginning of grade 9. These may have been for enrichment or for academic credit.

Name of program	What did you study or observe?	Dates

Travel experiences – since September of grade 9.

Dates	Destination(s)	Purpose of trip(s)

Reading – outside of school requirements, what do you read?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Activities – list your main extracurricular, community, volunteer, family activities or hobbies in order of their interest to you (this is very important). Please complete this section even if you include an activities resume.

Activity and description especially if it is a title an outsider will not be familiar with	Grade	School year, summer or both?	Hours/week Weeks/year	Positions held, honors won, letters earned	Continue in college?

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Do you plan to highlight a particular area of special talent when applying to colleges? If yes:

Sport or Activity	Position and Division	Are you being recruited? By which college(s)?

Performing Arts	Which area?	Are you preparing a tape/CD?

Visual Arts	Which medium/media?	Are you preparing a portfolio?

Dear Student,

This is your opportunity to provide me with information that you would like a college admissions counselor to know about you. Please answer each of the following questions. Most students typically write between 250 and 500 words, but feel free to write as much as you like.

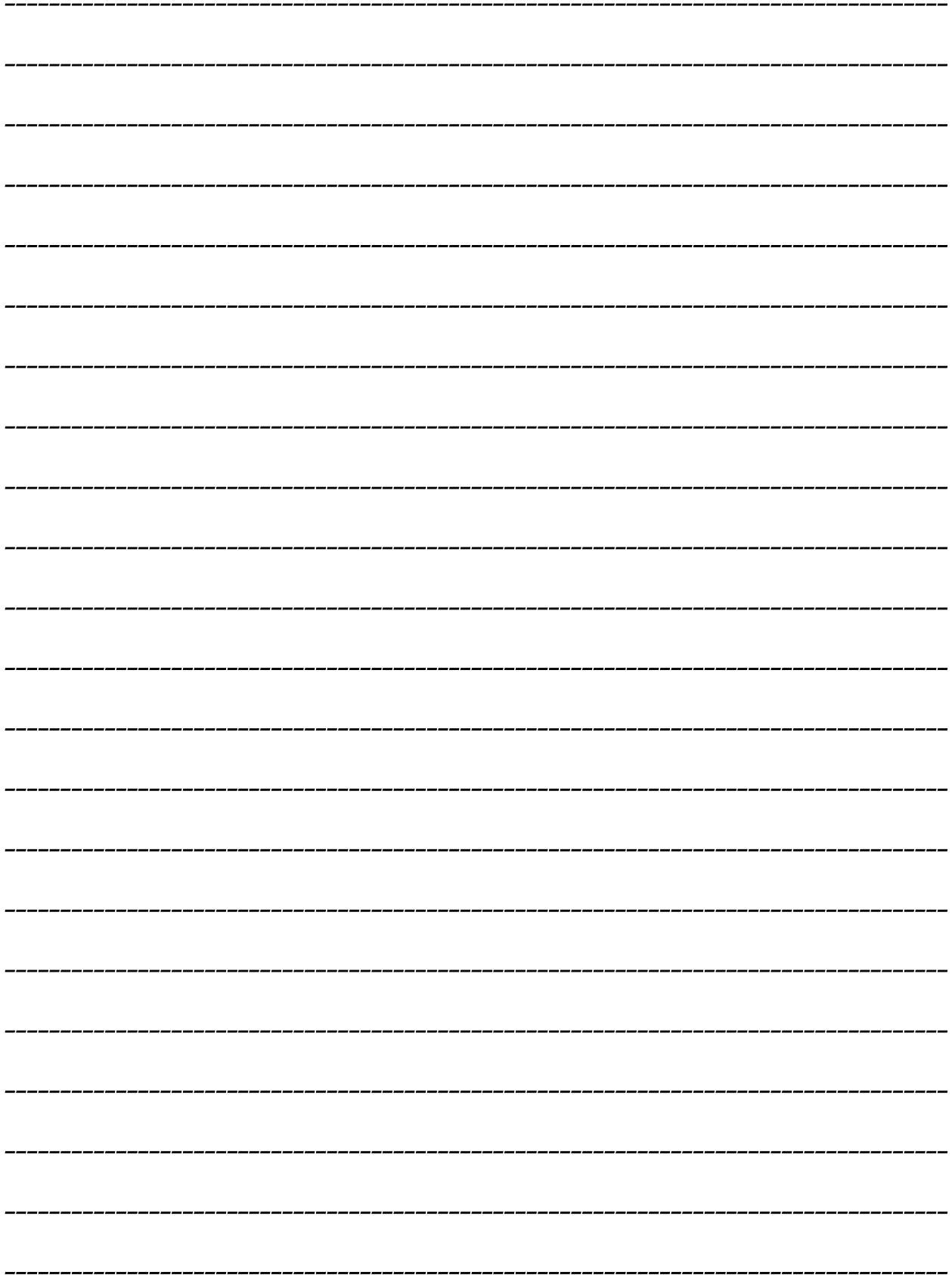
1. What are you most proud of (personal or academic)?
2. What is the biggest challenge or obstacle you have overcome and how has it impacted you? These might include any factor that has affected your life or your performance in school. Examples might be your own or family illness, financial hardship, family difficulties, etc. Please explain and add additional sheet if necessary.
3. What sets you apart from other applicants?
4. What extracurricular activity/community activity has been most meaningful to you and why? Have you assumed a leadership position?
5. What are three adjectives that best describe you and why?
6. Your responses below will help me to see another side of you:
 - a. Something that always makes me laugh is

