

Sayreville War Memorial High School Guidance Department



Junior College/Career Planning Program



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Know Your Options

“Two-Year” Colleges:

- Certification program or associate’s degree program in a variety of vocational and technical fields. Option to transfer to four-year college.

“Four-Year” Colleges:

- Students enroll to earn a bachelor’s degree.

Applied Technology Centers - Vocational/Technical/Business Schools:

- There are many private schools offering training in a variety of fields, such as computers, cosmetology, technicians, etc.

Apprenticeship:

- Structured on-the-job training
- Instructional coursework by an approved provider

Know Your Options Continued

EMPLOYMENT

- If you are planning to go directly into a job after high school, you will want to consider what types of jobs you may enjoy, as well as assess the skills you have already developed.

ROTC:

- Two and four year programs for military training are offered at selected colleges.

MILITARY:

- Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard: For more information about careers and futures in the Armed Forces speak with a recruiter.

Armed Services Academies:

- U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, West Point, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

You must start this process in the spring of your junior year by completing a Pre-Candidate questionnaire.

Choose the characteristics that you consider important in your college search:

- Two-year vs. four-year option
- Setting: urban, suburban, rural
- Location: distance from home
- Size of school
- Academic environment: majors offered, class size, faculty, facilities
- Extracurriculars: social activities, clubs, intramural sports, campus events
- Cost and financial aid



Use available resources to gather information about colleges and narrow down your list:

- Naviance: connection.naviance.com/swmhs
 - College Board: www.collegeboard.org
 - bigfuture.org
 - Colleges' admissions websites
- Campus visits/Open Houses
All schools are offering virtual visits and open houses and most are starting to offer in-person visits again
- Meet with college reps at SWMHS: September through December (sign up on Naviance)
- Meet with your School Counselor
- Attend Counselor Workshop Series April through June 2024 (see slide 23)



Components of the College Application:

- High School Transcript
- Application
- Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Standardized Test Scores

Colleges also may consider:

- Demonstrated Interest
- Interview
- Activities/community service
- Supplemental Essay
- Financial Aid forms (for need based decision schools)



High School Transcript

- Lists final grades for all courses student had in high school
- Cumulative, weighted GPA
- Class rank-- Initial September of Senior year
- Final class rank February of Senior year
- Rigor of courses is important.



Application

- Use the application on the college's website, the Common App, or Coalition App if it is accepted by the college
- Common App (www.commonapp.org) is a single application that is accepted at more than 1,000 colleges in the US; additional supplemental essays for some colleges may be required
- Coalition Application
- Early Decision Vs. Early Action
- Fee Waivers



The Common Application

www.commonapp.org



- More than 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide use the **Common Application**.
- If you are applying to more than one participating school, you can use the **Common Application**. Complete the application only once and then pay each college's application fee separately.
- You don't have to complete two different applications!



The Coalition Application

www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/



- The Coalition for College is a diverse group of more than **150** distinguished colleges and universities across the U.S. that is committed to making college a reality for all high school students through its set of free, online college planning tools that helps them learn about, prepare for, and apply to college.



Early Decision (ED):

- This is a **binding decision**. If a student is offered admission under ED, he/she must withdraw all other applications.
- ED should only be used if a student has a very strong preference for the first choice college.
- Deadline is usually mid-October/November with the decision received by the end of December
- Pro: Admission rates can be higher for ED students
- Con: Financial Aid: you will not be able to compare financial aid packages from several universities
- Not every college offers Early Decision



Early Action (EA):

- Same timeline as Early Decision, but the **decision is non-binding.**
- Students have until May 1st to make their final decision.
- Not every college offers an EA option



Essay

- Sample essay questions can be found by previewing applications.
- Have two to three different people read and give feedback on your essay (including at least one English teacher).
- College admission officers look to the essay for evidence that a student can write well. They also want to know something about the personality of the student.
- Avoid essentially writing your resume in paragraph form. It's better to develop one small event, person, place, feeling, or idea with a lot of narrative and specifics. You want to stand out!
- Be yourself and be sincere.
- You are able to view The Common App essay prompts on commonapp.org.



Letters of Recommendation

- Should be from two teachers in academic subjects who have witnessed your work ethic.
- Ask teachers in late spring of junior year or early autumn of senior year.
- Can include a supplementary letter from a coach, work, volunteer supervisor, or club advisor.



Standardized Test Scores

- SAT: sat.collegeboard.com
- ACTs: www.act.org

Registration is ONLINE

- Sayreville War Memorial High School CEEB code: 311355
- Test Fee Waivers (For those on Free and Reduced lunch) Contact your school counselor to receive a fee waiver, if applicable.



