

SENIOR CLASS MEETINGS

College Application Process

- College Application Process for students applying to a **4-year college**
 - How many schools should I apply to? Each student is different...for some students, 1-2 applications might work best, while other students may apply to 5-6 schools. We do recommend:
 - At least 1 New Jersey School - Many grants, scholarships, etc. are designed for NJ residents only
 - One safe school (i.e. your academic profile exceeds the colleges requirements; check out average SAT and GPA)
 - Keep in mind that most application fees are \$50 or more; narrow down your list before you begin applying
 - Common Application (www.commonapp.org)
 - Standardized first-year application form used to apply to many colleges with a single application
 - Accepted by more than 500 colleges
 - Many colleges request additional “supplements” through Common App
 - Request transcripts online through Naviance
- Admission Options
 - Early Decision
 - Legally binding
 - Must attend if accepted
 - If you are accepted, you must withdraw all other college applications
 - Early Action
 - Not legally binding
 - Earlier deadline than regular admission with early decision delivery
 - Regular Admission
 - Rolling – applications are evaluated as they are received
 - Deadline – applications are only reviewed after a single deadline date
- College Application Components
 - Online admission application
 - Submit an online application for each school you are applying to, using the college’s online application or their application through Common App (if applicable)
 - SAT scores
 - YOU are responsible for sending your SAT scores
 - YOU must log on to your unique CollegeBoard account and request to have your scores sent; we cannot send SAT scores for you (they are only accepted by schools when they are sent directly through your CollegeBoard account).
 - When you register for the SATs, be sure to enter the names of the schools where you plan to apply (the CollegeBoard will issue up to 4 reports for free)
 - Make sure you send scores directly from CollegeBoard to the colleges where you are applying
 - CollegeBoard will charge an additional \$11.25 per score report requested (beyond the 4 you indicated on your initial registration)
 - Transcript
 - GPA
 - Class Rank
 - Strength/rigor of classes you have taken in 9th-12th grade

- Resume
 - Submit the resume you created in your English class to your counselor for your college application file
 - You may also take advantage of the resume builder feature in Naviance
- Letters of Recommendation
 - If you are using Common App, be sure to check how many recommendations each individual college requires (most require at least 1 TEACHER recommendation)
 - Ask for letters of recommendation ASAP!
 - Provide your recommender with your resume so he/she may tailor the letter to include your most important qualities, activities, strengths, etc.
 - Be sure to write a thank you note for your recommender
- Essay
 - Tailor to each individual college as needed
 - PROOFREAD
- Extracurricular activities, athletics, honors & awards (you will include this info on your resume and applications)
- NCAA Clearinghouse application
 - For students who intend to play collegiate sports for a Division I or Division II school
 - Visit eligibilitycenter.org to apply
- DEADLINES
 - You are responsible for keeping track of when your applications are due
 - APPLY EARLY! You should plan to submit all four year college applications before winter break
 - Transcript requests and requests to mail recommendation letters are due to your counselor **at least one week prior** to the application deadline. All requests must be in by **December 12th in order for your transcripts to be submitted and recommendations to be mailed before winter break. Requests received after December 10th may not be processed until January 4th.**
- Visiting College Campuses
 - Be sure to get a letter from the College Admissions Office
 - Ask the Admissions Officer about an application fee waiver
- Do Senior year grades matter??? **YES!!!!!!!**
 - 1st marking period grades will be sent with transcripts
 - Most colleges will also ask for mid-year and final grades
 - If your grades are suffering, seek help!
 - See your teacher for extra help
 - Talk to your counselor
 - Many colleges/universities will rescind offer of admission if a student slacks off in his/her senior year
- Naviance
 - Log on regularly for updates on scholarships, college visits, etc.
 - Request transcripts via Naviance
 - Remember – we can NOT send your SAT scores; you must send them directly from the CollegeBoard
 - Check out the Naviance resume builder
 - Click on the “About Me” tab and then on the “Resume” link
 - The resume builder includes tips on writing, type of information to include, layout, etc.
- Camden County College
 - CCC is one of the top community colleges in the nation and is a great option for many students:
 - Students who want to save \$\$\$ while completing their general education courses before transferring to a 4-year college
 - Students who are undecided about a college major and/or career path

- Students who want to earn an Associate’s Degree or professional certificate in a specific career program or trade (e.g. dental hygiene, automotives, medical assistant, etc.)
 - NJSTARS program: Students who graduate in the top 15% of their class are eligible to attend Camden County College tuition-free for 2 years
 - Steps for students planning to attend Camden County College
 - Submit CCC application online in January/February 2016
 - Attend CCC College for a Day Field Trip in March 2016:
 - Accuplacer Placement test and score reports
 - Meet with CCC staff
 - Lunch in the café
 - Cost is only \$5 for the day!!
 - Meet with CCC Academic Advisor at Audubon HS in June 2016 to register for CCC classes
- College Admissions and Social Media
 - Be very mindful of the type of impression you make with your social media profiles
 - Many schools have a policy that admissions can be revoked if a student engages in behavior that calls into question his/her honesty, maturity, character, morals, judgment, etc.
 - For tips on cleaning up your online image:
 - <http://collegeapps.about.com/od/theartofgettingaccepted/a/Facebook.htm>
 - Avoid using an unprofessional email address (i.e. XXNJhottie21@yahoo.com vs. JSmith@gmail.com)
- Scholarships
 - Check out www.fastweb.com and <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search> for a wide array of national scholarship opportunities
 - Scholarships will be posted on Naviance – check your email & account regularly!
 - Local scholarships will be available around March 2016
 - Listen for PA announcements in homeroom
 - Pick up applications for local scholarships (starting in March 2016) in the Guidance Office
- Financial Aid
 - Complete and submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - Apply starting in January 2016
 - Financial Aid Info session for parents will be held in January 2016
 - Wait to eliminate a college from your list because of cost because you don’t know how your financial aid package will look
 - [CSS Profile \(College Scholarship Service profile\)](#)
 - The financial aid application service of the College Board
 - More than 400 colleges and universities use the information to determine eligibility for NON-federal student aid
 - More detailed than FASFA
 - Has an app fee of \$25 plus \$16 for each college or scholarship program to which you want info sent
 - You must check if the colleges you are applying to require you to submit the CSS profile (**deadlines are typically in the fall – check ASAP!**)
- Visit CollegeBoard.org for tons of resources and helpful information about everything from college planning to SAT prep

QUESTIONS???

Come see us in the Guidance Office – we are here to help!