 - b. My favorite musical artist/song
is _____
 - c. My favorite television show/movie is

 - d. A good day in my life includes

 - e. My best memory from high school is

 - f. My favorite place in the world is



Teacher recommendations

Teacher recommendations are an important part of any college application. Teachers are asked by colleges to write narratives and complete check-off tables that consider the criteria listed below.

Please consider **all** the categories carefully and think about which of your teachers may be best able to represent you. Understand that the course in which you earned an "A" is not always the best choice – if you had difficulty with a course and worked through it with your teacher and by seeking extra help, **that** teacher might be a very good choice.

While it is not mandatory that your recommenders be chosen from among your junior year teachers, know that **colleges are trying to gauge your current abilities and work habits.**

Teachers are asked to rate students on the following scale: below average, average, above average, well above average, excellent, outstanding, of the top few I've encountered.

The rating categories are:

Academic achievement	Intellectual promise
Quality of writing	Creative, original thought
Productive class discussion	Respect accorded by faculty
Disciplined work habits	Maturity
Motivation	Leadership
Integrity	Reaction to setbacks
Concern for others	Self-confidence
Initiative, independence	Overall

Now that you have considered this information, list the names of three teachers you might ask to write on your behalf:

List any other people who know you well that you might ask to write a recommendation letter:

The Parent Statement

Dear Parents,

The Parent Statement you write for your son or daughter will help us to write a thorough and positive college recommendation letter. Please think about your son or daughter's personal attributes and qualities and give us **concrete examples**, not just adjectives. You may describe your son or daughter's achievements, creativity, maturity, motivation, leadership, integrity, reaction to setbacks, concern for others, self-confidence, initiative, intellectual promise, discipline, hobbies, or any other factor that might be helpful to colleges in making an admission decision. Please focus your comments to experiences and accomplishments during the high school years. You may use these questions as prompts:

- What would you most like a college admission officer to know about your son or daughter?
- What qualities do you most admire about your son or daughter?
- Describe specific events that have made you particularly proud of your son or daughter.
- Describe areas of the most growth and personal development.

If your son or daughter had any personal hardships or difficult circumstances, (death, illness, family issues, medication adjustments) the counselors should be reminded of these things and will, of course, use discretion when writing the recommendation letter. Please remind us if there were scheduling difficulties or if your son or daughter had to take a lower level class to make the schedule work.

