DEBAKEY HS COUNSELING CORNER JANUARY 2021

We know this semester has been a difficult one for all. The COVID 19 Pandemic has impacted us all in ways we could have never imagined. As we come to the close of the first semester, the support staff would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to keep pressing forward.

College Applications

The counselors are wrapping up a great college application season by processing & submitting more than 1,050 public & private applications. By now every senior should have submitted at least three college applications and completed the FAFSA/TAFSA. Even if a family's income is considered too high to receive federal money, many of the colleges require that the FAFSA/TAFSA is completed before institutional money is awarded. Mr. Edwards, College Access Advisor is here on Tuesdays & Fridays & willing to assist the students & parents with the process.

College Mid-Year Reports

Some colleges will require Mid-Year Reports. Those reports will be submitted once we receive an updated transcript with the first semester grades included. Since we are ending the semester later than usual, colleges may be requesting them now. Let us know so that we can intervene for you.

Schedule Changes

The first semester will end on January 29, 2021. We are in the process of receiving schedule changes via the HUB & teacher recommendations for the second semester. Only the ninth-grade students can move to PAP classes. Any student can move down from a PAP or AP class to magnet.

PSAT

The PSAT is scheduled to be given to 9th on 1/13, 11th on 1/26 & 10th on 2/23. Although it is not mandatory for 9th & 10th grade students, it is highly recommended. It is designed as a practice for them. It is a National Merit Scholastic qualifying test for juniors only. Here are some reasons for schools to give their students the PSAT/NMQT: (1). The test offers students opportunities to earn scholarships & academic recognition, (2). Students can use their PSAT scores to get free personalized practice for the SAT, (3). PSAT scores give students & their teachers information on what AP courses they will likely do well in, & (4). Their scores also give students information on what areas they are strong in & what they need to work on.

Naviance

Every student & parent should check their messages in Naviance at least twice a week.

Best wishes for a safe & healthy new Year: Mrs. Hayward, Counselor-A-L, Mrs. Arizmendy, Counselor, M-Z, Mr. Edwards, College Access Advisor, & Mrs. Niaves, Registrar