



## Class of 2024 College Preparation for Fall of Senior Year

### **TO DO ITEMS: BEFORE THE END OF JUNIOR YEAR**

#### **1. Request Letters of Recommendation**

- Starting the week of May 22, 2023
- **Minimum of 1 letter; no more than 2** and it is recommended that you use:
  - 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade teachers
  - Teachers from the following subjects: English, math, science, social science, world language
  - If you know what you are going to major in- one letter should be from a teacher in that content area
- How to request letters of rec:
  - First, ask the teacher if they would be willing to write your letter of recommendation.
  - Once they agree to write your letter, please add them to your Naviance account. (Instructions on how to add them to naviance are included in a separate attachment.)
- Asking them before the summer allows the teacher the opportunity to write the letter over the summer break *if* they choose to.

- #### **2. Register with the NCAA if you are a student-athlete.** If you are thinking about competing at a Division I or Division II college, you must register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#) and you must meet the specific eligibility requirements.

### **TO DO ITEMS: DURING THE SUMMER BREAK**

1. **College visits.** If you have not yet visited the colleges you are interested in, please schedule campus visits. You will schedule campus visits directly with the Admissions Office at the college/university.
2. **Register and prepare for Fall SAT & ACT Tests:** The ACT will be offered in July and September at local high schools and the SAT will be offered in August, October, November, and December. PAHS is a testing center for the October exam. Register online at [CollegeBoard](#) and [ACT](#).
3. **Finalize College Application List.** When school begins in August, you should have your final list of colleges that you will be applying to. We suggest that you apply to 3-7 colleges and have a comprehensive list **including at least 2 safety schools**. Add these colleges to the “colleges I’m applying to” list in Naviance. This is something we discussed during our small group naviance sessions in February and you should be working on already.
4. **Complete the Counselor Letter of Recommendation Survey:** this survey can be found in your Naviance account by clicking on the “about me tab” > surveys > surveys from your school. Your responses will be used by your counselor to write your counselor letter of recommendation. **You do not have to request a counselor letter of recommendation.** We know which colleges require a counselor letter and when you request your transcript in the fall, a counselor letter will automatically be written for you if needed.

5. **Complete/update your resume in Naviance.** You have been working on your resume during naviance sessions with the Counseling Department. Please continue to update as needed. If you have not yet completed your resume, please do so in Naviance before your senior year begins. Please remember to click on the “print/export” button in the resume template to save your resume.

## **SUMMER COLLEGE PLANNING APPOINTMENTS**

- Mrs. Bhalla will be available on select days during the summer for individual meetings to discuss your college plans, applications, and answer any questions you may have. The dates are listed below. **These are the only dates available this summer:**
  - Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>
- If you're interested in a summer meeting, please use this [LINK](#) to schedule your summer appointment. **Please do not email or call to schedule a summer appointment- you must use the scheduling link above for a summer meeting.**
- Please report to the high school counseling office a few minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time.

## **MEETINGS DURING SENIOR YEAR**

- Once the school year begins in August, students can stop into the Counseling Office to schedule a meeting with Mrs. Bhalla during the school day.

## **FALL COLLEGE APPLICATION MEETINGS FOR STUDENTS**

- Mrs. Bhalla will meet with each senior English class at the start of the school year. The following will be discussed and reviewed during the session: the college application process, deadlines, sending SAT and ACT scores, requesting transcripts, using Naviance during the college application process, financial aid and scholarships.

## **COLLEGE APPLICATION PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS**

- Mrs. Bhalla will hold a college application presentation for parents of students in the class of 2023 on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. More information will be provided at the start of the school year regarding time and location.

