

TEACHER AND COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are some guidelines that should help you secure better recommendations:

- 1. **Start early**. Your teachers and counselors are swamped, so give them plenty of time. Kingwood Counselors must have a two-week time period in order to write your letters.
- 2. Give your teachers and Counselors all necessary materials, including your application deadlines and stamped, addressed envelopes if required. Use the Senior Information form (available on the counseling website) to help Counselors with your letters. Counselor recommendations will be sealed with your transcript.
- 3. Waive your confidentiality rights.
- 4. Pick your recommenders wisely. Don't pick a teacher just because you got an A in the class. It's important that the teacher or Counselor knows you *personally*.

MY PARENTS KNOW SOMEONE . . .

In addition to teacher recommendations, a letter or two from someone who really knows you (your boss or coach) can be helpful. If you've got some special skills, let admissions offices know about them. Ask your coach to talk to college coaches. Send along a videotape of your concert performance or a copy of the literary magazine you edit.

How about a letter from that former Senator who's a friend of the family? Or the rich alumnus who told you to give him a call when you applied to his alma mater? Many parents think this procedure helps to pull strings; however, admissions committees resent such outside interference. They want more information about you, not an impersonal note from some politician. Other than alumni who give large sums of money to the school, athletic coaches, and members of the administration, very few people have much clout. Tell your mom and dad to relax.