

# College Planning Process

## COLLEGE PLANNING

Many of our students choose to continue their education at a two or four-year institution. The choice to attend one of these schools can make a huge difference in the life of the student and his or her family. It can greatly increase a young person's opportunities, both financially and personally. We know that selecting, registering for and paying for a student's college education can be daunting. We hope the following information will assist you in this process. Of course, we are always available in the Guidance Office to answer any questions you may have and offer other assistance.

### COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS

#### SIX SIMPLIFIED STEPS:

1. During your senior year, finalize the college search and begin to narrow down your college list. At this point, try to ignore the Cost of Attendance (COA) and be open to the possibilities of financial aid. You may be surprised at a financial aid package a private school may offer you. Retake the ACT or SAT to improve your scores.
2. Finalize the application packets by Thanksgiving Break or SOONER. If you are applying for Early Decision, you must meet the college deadline established. All admissions paper work should be submitted to the Guidance Office and you must complete a transcript request form. **Should Letters of Recommendation be needed, give at least two weeks notice to the teacher or counselor by whom you need this completed.** REMINDER - IF YOU APPLY ON-LINE, YOU WILL STILL NEED THE TRANSCRIPT SENT AND ANY OTHER NEEDED FORMS THE SCHOOL REQUIRES. Don't forget to enclose your application fee.
3. Common Application <http://www.commonapp.org/> (<http://www.commonapp.org/>)  
Feel free to use the Common Application when applying to colleges. Once completed online or in print, copies of the Application for Undergraduate Admission can be sent to any number of participating colleges. The same is true of the School Report, Midyear Report, and Teacher Evaluation forms. This allows you to spend less time on the busywork of applying for admission, and more time on what's really important: college research, visits, essay writing, and senior year coursework. Make sure your designated college accepts this application. The Common Application is the recommended form of 277 selected colleges and universities for admission to their undergraduate programs.
4. Begin the Financial Aid Process after October 1st. Complete the FAFSA Application and any school-specific forms. Seniors should be applying for local scholarships and meeting the required deadlines. Look for scholarships that you feel you can meet the set criteria. Current lists of available scholarships are in the Guidance Office. We cannot possibly include all of the scholarship opportunities available on this list, so make use of the websites that we recommend.
5. During the Spring of 2018 you will hear from the colleges concerning their proposed financial aid. Evaluate the package and possibly negotiate for more through the financial aid office at your designated college.

6. Students need to finalize the college decision and commit by MAY 1. The Guidance Office will request information from the seniors through our "Senior Survey" during the spring meeting and submit final transcripts to the college of their choice.

#### HOW COLLEGES SEE YOU

##### 10 THINGS COLLEGES LOOK AT ON YOUR APPLICATION:

- 10) Your personal recognition programs
- 9) Your work/extracurricular activities and leadership positions
- 8) Your interview (if required)
- 7) Your teacher recommendations
- 6) Your counselor recommendation
- 5) Your essay/writing sample
- 4) Your class rank
- 3) Your grades in all subjects
- 2) Your admission test scores
- 1) Your grades in college prep courses (the depth of your transcript)

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: Colleges are closely examining students' character for admission purposes. Please make sure your online social profiles (instagram, facebook, twitter, etc.) display good moral character. Here are suggestions for cleaning up your profile:**

\*Safety first: Never post personal information such as your address, daily schedule, phone number, etc.

\*Make your profile private so strangers can't look at your information, and be cautious about adding new friends who you do not personally know.

\*Pictures and references of you on your friends' pages can be damaging too. Ask them to take down photos on their profiles in which they've "tagged" you, along with comments.

SOURCE: National Association of College Admissions Counseling