



# College Planning Night

**JDHS Guidance Department**  
Winter/Spring 2024

# OPEN Q&A

Raise your hand and we will walk over  
with a microphone

Binghamton - Nicolas Maila-Pazmino

Marist - Jazmine Manning

Ramapo - Anthony Dovi

Seton Hall - Frank Volturo

Union County - Lily Sanchez-Ruiz





# Counseling Staff

## Counselors (A-Z)

Darlene Hill  
Jackie Ritter  
Stephanie Renelle

## Intern

Amanda Nunes

## Supervisor

Dan Cocco

## Secretaries

Kim Cieri  
Rachel Petrella

## Student Assistance Counselor

Maria Sista



# Admission Trends

|                          | 2023 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| Enrollment               | 157  | 151  |
| Acceptance Rate          | 60%  | 58%  |
| Applications per Student | 7.03 | 6.41 |

| Acceptance Rate (2022–2023)<br>US Colleges |                 |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                                            | Acceptance Rate |
| All Schools Average                        | 57.85%          |
| Public Schools                             | 63.09%          |
| 4 Years (Or High)                          | 63.05%          |
| 2–4 Years                                  | 73.45%          |
| Less Than 2 Years                          | 54.67%          |
| Private Schools                            | 51.07%          |
| 4 Years (Or High)                          | 50.95%          |
| 2–4 Years                                  | 72.49%          |
| Less Than 2 Years                          | 80.08%          |



# Admissions Trends

## Class of 2027 Application Numbers

The college admissions landscape continues to be competitive **at the country's most popular universities**, with many schools posting record-high application numbers for the class of 2027.

Schools like the University of Virginia (55,845), University of Pennsylvania (59,000+), NYU (~120,000), and Bowdoin (10,934) all reported their largest applicant pools ever, with some schools like Boston University seeing record-high numbers of students applying Early Decision or Early Action.

**With large applicant pools, it is likely we will see admission rates at these schools remain low or even decrease. This also might lead to more waitlist decisions, as colleges continue to try to manage their yields.**

(Credit: ivywise.com)



# Best Fit?

## Extracurricular/Cultural Fit

Athletics  
Greek Life  
HBCUs  
Demographics/Location  
Size  
“Vibe”

## Financial Fit

Sticker price vs. Cost of attendance  
Associates, Bachelors, Masters, etc  
Public vs. Private  
Grants + loans

## Academic Fit

Safety/Target/Reach (GPA)  
Majors and Minors  
Class sizes  
Research  
Liberal Arts curriculum  
Unique programs - Audition?

## Geographical Fit

Weather  
Transportation  
Location  
Urban, Suburban, Rural

# Contents under Review

## PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2023

|                                            | N   | Considerable<br>Importance | Moderate<br>Importance | Limited Importance | No Importance |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| High school grades in college prep courses | 185 | 76.8                       | 15.1                   | 4.9                | 3.2           |
| Total high school grades (all courses)     | 185 | 74.1                       | 18.9                   | 5.4                | 1.6           |
| Strength of high school curriculum         | 185 | 63.8                       | 22.7                   | 10.3               | 3.2           |
| Positive character attributes              | 184 | 28.3                       | 37.5                   | 18.5               | 15.8          |
| Essay or writing sample                    | 185 | 18.9                       | 37.3                   | 26.5               | 17.3          |
| Student's interest in attending            | 185 | 15.7                       | 27.6                   | 25.4               | 31.4          |
| Counselor recommendation                   | 185 | 11.9                       | 40                     | 27.6               | 20.5          |
| Teacher recommendation                     | 185 | 10.8                       | 40.5                   | 28.1               | 20.5          |
| Extracurricular activities                 | 185 | 6.5                        | 44.3                   | 30.8               | 18.4          |
| High school class rank                     | 183 | 5.5                        | 22.4                   | 43.2               | 29            |
| Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)           | 185 | 4.9                        | 25.4                   | 38.9               | 30.8          |
| Portfolio                                  | 185 | 4.9                        | 10.8                   | 24.3               | 60            |
| Interview                                  | 185 | 4.3                        | 8.6                    | 32.4               | 54.6          |
| Work                                       | 185 | 2.2                        | 30.8                   | 40                 | 27            |
| State graduation exam scores               | 185 | 1.6                        | 6.5                    | 18.4               | 73.5          |
| Subject test scores (AP, IB)               | 185 | 1.1                        | 22.2                   | 25.9               | 50.8          |



# Contents under Review (takeaways)

Nothing more important than  
grades and class selection

Extracurriculars > Test Scores

Don't sleep on building and showcasing your soft-skills, or  
your "emotional intelligence" through employment,  
volunteering, or by requesting an interview!



