

THE COLLEGE CORNER

BIGLERVILLE COLLEGE ADVISING NEWSLETTER



DECK THE HALLS WITH APPLICATIONS

WINTER IS CRITICAL APPLICATION SEASON

Now is the time to get those final college applications submitted! Around this time of year, it is especially important to keep deadlines in mind. You do not want to miss a deadline and not be able to go to your favorite college! Be sure to check each school's website and write down when their application deadlines are.

Also keep in mind deadlines for financial aid. Some schools have separate applications or forms for financial aid, so be sure to look online to see if the schools you are applying to require a separate application. Come see Miss K if you have any questions.

UPCOMING DATES

[Grad Project Packet 1 Deadline](#)
11/22/2019

[Lenfest Application \(Juniors\)](#)
12/2/2019

[December SAT](#)
12/7/2019

I'M ACCEPTED...NOW WHAT?

It is important to remember that even though you have been accepted to the college, you are not enrolled in the college until you pay your enrollment deposit. That deposit signifies that you will be attending that specific school. However, you do not want to make your deposit to the first school that accepts you, unless that is your dream school. Wait for your acceptance letters from all of the schools you have applied to, and compare and contrast the different schools and what financial aid they can offer. Some schools may offer a greater amount of merit aid or scholarships than another school. By comparing and contrasting schools, it allows you to select the school that will be the best option for you to succeed.



Why is the deposit important? Most importantly, It signifies that you will be attending that college. However, the deposit is important for a few other reasons. First, it could impact your housing options. Some colleges have a limited amount of on campus housing, so the sooner you submit your deposit, the better chance you have of securing a room on campus. Second, it may influence academics. Some majors, like nursing or engineering, only have a limited number of spots in their programs every year. Depositing can secure your spot in your major. Lastly, it means you are officially going to college!



Graduation Project Update

December will be dedicated to learning how to use College Board for the SAT and college searching

Career and Military Pathways: You should be working on job shadowing and setting up interviews with two people in your career field. If you are planning on joining the military, talk with a recruiter and do research into two military branches

College Pathway: Select 3 colleges from College Board's Big Future, set up college campus visits, and look into application requirements

HOW DO I FIND THE RIGHT COLLEGE FOR ME?

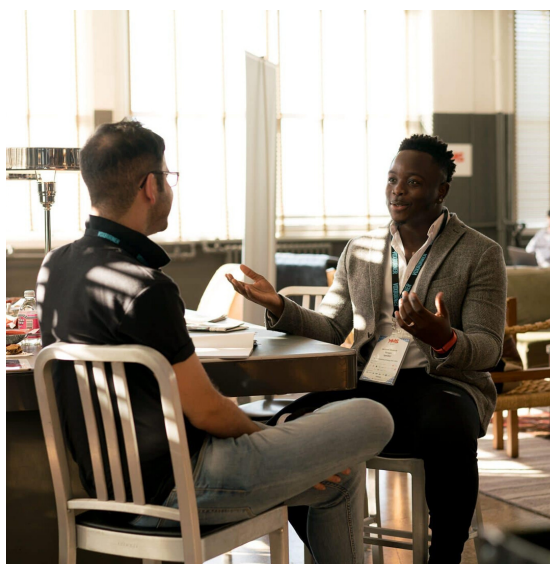
UNDERSTANDING MATCH AND FIT

When looking into colleges there are two main things you need to consider, match and fit. **MATCH** means finding a school that has students with similar academic standards and capabilities as you. **FIT** refers to other aspects of the school such as social environment, physical environment, location, size, academic programs, price, etc. Both match and fit are important in finding the best school for yourself. If you have additional questions about match and fit please come see Miss K!



How do I Find My Best Match and Fit?

A good first step is to use the College Search tool on College Board called Big Future. This search tool allows you to input multiple variables such as SAT/ACT scores, major, sports, size, location, and many other variables. The search tool will then generate a list of colleges for you based on the criteria you input. Even if you find a school that is a 100% match it is still VERY important that you try to visit that college. Colleges can be very different in person than how they seem on paper and visiting is the best way to figure that out. Don't be afraid to ask for help from parents/guardians, friends in college, teacher, and Miss K!



How To Demonstrate Interest With A College

- 1) Visit campus*
- 2) Attend a rep visit*
- 3) Talk to a current student or faculty member*
- 4) Sit in on a class*
- 5) Do an interview*

TALKING THE TALK

TERMS TO KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

- Early Decision-** A binding decision that if you get accepted to a college you will go there. Only apply if you are 100% sure you want to go to that college
- Early Action-** A non-binding application deadline that usually happens in November/December. You get your admission decision before rolling or regular decision
- Regular Decision-** The standard admission deadline
- Rolling Admission-** Applications are reviewed as they are recieved. Typically a quicker review process
- For Profit College-** Schools that are owned and operated by private businesses. Don't offer much financial aid
- Test-Optional-** A college that doesn't require SAT/ACT scores for admission
- Need-Blind Review-** Your financial need will not play a role in your acceptance to a college
- Sticker Price-** The price of a college before financial aid is factored in
- Net Price-** Price after financial aid is factored in
- Need Based Aid-** Financial aid provided based on your EFC from the FAFSA
- Merit Aid-** Financial aid awarded based on GPA, SAT/ACT scores, or leadership/community service



Financial Aid Terms 101

- FAFSA-** application that indicates how much Federal financial aid a student is eligible for and makes student eligible for Federal loans
- FSA ID-** Username and password the student and 1 parent creates to login to the FAFSA and sign the FAFSA
- EFC (expected family contribution)-** How much money the FAFSA determines you family can pay towards college
- Scholarship/Grant-** A form of financial aid that doesn't need to be paid back
- Subsidized Loan-** Government pays interest on the loan while the student is in college
- Unsubsidized Loan-** Interest added to balance of the loan