Family College Counseling Letter

Name of Individual Completing this form

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please take this opportunity to share information that you think is important for us to know in our efforts to support and to advocate for your child through the college process. This information will be used to help us understand the student’s experience during our conversations with the student and *may also help us craft our recommendation letter to the colleges.* Share anything you think would be helpful for us to know. You may find the guiding questions helpful as you craft your letter.**

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* What words would you use to describe the student and why?
* In what pursuits have you observed the student to be most motivated and engaged?
* What are the things – accomplishments, personal qualities, areas of growth or interest – that you most admire about the student? What would you want colleges to know?
* Are there any significant personal circumstances that have affected the student over the past several years?
* What aspects of the student’s high school career have been the most enjoyable?
* What aspects of the student’s high school career have been the most challenging?
* Does your student have a learning disability or medical issue that has warranted special accommodations? (We will not disclose this information without explicit written permission. Complete the Confidentiality Release form below to indicate your preference.)

Please make sure to answer the questions on the second page of this form

Coll**e**ge Counseling – Financial Questionnaire

**We recognize that, for many families, financial factors will play an important role in the college application process. As we work with students and families it can be helpful for us to be aware of certain financial realities as we help students develop their college lists. Please take a moment to answer the following questions. All of your responses will be kept confidential and will not be shared beyond the college counseling office.**

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Do you anticipate that your family will apply for financial aid?

Yes No Maybe

1. If you answered “yes,” or “maybe” above, we strongly advise you to complete the Net Price Calculator of at least three colleges (preferably a combination of public and private institutions.) The Net Price Calculators, which can be found on the website of every college, will ask you for basic financial information and then give you an estimate of what you are likely to be expected to contribute toward the costs of a year of college.

Below please write the lowest and highest outputs you received.

Lowest:

Highest:

1. Please comment below on the results you received and whether the range is a conceivable amount for your family to contribute?
2. What is the absolute maximum amount your family feels comfortable spending annually on the total cost of attendance (tuition, room/board, travel and incidentals)?
3. If you currently receive financial aid at Park, do you give us permission to discuss your information with Park’s tuition assistance office so we may have a clearer idea of how finances may play a role in the college process?

The Park School of Baltimore

College Counseling Office

CONFIDENTIAL RELEASE FORM

This form addresses circumstances that may have affected your academic record, such as a prolonged illness or learning differences. Absences from school or different styles of learning often have an understandable impact on a student’s level of achievement.

We have found that it can be helpful in our advocacy efforts if we have your permission to discuss these circumstances in our recommendation letters and in one-on-one conversations with admissions representatives. This makes it possible for the admissions staff to review and understand your grades in the proper context, rather than being left to draw their own conclusions.

We have also found it helpful for students to write a short piece explaining these circumstances, to be included with their applications. It is often very compelling to read directly from applicants what challenges they have faced and how they have overcome obstacles. **Sometimes, students want to address these matters in their application essays, but we feel that a separate student explanation (usually included in the “Additional Information” section of the application) relays the information without using the unique opportunity provided by the essay to give the reader an inside look at the applicant’s personality, views, or character.**

Because information of this nature is private, both student and parent signatures are required if you wish to allow your college counselor to discuss this information in the recommendation that they write. **Please note that, without this signed release, we will not talk about information such as learning differences in our recommendation letters**.

We ask that you complete the information at the bottom of this page and return it to the college counseling office. Should you have any questions or concerns about this request, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Matt Hannibal & Liz Hirsch

\_\_\_\_ We give our permission to disclose Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ We do NOT give our permission to disclose Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_