# Contents - Highlight **your** Contributions

## Application

Demographics & Family  
Extracurricular Activity  
Work  
Personal Narrative

## Transcript & Grades

Final Grades only 9-11  
GPA & wGPA  
Course Levels (Rigor)  
Midyear Report

## Testing

SAT or ACT

Self reported - be careful

Not “make or break”

Official scores must be sent through testing agency

Should “support” your application (50% or better)

Test Optional

## Recommendations

Academic

STEM & Humanities

Activity

Ask in Q4 of 11th grade

Counselor

# Where do I go to apply?

[“...edu”](#) - Foolproof - visit specific college website, find “apply now” link, or visit admissions page.

[Common app](#) - universal application for participating colleges





# Deadlines

Rolling - Evaluate applicants as they come in. Advantages and disadvantages. October is still **very** early!

Early Applications - Fit is everything. Preparation is key - start now.

PRIORITY - Watch out for solicitation. Best chance at scholarships, if applicable.

REGULAR - “Deadline”

**Ultimately - every school is targeting a “yield” number. Understand their strategy (ha!) and make your move. Your time is valuable. Use it wisely!**



# College Admission Tests

| ACT                |      |           |
|--------------------|------|-----------|
| Component          | Time | Questions |
| Reading            | 35   | 40        |
| English            | 45   | 75        |
| Math               | 60   | 60        |
| Science            | 35   | 40        |
| Writing (optional) | 40   | 1         |
| Total              | 115  | 221       |

| SAT (now Digital)   |      |           |
|---------------------|------|-----------|
| Component           | Time | Questions |
| Reading and Writing | 64   | 44-56     |
| Module 1            | 32   |           |
| Module 2 (adaptive) | 32   |           |
| Math                | 70   | 36-44     |
| Module 1            | 35   |           |
| Module 2 (adaptive) | 35   |           |
| Total               | 134  | 80-100    |



# Digital SAT Changes

- **Shorter, with more time to answer each question**
- Receive scores in days instead of weeks
- **Score report will connect you to information & resources about local two-year colleges, workforce training programs, and career options**
- More secure
- Single Reading & Writing section
- Many shorter passages, on wider range of topics
- **A single question is associated with each passage**
- Calculators allowed throughout
- Average length of word problems has been reduced
- **Multistage adaptive testing**

# College Admission Tests & Strategy

SAT - now digital!

[Free Test Prep](#)

PSAT taken in Springfield

[Fee Waiver Policy](#)

Only submit your scores if they meet or exceed the 50% percentile range reported by the college

ACT

[Free Test Prep](#)  
[Science](#)



