



College Planning Night 2021

Selecting a College Involves Many Things

- Self – Assessment
- Information Gathering
- Selection Process
- Filing Applications
- The Wait
- The Final Choice



Self-Evaluation

The first step in finding the right match

- Goals and values
- Academic interests, abilities and learning style
- Activities and outside interests
- Your personality and relationships
- Career awareness and interests
- **What is a good fit for the student?**



Information Gathering

- Meet with School Counselor
- Use Internet, Naviance, Virtual options
- College Fairs
- College Visits*

**make sure to “check in” with admissions. They often track students who visit.*



Selecting a College

Selection

Process

Dream

Good Fit

Higher Likely

Ways to Apply

- Early Action

Very competitive applicant pool.

- Early Decision (*binding*)

Highly competitive. Must inform Guidance.

- Regular Decision

- Rolling Admission



Admission Criteria

- GPA
- Standardized test scores (depending on policy)
- Courses taken in high school and level of difficulty (SRAR for many schools)
- Teacher letters of recommendation
- Intended major
- School activities
- Activities outside the school (*community;work*)
- Special talents, skills and interests

SAT & ACT Testing

- Tests are commonly taken in the spring of Junior year, Summer before Senior year, and fall of Senior year.
- **There are no more subject tests-College Board has discontinued these as of January 2021.**
- Many colleges are now adapting ‘Test Optional’, ‘Test Blind’, or ‘Test flexible’ status. Please visit www.fairtest.org for colleges who do not require standardized tests for admission. Check the college’s website for the most current testing policy.
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.actstudent.org

Recommendations

- Request recommendation letters from at least two teachers before the end of Junior year; pink sheets submitted to each teacher.
- Complete Student Profile for counselor letter; this is available on Naviance.
- Parents can complete “Parent Input Survey” available on Naviance, but this is not a required piece.

Essay

Student should:

- **Write in student's own voice**
- **Be genuine**
- Write several drafts
- Take a close look at organization, grammar and structure
- Essay should highlight student's interests or experiences; **telling the admission committee more about themselves not found elsewhere in the application.**

Essay...a few pointers

Should be:

- Edited for mechanics, spelling, grammar, punctuation and typos. Do not rely on spell check!
- Have someone proofread!



High School Athletes

- Eligibility to play Division I and II
 - *All high school athletes must register with NCAA at www.ncaa.org*
 - *Register during Junior Year*





The Application Process in a Nutshell!

- Either using the Common Application, Coalition, or the college's application (*if college does not accept the other two*), student completes application online and submits payment.
- Student records applications in her Naviance account and requests transcripts.
- Student submits a Blue Sheet for all colleges to which she applies.
- Student requests tests scores to be sent *directly* from SAT/ACT (College Board) to colleges.

Scholarship Websites & Phone Apps available

- Scholarships are posted on VJM Naviance accounts and on the Guidance website
 - www.vjmhs.org
 - <https://student.naviance.com/vjmhs>
 - FastWeb app can be downloaded on phone
 - RaiseMe micro-scholarships & app available
 - SchollySearch app developed by Drexel graduate

Final Thoughts:

Students should:

- Visit & communicate with the counselor often
- Refer to the College Planning Guide
- Use resources in Guidance Office/Naviance
- Visit schools and stop by Admissions Offices
- Prepare a list of colleges tailored to the student and her goals





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