



# Applying to College

## A Guide for Parents

BOYS' LATIN OF PHILADELPHIA CHARTER SCHOOL

# College Advising at BL – Who We Are and What We Do

- ▶ Heidi Bonner – Director of College Advising
- ▶ Stephanie Tedesco – College Advisor

We are here to help with every aspect of the college admissions/financial aid process, including:

- Helping students decide where to apply
- Assisting students complete applications, including essays
- Sending supporting documents to colleges
- Helping students and parents complete financial aid paperwork

# Seniors should...

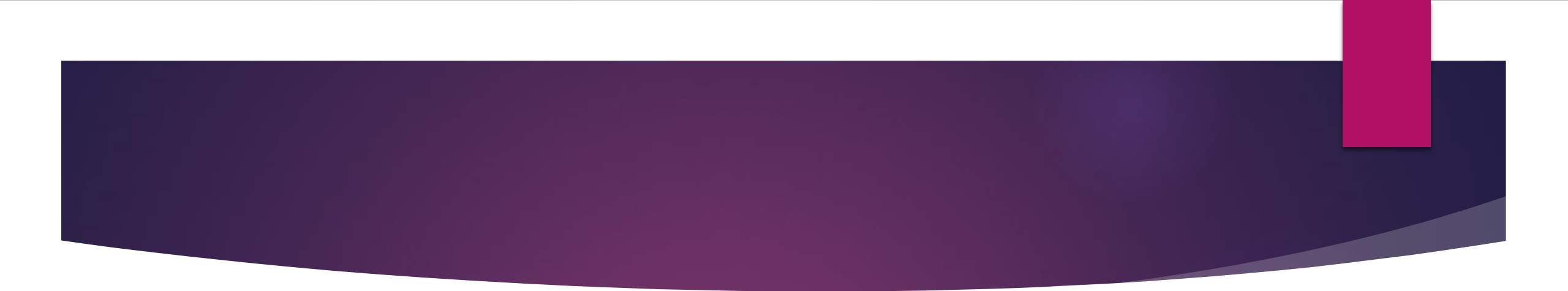
1) Finalize their college list by early November

1) Finalize the list of colleges to which they are applying

▶ 6-8 colleges, including:

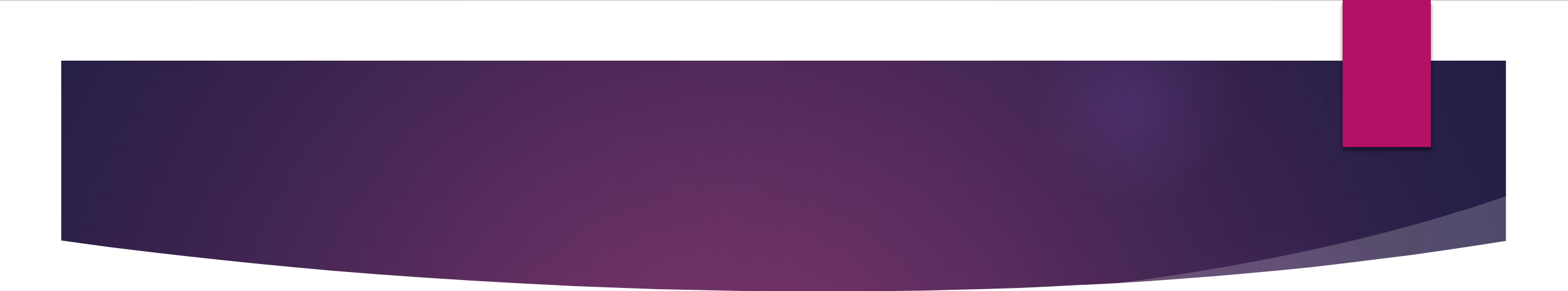
- 2-3 likely schools
- 3-4 possible schools
- 1-2 reach schools

Students should not plan on applying to more than 10 colleges.




2) Research the application requirements of the colleges to which they are applying

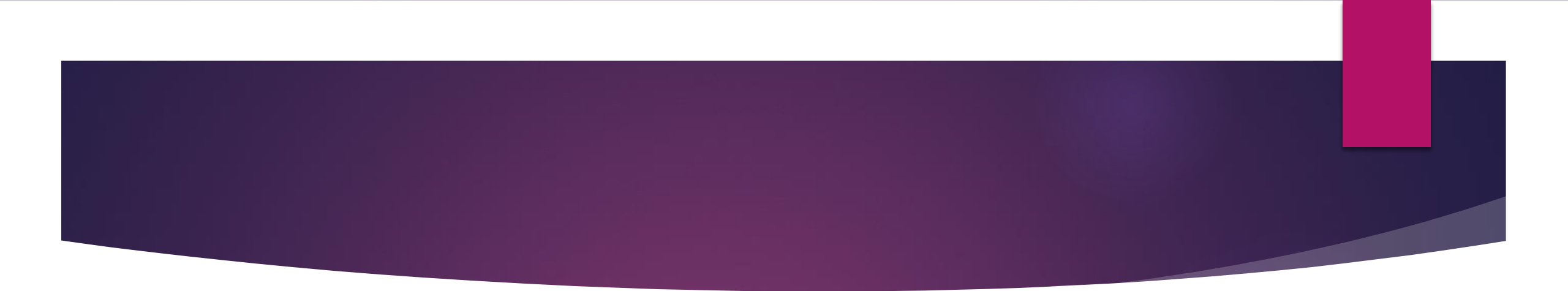
- ▶ Application deadlines – not all majors may have the same deadline and there may be earlier deadlines for those seeking scholarships
  - ▶ Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, Rolling Admission
- ▶ Required documents – application, essay, recs, test scores, fee
- ▶ Financial aid/scholarship requirements