**SAT<sup>®</sup>**

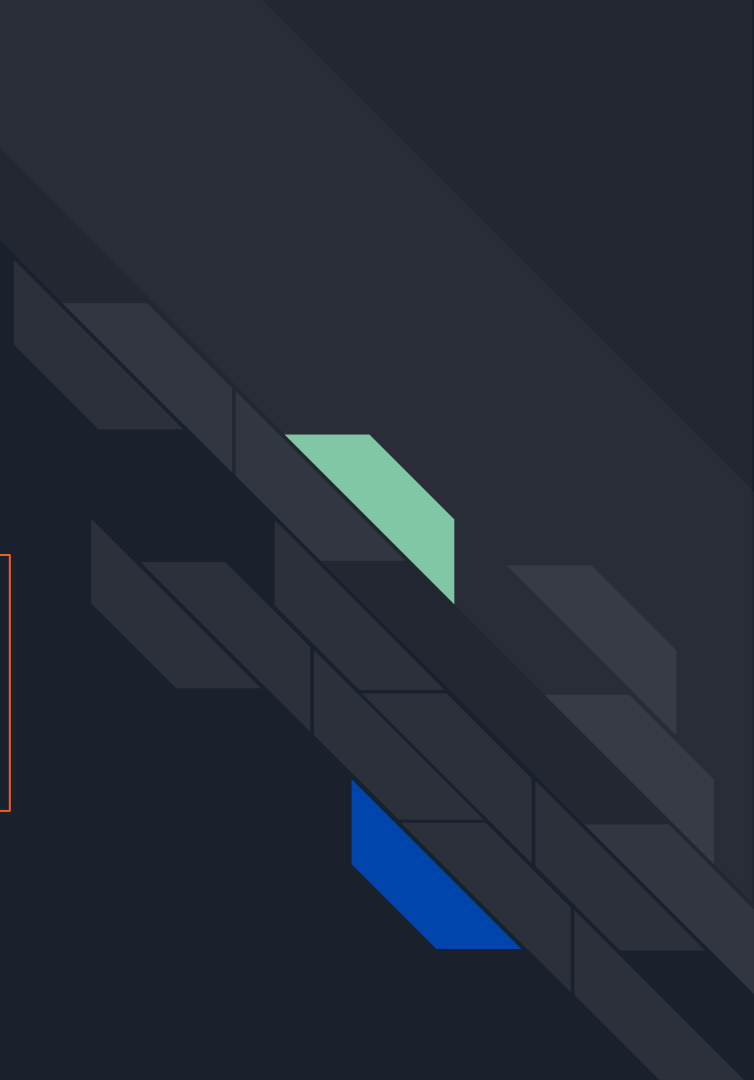
My advice? Take you are confident that a test score could improve your chances. Take each test once, without preparation. Then, decide which test you like best and prepare to take it a second time.

# #1 Fear\*\*

Affordability

Affordability of first-choice college

\*\*PR College Hopes and Worries survey (8 consecutive years)





# **FAFSA**

## **(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)**

**Beginning with the 2023-2024 11th grade class...students and their guardians will be required to complete and submit either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the NJ Alternative Financial Aid Application, as guided by the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESAA), in order to receive their high school diploma.**

**We will NEVER ask you for specific personal financial information.**

**We will NOT keep your FAFSA applications on file.**

**We WILL ask that you sign a document indicating that:**

- **You have completed the FAFSA, or**
- **You are choosing to not disclose whether or not you have completed the FAFSA.**



# Financial Aid tools & resources

[FAFSA](#) - FREE Application for Federal Student Aid

[HESAA](#) - Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (For those applying to NJ Public Colleges) NJ residents only

[CSS Profile](#) - The CSS Profile is an online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid

[Private Scholarships](#) - Many different websites, [goingmerry.com](#) is recommended, in addition to emails shared through Naviance. **Effort is most of the battle!**

\*\*\***Net Price Calculator** - available on college websites, **A MUST**\*\*\*



# Financial Aid for Applications

## Fee Waivers available for SAT and ACT

- Free test prep, free score reports

## Those on F/R lunch or specific circumstance

- CommonApp application fees waived
- Counselor must sign-off

## Application Fees can be waived

- Priority Applications
- Temporary financial hardship





# NCAA Eligibility

Similar to 2022-23 policies, student-athletes enrolling in a Division I school during the 2024-25 academic year will be academically eligible by earning a 2.3 grade-point average in 16 NCAA-approved core courses, with 10 [core courses](#) (seven in English, math and science) completed by the start of their seventh semester in high school (before senior year).

