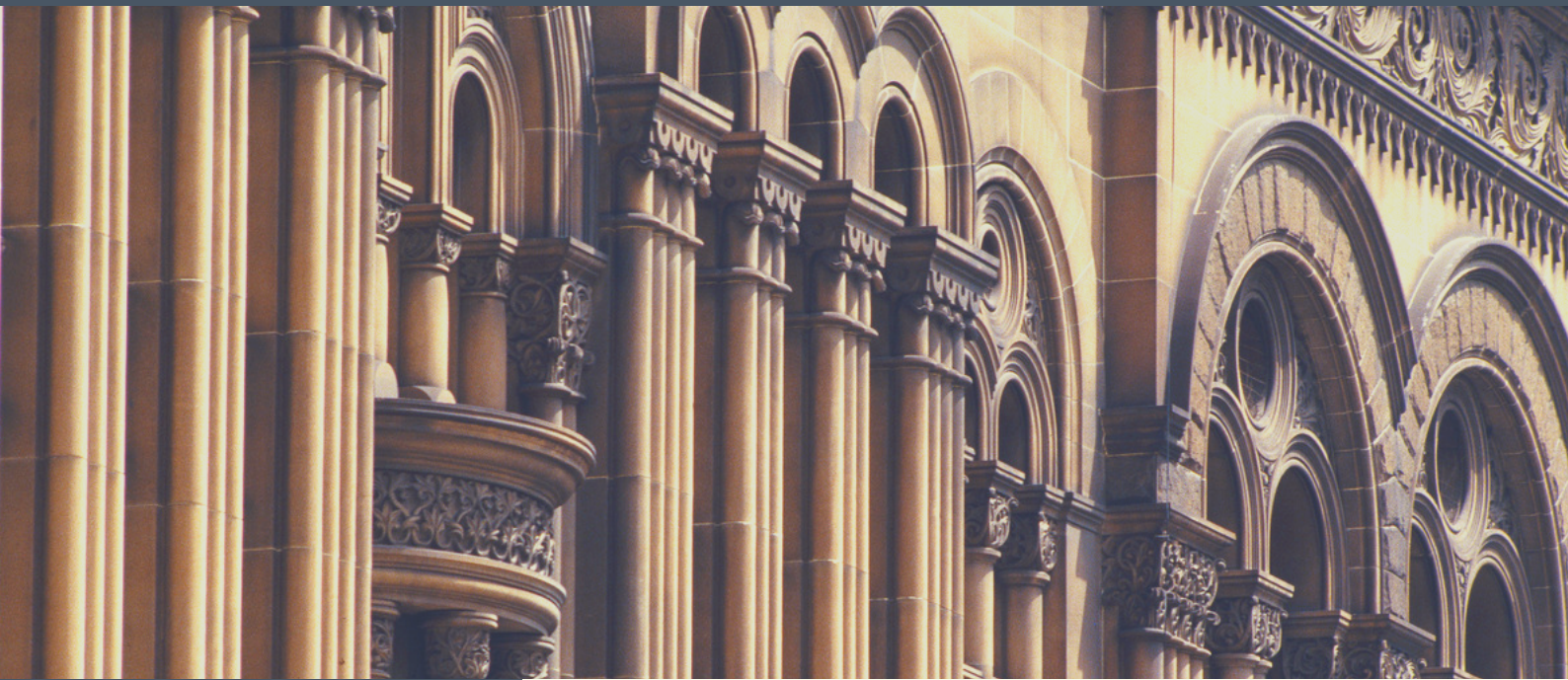


# *MAY NEWSLETTER*

FROM LAMEIRE COLLEGE CONSULTING



*CHECK OUT WHAT'S IN  
THIS ISSUE:*

**2019 Admissions  
Results**

**Letters of  
Recommendation**

**Demonstrating  
Interest**

## *2019 ADMISSION RESULTS - A BRIEF OVERVIEW*

The college application process is a journey where students learn about themselves, their interests, and their strengths. But, the goal that is always on the horizon is helping students earn admission to the best school. By this measure, the class of 2019 was a success, as our small group of students earned admission to the following programs:

U. of Pennsylvania (3 students admitted)

Cornell U. (3)

Carnegie Mellon U. (3)

Washington U. in St. Louis (2)

Stanford U.

Columbia U.

Duke U.

Dartmouth Coll.

Johns Hopkins U.

Brown U.

Claremont McKenna Coll.