## **FAQ: COLLEGE APPLICATIONS:**

- **How Many Applications?** Students are recommended to apply to 3-7 schools. All students are encouraged to have **3-4 “target” schools and at least 2 “safety” schools.**
- **When Should I Apply?** Some applications “go live” at the end of July, but most are available starting August 1<sup>st</sup>. **Students are encouraged to begin applications in August.** Transcript processing will begin the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **Application Deadlines:** **it is the student’s responsibility to know and meet all college admissions deadlines.** Deadlines can be found on the college’s admissions website. (Students are also reminded to

allow enough time for transcripts to be processed/submitted by the deadline. Do not wait until the day of the deadline to request these items.)

- The earliest college application deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by November 1<sup>st</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup> and then January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **How do I apply?** Students will apply using either the [Common App](#) or the college's specific application on their admissions website.

## **APPLICATION TYPES**

- **Non-Restrictive Application Types:** All of the plans listed below allow students to wait until May 1, 2024 to confirm enrollment.
  - **Rolling Admission** is the application process in which an institution reviews applications as they are completed and provides admission decisions (usually within 4-8 weeks) to students throughout the admission cycle. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction. (If a school is "rolling admissions" they will not have the option of Regular Decision, Early Action, or Early Decision.)
  - **Regular Decision** is the application process in which a student submits an application to an institution by a specified due date (usually in January) and receives a decision towards the end of March. A student may apply to other institutions without restriction.
  - **Early Action (EA)** is the application process in which students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular decision response date. Students who are admitted under Early Action are not obligated to accept the institution's offer of admission or to submit a deposit prior to May 1. Under non-restrictive Early Action, a student may apply to other colleges. Most early action deadlines are 11/1 or 11/15.
- **Restrictive Application Plan:** This plan allows institutions to limit students from applying to other early plans.
  - **Early Decision (ED)** is the application process in which students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted, they will enroll. **While pursuing admission under an Early Decision plan, students may apply to other institutions, but may have only one Early Decision application pending at any time.** The institution must notify the applicant of the decision within a reasonable and clearly stated period of time after the Early Decision deadline. The institution will respond to an application for financial aid at or near the time of an offer of admission. Institutions with Early Decision plans may restrict students from applying to other early plans. Institutions will clearly articulate their specific policies in their Early Decision agreement. **If accepted under an Early Decision plan, students must withdraw all other college applications.** Most early decision deadlines are 11/1.

## **COLLEGE ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENT**

- Not all colleges require a college essay and some colleges may require a personal statement, which is a shorter version of a typical essay.
- Students are encouraged to put together their first draft of an essay during the summer break and then have someone review it once senior year begins. English teachers are more than willing to review and offer suggestions once senior year begins.

- Most colleges will provide the student with an essay prompt or will provide a few options that the student can then choose one. Here are some typical essay prompts:
  - Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
  - The lessons we take from failure can be fundamental to later success. Recount an incident or time when you experienced failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
  - Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted you to act? Would you make the same decision again?
  - Describe a problem you have solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
  - Discuss an accomplishment or event (formal or informal) that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community, or family.
  - Describe your intended major and future career goals.

## **COMMON APPLICATION**

- The Common Application, which is used by approximately 1,000 colleges/universities, allows the student to complete one application and this one application will be sent to those colleges that accept it.
- Students who will apply to any or all of their colleges via the Common App, can start the application now. You can create your account and fill in some of the basic identifying information. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, your common app will roll into an active application and you can submit to colleges on or after August 1<sup>st</sup>. The website is: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).
- Students are reminded that in addition to the Common Application, each member institution requires students to submit the Secondary School Report (which is automatically completed online by the Counseling Office when the transcript is processed) and 1 or 2 two teacher recommendations. Additionally, the colleges may have a supplemental form or essay that the student will need to complete.

***HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE SUMMER!!***



Mrs. Bhalla, College and Career Counselor  
 Mr. Gumby, School Counselor Last Names A-EI  
 Mrs. Kilpatrick, School Counselor Last Names Em-LE  
 Ms. Osborn, School Counselor Last Names Li-Ro  
 Mr. Shackelford, School Counselor Last Names Ru-Z