



THE COLLEGE SEARCH

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What happens after High School?



- College or University
 - 2 year (Associates) or 4 year (Bachelors)
- Trade School
- Military
- Employment
- Travel year, Service Year

Understand there are many options for you after graduation-you will find the right option for you!

Why College?

- Educational enrichment
- Social opportunities-meet new people
- Preparation for the job market and the “real world”
- Broadening of self and experiencing new things

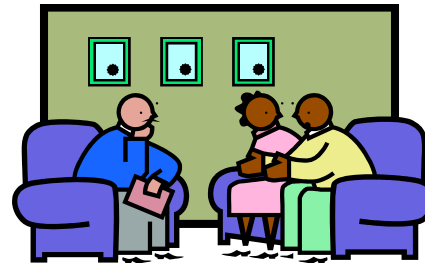


What do I need to do to get there?

- Keep your grades up: an upward trend of improvement is important
- Take Challenging classes: focus on academic courses in your senior year schedule. If appropriate, take honors, AP and advanced courses to help prepare you for the rigors of college coursework
- Start preparing and practicing for standardized tests such as the SAT and ACT
 - ▣ You can also research test optional schools
- Get involved with extra curricular activities!
 - ▣ sports, the arts, service, anything that is of interest to you!
 - ▣ Get a job or volunteer!

What should I be doing now?

- Have a conversation as a family about college hopes, goals, and interests
 - ▣ Discussion topics should include finances, possible careers, family dynamics



- Junior Meetings will be a discussion about the college search process – what are your thoughts so far and what resources to use to find good fit colleges. When you receive a pass in your first class of the day, please be sure to attend your appointment!
 - ▣ There will be a briefer meeting to discuss 12th grade courses, so start preparing now!

Where do I want to go to school?

- How big of a school do I want? There are advantages and disadvantages to all sizes
- Do I know what I want to study? If so, who has that major? Can they supply internships for me to get experience?
- How far away do I want to go to school? Are my parents okay with a plane ride away? Do I get homesick easily?
- What else do you think would be important to you in a new home for four years?

Good Fit Colleges... and how to find them...

- Naviance Student is a great tool –
 - College search engine
 - Scattergrams
 - Admissions requirements
- Collegeboard.org
- Talk to your peers

Junior Year Checklist



- Start a list of schools you would like to visit for campus tours. Use spring break, summer vacations, and school holidays to make visits. Visit small, medium, and large schools
- Attend local and regional college fairs/nights
- NJ National College Fair – Virtual Fair on 4/3 or in person on 4/20
- Take the ACT and/or SAT's.
- Think about which teacher(s) you will ask for a letter of recommendation. Ask no more than 2 teachers!!
 - Here's why...
- If you are an athlete, talk with your coaches about the NCAA Eligibility Center & what that process entails
- Sign up for summer tours

In Person Campus Visits



- Keep notes- jot down things you notice, people's names, unique aspects of campus
- Hang out in the dining hall, bookstore, and University center to get the local "flavor"
- Take the guided tour, but leave time to do some exploring on your own
- Check out the local area as well-do they have interesting activities for you to take part in? Are there good "town/gown" relations?
- Think about the questions you will ask your tour guide

Virtual Campus Visits



- Many colleges have posted virtual tours to their website
- Some schools have created online Open House events.
- All schools have created a special section of their website with the most up to date information as to any adjustments they are making due to Covid protocols - *this will be the best source of information about individual schools.*

Indicating Your Interest

- Students can gather information and demonstrate their interest in a college/university by doing the following:
 - ▣ Join an email list
 - ▣ Sign up for events
 - ▣ Follow schools on Social Media
 - ▣ Reach out to Admissions Representatives with your questions

Summer before Senior Year

- Start reviewing any materials received from colleges
- Check the websites of schools you are interested in
- Visit colleges and take campus tours
- Take notes, pictures, and get names of people you meet in case you have follow up questions
- Do a few practice tests of the SAT/ACT if you plan on taking them again in the fall
- Create your Common App account AFTER August 1st



Senior Year, Part I-Applying!

