

April 27, 2009

Dear Parents:

Chaminade is offering our fourth **Northeast College Tour** next fall, November 8-14, 2009, for students in the classes of 2010 & 2011. Since the trip takes place over Veteran's Day holiday, students who participate in this tour will only miss four days of school. Teachers were very supportive of the students who went on this tour the last two years, and the students were given time to make up work after their return.

The colleges on this tour have been chosen to give students exposure to a wide variety of types of schools. Students will have opportunities to visit Catholic, engineering, art, business, co-op, women's, and liberal arts colleges & universities plus some of the most selective Ivy League universities in the nation. It will give participants an opportunity to experience many college options and find the type of campus with the best fit for them. Anyone who is considering applying to one of the schools on our list who has not yet visited the campus should definitely consider going on this tour. Campuses vary dramatically—from urban to rural settings—and the environment is an important part of the decision making process. It's important to remember that your child will spend four years, sometimes more, wherever they choose to go.

A campus visit may be the factor that swings an admission decision because it shows the applicant's sincere interest. Seniors who've gone on the November tour before have actually added a few colleges to their list of applications after visiting these campuses—it's not too late for seniors to make campus visits in the fall! The itinerary for our Northeast College Tour is available on the Counseling page of our web site, or they may be picked up in the Guidance Office. A sample of the college options are Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University, Loyola College, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, New York University, MIT, Boston College, Emerson College, Babson College, and Olin College of Engineering. You will see that each morning or afternoon the students may choose which college they want to visit, and they have two to four options each time. There are enough counselors on this tour to take students to each of the campuses offered every day if there is interest.

The entire cost of the week-long trip is \$2,185 and includes air and ground transportation, hotel lodging, meals, student led campus tours, meetings with admissions representatives, a Broadway show ticket, and our as yet undetermined Friday night event (last year it was a college basketball game). Although the cost of the tour is significant, it's likely less than a family would spend taking their child to visit one or two college campuses.

We anticipate interest for the 32 spaces open for this Northeast College Tour to be high, so participation is on a first-come, first-served basis. Students who want to go on this tour should pick up a complete application packet in the Guidance Office. A non-refundable deposit of \$250 is required to hold your spot on the tour (act quickly), and deposit checks should be payable to *College Visits* (not Chaminade). Reservations and deposit checks will be accepted beginning April 29th. Questions about the Northeast College Tour may be directed to Mrs. Grand, Mrs. Valentine, or Ms. Vaughan.

Sincerely,

Karen Valentine
Director of Guidance