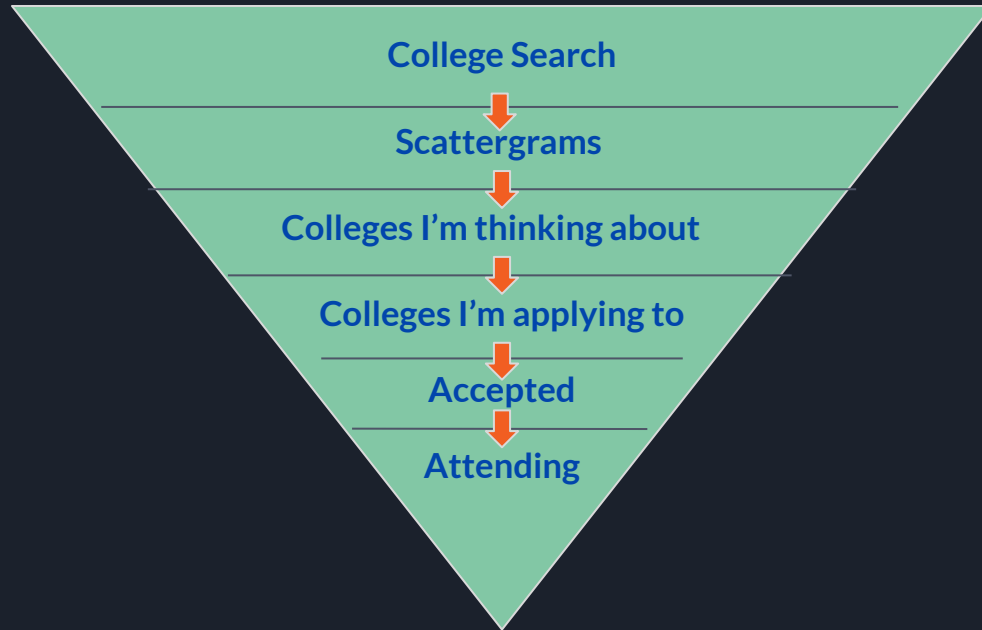
Student-athletes enrolling in a Division II school during the 2023-24 academic year will be academically eligible by earning a 2.2 grade-point average in 16 NCAA-approved core courses.

[NCAA Eligibility Center](#)



# Naviance Overview

Parents received a letter in the mail regarding Naviance parent access. The following slides provide a brief snapshot of how student AND parents can use Naviance to search for colleges.



# Colleges

 Type a college name

SEARCH

MORE COLLEGE SEARCH OPTIONS

## Find Your Fit

 SuperMatch®

 College Match

 College Events

Scattergrams

Advanced College Search

College Lookup

Show less

## Research Colleges

 COLLEGES  
I'm Thinking About

College Compare

College Resources

Acceptance History

College Maps

Show less



The College of New Jersey

Ewing, NJ, United States  
tcnj.edu

Virtual Tour

Communicate ▾

Apply Online

Learn More ▾

Overview

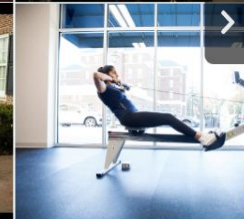
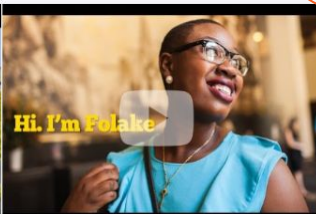
Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Costs

Spotlights



AVERAGE NET PRICE

**\$12,240**

Family Income

\$0 - \$30k ▾

[More about Cost & Aid](#)

GRADUATION RATE

**73%**

4 Year

6 Year

[More about learning environment](#)

ACCEPTANCE RATE

**59%**

[Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you](#)

COLLEGE OVERLAPS

**10**

[See other colleges that applicants to this school also applied to](#)

