

FLHS Guidance Department Presents:



Senior Parent Night



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Overview For Tonight

- **FLHS Application Supports**
- **Deadline Types**
- **Types of Applications**
- **Application Components**
 - Transcript
 - SAT & ACT
 - College Essays
 - Resume / Activity Sheet
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - FERPA Waiver
- **Naviance**
- **Financial Aid**
- **COVID Changes**
- **Demonstrated Interest**
- **Q&A**



FLHS Application Supports

- **Group Guidance**
 - Every week during E and 5 day for seniors
 - Will cover all components of process
 - Students have a packet of handouts and Google Classroom
- **Individual Meetings**
 - As needed to review applications, essays, resumes, mock interviews, etc.
- **Family Meetings**
 - Optional for families this fall - via Google Meet, phone, or in person
 - Additionally a lot of information for families can be found in our latest Fall Newsletter which was sent out last week
- **Writing Center for Essays**
 - For students who want to work with an English teacher on their essay



Deadline Types

- Early Decision “ED” / Early Decision II
 - Binding Agreement
 - Most ED I are 11/1 or 11/15
- Restricted Early Action “REA”
 - Read each REA policy carefully!
- Early Action “EA” / Priority
 - Can be as early as 10/15 and as late as December (most are in November)
 - Some schools have priority scholarship and/or special program deadlines
- Rolling / Closing Deadline
 - Do as early as possible
- Regular Decision “RD”
 - Many are January 1st

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Types of Applications

The Common Application (NAVIANCE CONNECTED)

- 1000+ colleges use the Common App
- ALL students must create a [Common Application](#) account
- Always use Common App if there is a choice
- Most widely used application for students



The SUNY Application

- Most SUNY Colleges are now on the Common Application. Use the Common App if there is a choice

The Coalition Application

- 150+ schools also use the Coalition Application as an application choice or as their only application. Use the Common App if there is a choice

Institutional Application

- Found on individual school's websites for all colleges who don't subscribe to the Common Application or the Coalition Application

Application Components

The Transcript

- The transcript still is the key part of any college application
- 1st & 2nd Q **report cards** are sent to ALL colleges
- Transcript requests are made through Naviance at least 3 weeks prior to first deadline
- Additional requests can be added - but it is safest to place transcript requests 3 weeks prior to the deadline

TRANSCRIPT

SAT and ACT

➤ College Board / SAT

➤ ACT

- Most substantially changed part of the process due to COVID-19. MOST schools are now test optional. Important to check each school's website for their policy on Standardized Testing
- If a student is using scores, students are responsible for sending either official scores **OR** self-reported scores to colleges ([List of Colleges That Allow Self Reporting](#))
- Students are responsible for knowing each school's testing requirements and delivery options



College Essays

- Main Common App Essay
- Optional: Common App COVID essay
- Supplemental essays are in “My Colleges” Section of the Common App
- Essay might be different for Coalition and/or non-Common App schools
- Teacher can provide support on the development of the college essays (After-school help, Writing Center, and help on day of PSATs)



Resume / Activity Sheet

Student should send counselors a copy (ideally 3 weeks prior to first deadline)

What to include...

- Honors and Awards
- Clubs and Activities
- Outside Activities
- Community Service
- Work Experience
- Athletics
- Hobbies and Interests

What NOT to include...

- Things that are REALLY old
- Classes and grades that are on your transcript



Teacher Recommendations

How Many?

- Most colleges require 0-2
- Counselor Recommendation is separate
- Supplemental Recommendations are separate and are not required (process done through Common App and not through Naviance)

Process

- Speak with teacher
- Add teacher to Naviance at least three weeks prior to first deadline (teachers have until deadline to submit)
- Students do not need to wait for teacher recommendations to submit application
- Follow up with Thank You note to teacher



Counselor Recommendations

- Counselor writes for every senior
- Counselor Recommendation is requested by student completing a transcript request in Naviance
- Counselor Recommendation presents a more holistic view of student vs. Teacher Recommendation presents a classroom view of student
- In order for Counselors to provide the best letter of recommendation possible:
 - Students: Complete the Questionnaire via email or Docs
 - Parents: Complete the Brag Sheet via email



FERPA Waiver

- Before we can send out transcripts & letters of recommendation - students must:
 - (1) authorize FLHS to release records (ie. transcript, letters, etc.) to the colleges they are applying to, &
 - (2) choose whether or not to waive their FERPA rights regarding their letters of recommendation
- While students will complete an electronic FERPA on the Common App, parents/guardians must also sign a paper FERPA waiver. If not already completed, please sign the waiver included in your child's Group Guidance packet
- No documents will be sent from FLHS before the waiver is completed
- Colleges recommend that students "waive" their rights for letters of recommendation



Naviance Highlights

- College list should be up to date in Naviance
- All transcript requests and letter of recommendation requests are processed through Naviance
- Students can track transcript and letter progress through Naviance
- Students should report admissions decisions through Naviance
- Scattergrams and “Compare Me” data, specific to FLHS, is housed in Naviance. Averages in the system are unweighted and include testing scores, even if student applied test optional

Financial Aid - Need-based Aid

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY!!!

Significant changes were introduced a few years ago

- FAFSA
- CSS/PROFILE (Created by College Board; not all colleges require the CSS/PROFILE)
- Check each college's website for deadlines and to see what's required
- Net-Price Calculator
- Our recommendation: Fill out forms in October/November



FAFSA

- <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- FAFSA opens October 1st
- Based on 2021 Tax Year
- Early Decision: FAFSA should be completed by the application deadline if applying for aid
- Make sure you are filling out the FAFSA for 2023-24
- You need to complete FAFSA each year
- The FAFSA is free (do not pay a 3rd party!)



CSS/PROFILE

- <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>
- Many private colleges and a few public use **CSS PROFILE**
- [CSS Profile Participating Institutions and Programs](#)
- CSS/PROFILE opens on October 1st
- Deeper dive into financial assets, private business, properties, etc.
- Many schools will also require non-custodial parent information through Profile
- Uses student's College Board account log in



Financial Aid - Merit-based Aid

- Merit Scholarships through college
 - Most merit money comes directly from individual colleges
 - Some are automatically considered
 - Some require an additional application
 - Some have a priority deadline requirement
 - Student or Parent should review on each school's website
- Local Scholarship Packet available mid-Winter
- Scholarship Searches
 - www.fastweb.com or www.goingmerry.com or through other searches



COVID Changes

- Most colleges were test optional the last two years and many have continued this policy for this year
- Many new and improved virtual opportunities to visit, interview, and demonstrate interest
- New essay prompt on Common App that allows students to share how pandemic has impacted them (optional)
- Colleges understand impact on past extracurricular activities
- Campus Visits - Suggested when possible
- At highly selective colleges application numbers skyrocketed and test averages have increased due to test optional policies



Demonstrated Interest



- FLHS College Visits
 - All throughout October, listed in Naviance
- Attend Online Events (virtual tours, information sessions, etc.)
- Visit Campuses (tours and information sessions)
- College Fairs
 - Dates and locations were included in the Fall Newsletter
- Interviews
 - Some virtual, some in person, look into requirements per school
 - The Bedford Foundation is running a mock interview event 10/17-10/19 for those who are interested!
- Open and read emails from colleges
- ***Demonstrated Interest is important for many schools!!!***

Thank you for joining us!

Questions...

