

FLHS Guidance Department Presents:



Senior Parent Night



September 28, 2023

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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
- Financial Aid
- Naviance
- COVID Changes
- Demonstrated Interest
- Q&A



FLHS Application Supports



- Group Guidance - *Very Important!*
 - Every week during Q1 on E and 5 days 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 on our website and in our Fall Newsletter which will be sent out shortly
- 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 “ED2”**
 - Binding Agreement
 - Most ED I are 11/1 or 11/15
- **Restricted Early Action “REA” / Single Choice EA**
 - Read each REA policy carefully!
 - REA is not very common
- **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; 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 |
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SAT and ACT



➤ College Board / SAT

➤ ACT

- Most substantially changed part of the process due to COVID. MOST schools are now **test optional**; important to check each school's website for their policy on Standardized Testing
- Students are encouraged to submit test scores if they are within a school's **mid-50%** *and/or* if their test scores are **stronger** than a student's academic grades
- 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](#))
 - Official test scores are sent directly from College Board or ACT's website
- Students are responsible for knowing each school's testing requirements and delivery options

College Essays

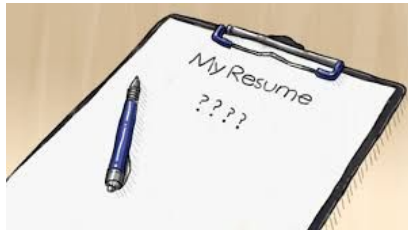


- Main **Common App Essay**
- *Optional*: Common App **COVID** and **additional information** short answers
- **Supplemental** essays are in “My Colleges” Section of the Common App
- Essay might be different for Coalition and/or non-Common App schools
- English teacher can provide support on the development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

Resume / Activity Sheet

What to include...

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



- Quality over quantity
- Authentic representation of how students spend their free time
- Student should send counselors a copy (ideally 3 weeks prior to first deadline)
- Activities **must** be reported on Common App; a separate resume is **optional**
- A completed resume is required for our local scholarship application due in February

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
- Similar to teacher recommendations - counselors have until deadline to submit, and order of submission does not matter (*students should submit when ready*)
- 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



Financial Aid: Need-Based Aid

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY!!!



- FAFSA (all schools; new changes this year for 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/December

FAFSA



- <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- FAFSA - **New date this year: December**
- Required by **ALL** schools if applying for **need-based** financial aid
- Based on **2022 Tax Year**
- New Rules this year
- **Early Decision:** FAFSA should be completed in early December - new deadline *might* impact the timeliness of some ED packages
- Make sure you are filling out the FAFSA for **2024-25**
- You need to complete FAFSA **each year**
- The FAFSA is **free** (do not pay a 3rd party!)
- FAFSA will connect you to the **TAP** (NY State Aid) application

CSS/PROFILE

- <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>
- Many private colleges and a few public use **CSS PROFILE**
- [CSS Profile Participating Institutions and Programs](#)
- CSS/PROFILE - still 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
- Increase “Safety” schools to increase potential scholarship opportunities
- Local Scholarship Packet available mid-Winter
- Scholarship Searches
 - www.fastweb.com or www.goingmerry.com or through other searches



NY State Financial Aid Opportunities

(1) [Excelsior Program \(Public NY Colleges\)](#)

- **Eligibility:** Must be a resident of NYS; have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less; be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a NYS public college.
- **Award Amount:** Up to the resident tuition rate charged by SUNY or CUNY; for tuition only and does not apply to Room and Board.

(2) [NY STEM Incentive Program \(Public and Private NY Colleges\)](#)

- **Eligibility:** Must be a NYS resident; be enrolled full time at a public or private college located in NYS; be ranked in the top 10 percent of their graduating class; be matriculated in an approved undergraduate program leading to a degree in STEM. There is no income restriction on the STEM Incentive Program.
- **Award Amount:** Up to the annual SUNY tuition charged to NYS residents.

(3) [Enhanced Tuition Award \(Private NY Colleges - the private equivalent to Excelsior\)](#)

- **Eligibility:** Must be a resident of NYS; have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less; be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a [participating private colleges](#) located in NYS.
- **Award Amount:** Recipients will generally receive \$6,000 through a combination of their TAP award, ETA award and a match from their private college.

(4) [DREAM Act](#)

- **Eligibility:** gives undocumented students access to NYS administered grants and scholarships that support their higher education cost.
- **Award Amount:** Varies

Naviance Highlights



- College list should be kept 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
- New this year: Students will be asked to specify whether or not they are applying with test scores

COVID Changes



- Most colleges were test optional the last few years and many have continued this policy for this year
- Many improved virtual opportunities to visit, interview, and demonstrate interest
- Essay prompt on Common App allows students to share how pandemic has impacted them (optional - and not done by most students unless impact was substantial)
- Campus Visits: In-person still recommended when possible
- At highly selective colleges application numbers skyrocketed, and continue to climb, 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
- Interviews
 - Some virtual, some in person, look into requirements per school
 - The Bedford Foundation is running a mock interview event 10/16-10/19 for those who are interested! (email sent out this week)
- Open and read emails from colleges
- ***Demonstrated Interest is important for many schools!!!***

Thank you for joining us!

Questions...



Keep your eye out for communications about:

- **Fall Newsletter** - *coming out soon!*
- **Essay Consultations** - on 10/11 (during the 4 hour delay due to the PSATs)
- **Mock Interview Event** (10/16-10/19) through the Bedford Foundation
(email sent out this week)
- **College N' Coffee** - Virtual parent event on 10/20 at 8am