NEXT DEADLINE

February

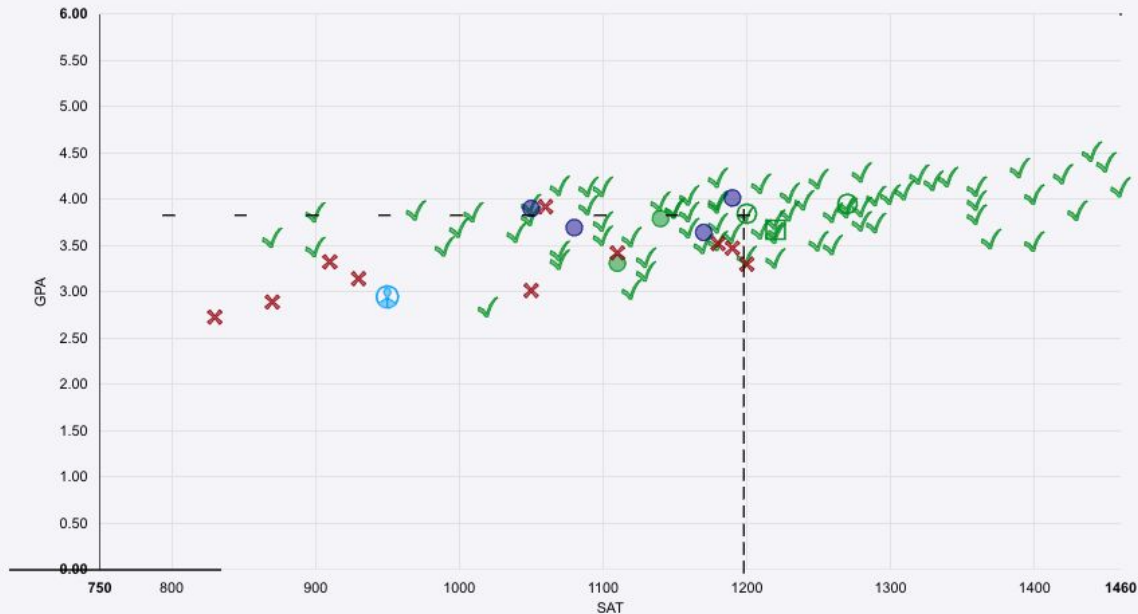
**1**

Fall 2023 Term

Regular Decision Deadline

# Scattergrams | Applications for Jonathan Dayton High School

Comparing Weighted GPA with SAT (1600) and ☐ applied test optional



## Legend

You

| Average GPA

— Average Score

## Accepted

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

## Waitlisted/Accepted

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

## Waitlisted/Unknown

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

## Waitlisted/Denied

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

## Denied

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

Click on legend icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram. Double-click to reset zoom.



# Application Timeline

## 11th Grade- 2nd Semester

- Junior planning meeting with your counselor
- More college research: starting to generate a list of schools to apply to that fit your criteria
- **On-campus college visits**
- Register and take the SATs and/or ACTs
- AP Exams (May)
- Request teacher recommendations
- Plan essay and short-answer topics
  - **What can you share about your life that provides examples of your best contributions, qualities, or motivations?**



# Application Timeline

## Summer Before 12th Grade

- Start filling out applications for college
- Work on college application essay and brainstorm topics for essay prompts
- Be aware of deadlines approaching
- Study for retake exams for SAT's and ACT's (early fall)
- Research scholarships- create a list of scholarships and their deadlines



# Application Timeline

## 12th Grade- 1st Semester

- Be aware of early decision deadlines and start finalizing a draft of your essays
- Complete all college applications
- Keep grades up - midyear reports are sent to colleges!
- Retake SAT and ACT
- Complete and submit a transcript request form for each college
- Send SAT and ACT scores (JDHS does not send test scores)
- Start thinking about financing college and filling out the FAFSA, CSS Profile, and/or HESAA (if applicable)



## Application Timeline

### 12th Grade- 2nd Semester

- Acceptance/ rejection letters are released
- Don't forget that the 2nd semester of senior year still counts academically for college decisions
- Finalize and submit FAFSA
- Develop a plan to finance college
- May 1st deadline for your selected college: send deposit



# Additional Resources

## Podcasts (NACAC Recommended)

- College Admissions Decoded - NACAC
- The Admissions Beat
- The Admissions Directors Lunch Cast
- Admissions Leadership Podcast
- The Anchor Exchange
- Character Counts
- College Admissions Insider
- The College Admissions Process Podcast
- College Charge
- College Essay Guy
- The Crush
- Getting in: A College Coach Conversation
- Inside Admissions
- Inside the Admissions Office
- RB's 300 Sec Podcast
- The Truth About College Admissions

## Books

- *Who Gets in and Why* - Jeff Selingo
- *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be* - Frank Bruni
- *Atomic Habits* - James Clear
- *Grit* - Angela Duckworth



# What's Next...

## Junior Planning Conferences

Beginning after President's Day, 2/20

Call (973) 376-1025 ext. 5245 or ext. 5246

## College Fair

March 6, 9-12AM, 5:30-8:30PM

New Jersey Convention & Exposition Center  
97 Sunfield Ave, Edison, NJ

## College Visits

Visit website of specific school sign up for an official visit  
Excused absence from school... but there's a limit...

**Thank You!**