### 3) Ask 2 teachers to write letters of recommendation for them and complete the Letter of Recommendation Form

- ▶ Ideally, teachers should be from 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- ▶ Students list the teachers on the form and choose whether or not they wish to rank their preference for the rec that will be sent if the number of recs is limited. Teachers must initial the form to indicate their agreement.
- ▶ The form needs to be turned into the college office by October 4th.
- ▶ The teachers listed will be added to the student's Naviance account.
- ▶ Students should NOT invite BL staff to be recommenders on the Common Application.

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- ▶ 4) Complete the college advising questionnaire and recommendation questionnaire if not already complete.
  - ▶ 5) Schedule a one-on-one meeting with me no later than November 1, or October 1 if they plan to apply ED or EA.
  - ▶ 6) Review the draft transcript and bring back the signed School Records Release form.



7) Register to take the SAT and/or the ACT this Fall. If they're applying to a college that requires Subject Tests, they need to register to take those, too. If any of the colleges they want to apply to requires the SAT with Writing, they will need to make sure to register for that.

# SAT Testing Dates and Deadlines

## SAT/SAT Subject Tests

- ▶ October 5 – late registration deadline is 9/24
- ▶ November 2 – registration deadline 10/3
- ▶ December 1 – registration deadline 11/8

The tests are offered at BL on all of these dates. You cannot take the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests on the same dates.

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



# Free SAT Prep Options

- ▶ Khan Academy has partnered with the College Board to be its official test prep provider. Free online test prep is available on its website, [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)
- ▶ Albert.io

# The Application Process

- 1) Student goes to the Admissions page of the college's website, or if the college takes the Common Application, he goes to [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).
- 2) He creates an account, then clicks on "Apply Now," etc.
- 3) He completes the application in draft form, including any required essays.
- 4) He lets me review it.
- 5) He submits the application.

# Continued....

- 6) He adds the college to his list of “Colleges I’m Applying To” in Naviance and clicks on “Request Transcript.”
- 7) If the college requires test scores and they will not accept them from the high school, he must log into his College Board account and send them himself. It's the student's responsibility to know each of his colleges' policies.
- 8) If he qualifies for an application fee waiver, he must fill out a fee waiver form in the College Office (non-Common App schools only).

# Supporting Materials

- ▶ Once we have received the transcript request, we will send the transcript, the counselor recommendation and Secondary School Report (if required), the teacher recs (if required), and our school profile to the college.
- ▶ We will send test scores to colleges that require them. We will not send scores to a test optional college unless a student specifically directs us to.
- ▶ Please note that not all colleges accept scores from the high school. In those cases, students should have their scores sent directly from College Board or ACT to those colleges.

# Deadlines

- ▶ Students should submit their draft application and any accompanying essays to their college advisor to review at least two weeks prior to the college's deadline. We cannot guarantee that materials will arrive on time unless this happens.

# After they have applied...

Students should:

- ▶ Check Naviance Student to verify that we sent the supporting materials.
- ▶ Check email daily for messages from the colleges.

If they receive a message saying something is missing from their file, they should let us know immediately.

# Possible Admissions Outcomes

▶ Admit

▶ Defer

▶ Waitlist

▶ Deny

# Once they've been admitted...

- ▶ Compare financial aid award letters to see what the most affordable options are
- ▶ Visit campuses
- ▶ Students must submit their enrollment deposit by May 1.



# Parents should...

- ▶ 1) Encourage their sons to utilize the assistance of their college counselor.
- ▶ 2) Make sure their sons are on track for meeting all deadlines.
- ▶ 3) Encourage them to prepare for standardized tests.
- ▶ 4) Take students to see college campuses whenever possible.
- ▶ 5) Complete the FAFSA and any other required financial aid paperwork as soon as possible after October 1, but no later than December 15. Students applying Early Action or Early Decision may have to apply for aid even earlier.

# FAFSA and PA State Grant

- ▶ FAFSA is an online form used to apply for all forms of Federal financial aid. It's available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) (not .com).
- ▶ Everyone should complete the FAFSA, even if they're unsure that they will attend college next year.
- ▶ Everyone should also complete the PA state grant application at the same time as the FAFSA.

# Financial Aid

- ▶ There will be a meeting for senior parents regarding financial aid on October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.
- ▶ We are offering assistance with the FAFSA at a workshop on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ We are also available during the school day by appointment.

# Contact Information

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# Questions