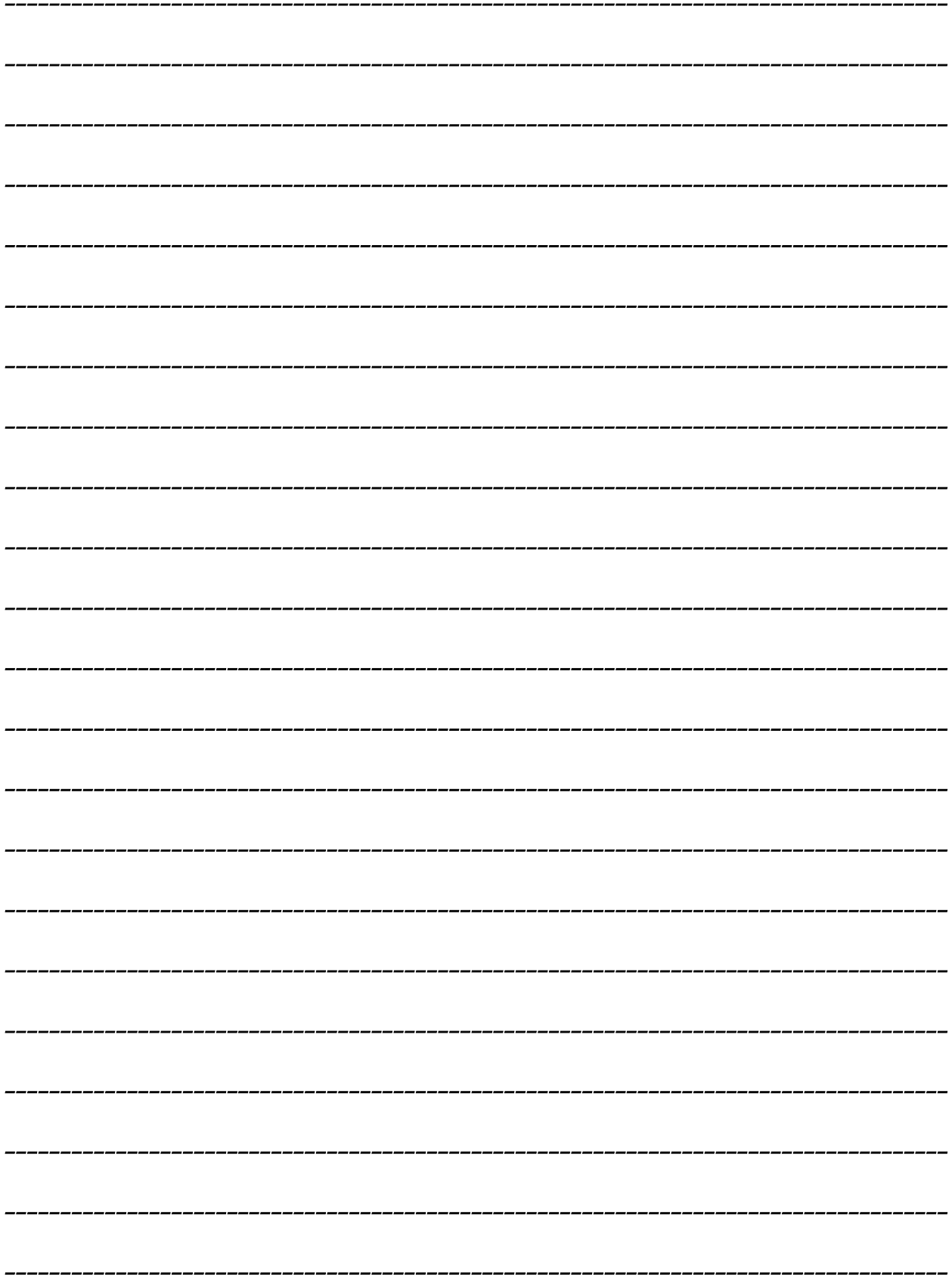
This is your chance to brag. We ask that you be truthful, but this is not the time to be modest.

We could never hope to know your children as well as you. Please help us do the best possible job of advocating for them. You may submit a handwritten or typed statement.

Be sure to complete the Appointment Availability Form on the next page. **One last thing** – be sure **not** to use your student's Naviance account; **you must use your own**. Contact Mr. Rosenberg if you need to set one up for either parent.

Regards,

Laurie Conlon, Heather Friedland, Mary-Jo Hannity, Kevin Purrone



Appointment Availability

Your counselor will make every effort to schedule your Junior Conference at a time that is most convenient for you. Plan to meet for at least 45 minutes.

Name and email address of family member responsible for coordinating the appointment
The email address will be used to create and confirm the appointment.

Parent/Guardian: Please circle the day(s) of the week that you are available:

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Students: Circle the periods you prefer to meet. Try to avoid missing major classes.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

Parent/Guardian: Circle which starting time is/are best for you:

7:45 am

8:35 am

9:20 am

10:00 am

10:45 am

11:30 am

12:15 am

1:00 pm

1:45 pm