Financial Aid

- FAFSA is required for all need-based aid www.fafsa.gov. It is recommended that all parents complete the application in October of your senior year.
- CSS Profile is required for some private universities profileonline.collegeboard.com.
- NJ HESAA is a good resource for parents: www.njhesaa.org.

**You are eligible to transfer your FAFSA® information into New Jersey's state student aid application. Use the "Start your state application" link on the FAFSA confirmation page to transfer your information.

Note: This feature is only displayed once on the confirmation page after submitting your FAFSA form. Use the HESAA website to return to the state aid application.

- NJSTARS: if funds are available, the top 15% of the class is eligible for free tuition to Middlesex County College www.NJSTARS.net.



Scholarships

- Some colleges have a priority deadline for merit scholarship consideration.
- Never pay a fee to have your scholarship application processed.
- Resources:
 - Naviance emails (Review your Naviance-related emails for scholarship and other announcements from all high school counselors)
 - District website
- Websites:
 - [--www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
 - [--www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
 - [--petersons.com](http://petersons.com)
 - [--collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com)



NCAA

- Students who want to play NCAA sports at a Division I or II school need to register for a Certification Account with the NCAA Eligibility center. The fee to register is approx. \$90.
- www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.com
- See your counselor with any questions about NCAA-approved courses prior to your senior year.



Counselor's Role

- Provide resources
- Assist with application process
- Meet with seniors throughout process
- Help guide the process for student/family
- Advocate for student's best interests
- Provide letter of recommendation
- Liaise between school and college



Parents' Role

- Discuss/listen
- Support student and high school
- Attend college visits, college fairs, monitor your child's application process and grades
- Use Naviance/Family Connection Tools/OnCourse Parent Portal
- Become informed about the college application process.



Student's Role

- Deep involvement in a few activities is better than casual involvement in many activities
- Challenge yourself! Take the most challenging course load you can senior year while still maintaining strong grades
- Stay organized!
 - Create a folder for each college's materials
 - Create a spreadsheet listing each college's deadline and application requirements
- Be aware of your deadlines!
- Complete all applications by winter break of your senior year



Junior To-Do List

- Begin to research colleges. Create a primary list. Find schools that match your GPA and test scores. Add the schools to your Naviance account under "Colleges I am Thinking About."
- Develop a strong, academically based senior schedule and earn the best grades possible.
- Register for Spring SAT and/or ACT.
- Visit a variety of schools – different sizes, different locations, and different levels of admission difficulty. Schedule visits during spring break, weekends and the summer. All schools are offering virtual visits/information sessions and open-houses and most have in-person visits again.
- Attend college fairs and visit school websites for further information.



Junior To-Do List

- Identify one or two teachers and ask them before the school year ends if they would be willing to write you a letter of recommendation.
- Read and review college planning materials provided by the Counseling Department.
- Attend Counselor Workshop Series (see next slide)
- Make sure you have joined your individual counselor's Google Classroom and the Guidance Google Classroom.
- Athletes should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.



Open Houses at New Jersey Colleges and Universities

Check college websites for more information and to register.

It is best to visit an open house at the time it begins, if possible, so you don't miss any special programming.

Bloomfield College at Montclair	Monday, February 19 at 9 a.m.
Brookdale Community College	Sunday, April 14, 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Caldwell University	Saturday, April 27
Centenary University	Saturday, March 23
The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)	Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Centenary University	Saturday, April 6, 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Felician University	Sunday, March 10
Kean University	Saturday, March 23

Middlesex College	Sunday, April 21
New Jersey City University (NJCU)	Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m.
New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)	Sunday, February 18, 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Rider University	Sunday, April 21, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Rowan University	Sunday, March 3 Sunday, April 14
St. Elizabeth University	Saturday, February 17 at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 13 at 9 a.m.
Seton Hall University	Sunday, February 18 Sunday, April 21
Stockton University	Saturday, March 23
William Paterson University	Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING WORKSHOP SERIES

PRESENTED BY SWMHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

**PLEASE JOIN THE COLLEGE & CAREER PLANNING
WORKSHOPS STARTING ON 4/16 FOR GRADE 11
STUDENTS. GET A HEADSTART ON YOUR COLLEGE
PLANNING PROCESS.**

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- INTRODUCTION TO POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING and NAVIANCE BASICS**
- COMMON APPLICATION and ESSAY WRITING**

WORKSHOP DATES:

- 4/16**
- 4/18**
- 4/30**
- 5/2**
- 5/21**
- 5/23 (Virtual)**
- 5/29**
- 6/5 (Virtual)**
- 6/6**
- 6/12**

**JOIN THE GOOGLE CLASSROOM
AND SIGN UP ON THE FORM.**

Code: g23rsvm



SCAN ME