The Cooper Union

Numerous Berkeley, UCLA, USC, U. Michigan, and UIUC Engineering

Of the above, only one admit (Claremont McKenna) was from a private high school, and nearly all students were from the Bay Area. All were students of Asian descent, and nearly all had STEM interests. Of course, all had terrific grades and test scores. But, outside of the numbers, what set the students apart?

As we've reviewed in our meetings, there are three factors that successful students tend to exhibit these days:

- Leadership
- Obstacles
- Curiosity

For the leadership positions students have, these are major leadership positions: president of their class or school, captain of a varsity sports team and/or editor-in-chief of the school paper/yearbook were the big ones. Music leadership positions (drum major, etc.) played a role, too.

Obstacles are (thankfully) hard to come by for our students, as we don't have many low-income/at risk kids. However, students who had an experience with discrimination or came from single-parent homes (and wrote about it) did particularly well.

Curiosity is a bit harder to define, but it is best presented by showing a narrow, deep, developed interest. Some fields are easier to show curiosity in than others. CS can be tough, since it is such a practical field, while it is much easier to showcase a real interest in the humanities. Be that as it may, only one of the students from the list above was a true "humanities kid."

We can discuss these results in our meetings, or you can email me with questions. In all cases, consider the three factors above when doing your pre-writing or determining summer plans. A commitment to exploring your interests and leading others can never go wrong.

*- Eddie LaMeire*





*Here are a few important things to consider when heading into the application season...*

## *LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION*

Every part of a college application, from grades and test scores to essays and extracurricular activities, plays an important role in highlighting a student's strengths. Letters of recommendation are yet another way to showcase the individual qualities and accomplishments that make a student a unique applicant. But, to whom and how should students ask for letters of recommendation?

First, students should ask two teachers. If possible, these teachers should be from classes the student took in 10th or 11th grade, not 9th grade. Also, it's helpful for the teacher to be from a class that the student took for an entire year, rather than a semester.

Students should ask one teacher from a STEM class, and another teacher from a humanities or social science class, but should avoid elective classes. However, above all else, students should ask a teacher who knows them well and is going to write the most accurate, detailed, and enthusiastic letter possible.

When asking teachers to write a letter of recommendation, students should start by checking that the teacher has time to write the letter, and then confirm what information the teacher needs from the student. For example, some teachers may request a resume or brag sheet, while others may not require any additional materials. Also, be aware that some teachers may ask the student to provide them with a fully written letter that the teachers can then modify as they see fit.

Finally, students should make sure to give teachers plenty of time to write these letters in order to finish them before the application deadline. Don't wait until the last minute! In fact, in order to make sure the teachers have time, we recommend that you ask them before the school year ends. Some teachers might not be accepting requests, but others fill up before summer begins.

*- Claire Schadler*



## *DEMONSTRATING INTEREST*

"Demonstrating interest" is a tool that many schools - typically smaller, and usually private, schools - implement in order to gauge how interested a student is in attending that particular school. Schools that employ demonstrated interest do so in order to get an accurate gauge on how many students are likely to enroll, and to find out whether they will hit their target enrollment numbers. They are also looking to protect their "yield" - meaning, they want to minimize the number of students who turn them down after they are already offered admission to the school.

There are many ways in which a student might demonstrate interest in a school, and these should all show the school that the student has a genuine interest in attending by going out of his or her way to learn more about what it means to attend that school. Some examples of methods include interacting with admissions representatives at college fairs, visiting campus, scheduling admissions or alumni interviews (when available), and more.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A STUDENT?

Interviews with admissions officers are usually only offered on campus, and not every school offers this. If you conduct a campus visit at a school, make sure to check whether or not their admissions officers are open to meeting with prospective students to simply speak or to conduct a more formal interview. This kind of information should be readily available on most schools' "Visit Us" pages. Alumni interviews are a little different, but still a great way to get to know more about a school while showing that school your interest. These are typically conducted via phone or Skype, or at local meeting spot (such as a coffee shop) if you live near an alumni who has made himself or herself available for such meetings. Again, this information should be available on most schools' prospective students' pages.

Now, try to keep this rule of thumb in mind: if you are able to speak with someone connected with a school you're interested in - whether they're an admissions officer, other type of school representative, or alumni - always do whatever you can to leave a paper trail. If you attend a college fair or information session, put your name down on the sign-in sheet or your information down on the mailing list. If you speak directly with someone, always ask for their contact information and follow-up with a "thank you" email thanking them for their time, while asking if they'd be open to you sending questions in the future. All of these are ways you can show that you've taken steps to demonstrate interest, and it's always better if the school can look back and see exactly when you attended an information session, lecture, interview, etc.

*- Shirley Young*