September/October

- ❑ **Register for/take any standardized tests.**
- ❑ **Compile a list of the schools you intend to apply to. Be mindful of deadlines for early action/early decision. Apply to about 5-8 schools. “Likely” as well as reach schools should be on your list - they should all be schools that you would be happy to attend if you were accepted.**
- ❑ **Attend Open Houses at schools on your list. Sign up for Admissions Rep Visits at JCHS. Ask questions!**
- ❑ **Talk to your teachers and counselor about writing recommendations for you (if you haven’t already).**
- ❑ **Write your college essay – be sure to ask someone to help you edit!**

Senior Year, Part I-Applying!

November/December

- ❑ **Register for/take any standardized tests.**
- ❑ **Schedule interviews, if required, at your top choice schools.**
- ❑ **Investigate scholarship opportunities at each school**
- ❑ **Work with your counselor to get all materials ready to go at least two weeks prior to each deadline.**
- ❑ **Be mindful of special deadlines.**

- ❑ **APPLY!**

Ways to Apply



- Apply to each school using school's own application on their website OR The Common Application OR The Coalition Application
- Student Responsibilities
 - ▣ Complete application, Submit test scores, Personal Statement/Essay, Resume, Request Letters of Recommendation (in person AND in Naviance Student), Request transcripts through Naviance Student.
- Each application needs:
 - ▣ Transcript, Test Scores, Personal Statement, Counselor Evaluation & Letter of Recommendation, Teacher Recommendation(s), Resume or list of activities.

Types of Admissions Policies



Admitting

- **Rolling Admissions**
 - Ability to submit within a large window of time
 - Some specify an end date, some close window once all spots are filled
 - Usually receive a response within a few weeks of submission
- **Regular Decision**
 - Standard procedure and deadline for many colleges
 - Typically due in January, decisions sent out in April
- **Early action**
 - Deadline in November
 - Decisions by mid-late December
 - Non-binding
- **Early decision**
 - Considered top choice school
 - Deadline in November, decisions in December
 - If you are accepted, it is a binding decision – you must enroll at that school.

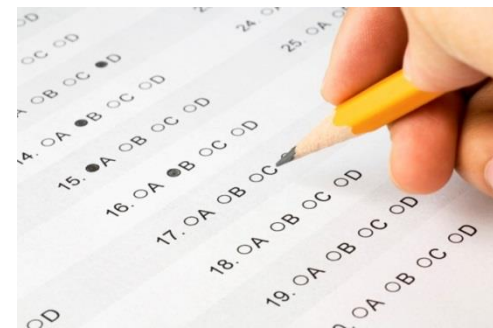
Academics



- This is the most important part of your application.
- Did you take challenging courses every year? Did you attempt the honors/AP/accelerated courses that are offered?
- Make sure to have a strong senior year schedule...no slacking off!
- The five major subjects demonstrate to colleges you are ready for the rigors of their coursework.
 - ▣ What are they? English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, and World Language

Standardized Tests

- ❑ RELAX! The more nervous you are, the less chance you will have at being successful.
- ❑ Consider taking both the SAT and the ACT. Why?
- ❑ Take tests at end of junior year and the fall of your senior year. You should not have more than 3-4 test scores.
- ❑ Do borrow practice books or consult websites to familiarize yourself with the formats and lengths of each test
- ❑ Don't spend every waking minute studying for these tests-your high school record is more important



What about you?



- Make sure to be involved with school activities - be it sports, clubs, community service. Do what you like. Dedicate yourself to the activities that you enjoy and mean the most to you. Colleges will understand if there are fewer activities on your resume in 2020.
- Have to work? That's fine as well. That shows colleges that you can balance academics and a job. You may have a job in college as well.
- Craft a resume which details “who” you are outside of your GPA and test scores
- And even better, schedule an interview.

Senior Year, Part II-The Waiting Game

Winter

- File FAFSA as soon after October 1* as possible
- Do the schools have everything for your application? Application turn around time is about 4-6 weeks
- Attend any special receptions or events you are invited to

Spring

- Share college acceptances with your counselor
- Review your financial aid packages at each school-what is the best choice for you and your family?
- Submit housing application to your top choice school
- Deposit deadline is May 1!

Advice to consider...

- There are literally thousands of colleges and universities in the USA alone...there is a “right” school for everyone
- Enjoy the college search
- Use your resources: your school counselor, your family, the library, admissions people, your peers
- The academics, community, and the resources should be what drives you - you should feel a “fit” and a sense of belonging at whatever school you decide upon



Questions?

