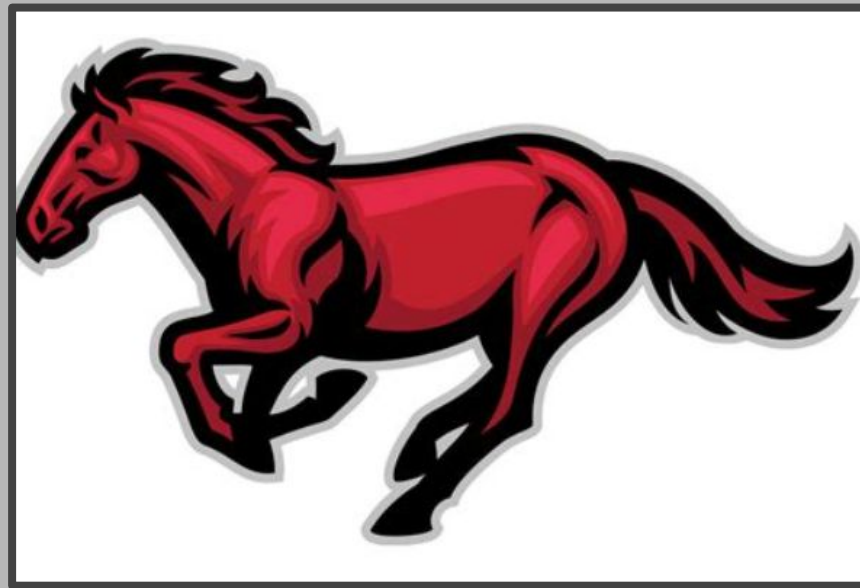


Post-High School Planning

welcome Class of 2021!



Our Goals

- To inform students and parents about the post-secondary planning process
- To provide students with tools and support to develop a comprehensive plan based on their individual interests & needs

Self-Evaluation: What Do You Think You Want?

- 4 Year College
- 2 Year College
- Technical Institute
- Military
- Employment
- Gap Year Program



Self-Evaluation: Finding a Good Match

- Admission Requirements (GPA & Test Scores)
 - Profile of admitted students available on Naviance
- Financial Fit: Cost, Financial Aid, Scholarships, etc.
- Academic Opportunities:
 - Honors Programs
 - Academic Support Services
 - Research and Internship Opportunities
 - Study Abroad
- Geographic Location
- Enrollment (Size and Type)
- Athletics, Clubs and Activities

Make Your Research Meaningful

- Develop your college list to include:
 - Reach
 - Target
 - Safety/likely
- Use different search tools: Naviance, Collegeboard: Big Future, College and Career Center, etc.

Keep in mind!

*There is no one “best school,” it is about finding what school is the **best fit for you!***

Letters of Recommendation

Generally colleges will be looking for a letter from your counselor, as well as 1-2 from your classroom teachers (typically Junior year teachers).

- At least one letter should be from an academic teacher – students typically have two.
- Pick teachers who know you the best; this doesn't necessarily mean a class you have an "A" in.
- Make sure to write a thank you note to everyone who writes you a letter!

College Essay

Sample Common Application Essay Questions:

- 1. 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.*
- 2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?*
- 3. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.*

***College Essay Writing Workshop will be held in May 2020!**

Standardized Testing

SAT

- Evidence-Based Reading
- Math
- Writing (optional)

SAT Subject Test

- Only required at highly selective schools

ACT*

- English
- Reading
- Science
- Math
- Writing (optional)

Khan Academy offers personalized free test prep based on PSAT scores, additional free practice materials are available in the College and Career Center

So... what's next?



Second Semester of Junior Year

Explore, Register and Visit

- Attend Junior Panel Presentation
- Attend small group meetings with School Counselor
- Choose challenging senior courses
- Visit the College & Career Center
- Visit colleges during April vacation and weekends
- Update “Colleges I am Thinking About” list in Naviance
- Attend College Essay Workshop in May 2020
- Ask 1-2 Teachers for Letter of Recommendation
- Register for SAT, SAT Subject Tests, ACT
- Athletes (Division I&II) register with NCAA
- Attend local college fairs (Southern CT College Fair at Webster Bank Arena on March 30, 2020)

Summer Before Senior Year

- Work Experience
- Volunteer Experience
- Internships
- Update Resume in Naviance
- Begin College Applications: Common App, Coalition, Institution
 - Common App will open August 1st
- Visit Colleges



Take a deep breath! You got this!

Fall of Senior Year

- Attend the Senior Kick off Meeting in September
- Make an appointment with School Counselor 3 weeks prior to your first deadline
- Register for SAT/ SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT (Aug. Oct., Nov. Dec.)
- Visit with college representatives in the College & Career Center
- Work on applications, personal essay, and supplements

APPLY!!

College Application Process:



Responsibilities & Components

Student Responsibilities

- Application
 - Complete and submit application online, including essay and fee
 - Check for supplements if using the Common Application
- Match Naviance and Common App
- Keep Naviance “Colleges I Am Applying To” accurate and current
- Request Teacher Letters of Recommendation through Naviance
- Complete Recommendation Questionnaire for School Counselor
- Submit Official Score Report request from College Board or ACT
- National Scholarships (Naviance)
- Fairfield Foundation Scholarships

Dont forget! Meet with your counselor 3 weeks prior to 1st application deadline

Parents'/Guardians' Responsibilities

- Complete optional Parent Brag Sheet in Naviance
- Sign Transcript Release Form
- Attend Financial Aid Night in Fall 2020
- Complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting October 1st:
<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>
- Complete CSS Profile (if applicable):
<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Counselor Responsibilities

- Submit Official Transcripts
 - Initial
 - 1st Marking Period (by request only)
 - Mid-Year
 - Final
- School Counselor Letter of Recommendation
- FWHS School Profile
- Secondary School Report

Keep accurate records!
Make note of all emails and passwords



Post High School Planning Guide

Will be available in Class of 2021 Google Classroom

Join code: ql70wq

Contact Your Counselor

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