

Senior Checklist for College Planning

FALL

- Create your college list on Naviance. Be sure to choose schools that match your GPA and SAT/ACT scores. (connection.naviance.com/nplainfieldhs)
- Decide if you are planning to apply Early Decision-binding or Early Action-non-binding. If yes, make an appointment to meet with your school counselor.
- Apply to colleges directly at college websites. If you are using the Common Application, remember to match your application through Naviance. (www.commonapp.org) Send transcript request through Naviance and hand your school counselor the Transcript Request Form **at least three weeks before application deadline. Provide envelopes and stamps with Transcript Request Form if needed. Create a calendar of all college application, FAFSA, and scholarship deadlines.**
- If you did not already, take the SAT, SAT II (Subject Test if needed), or ACT exam. **(Make sure to send your test scores directly to the colleges you applied to on-line through collegeboard.org or the act website www.act.org).** Register for the SAT exams on-line at www.collegeboard.org and for the ACT exam at www.act.org. **Make appointment with your school counselor to see if you qualify for fee waivers (Two fee waivers per test and 4 for college applications). For example. college application fee waiver codes are on your Collegeboard account after you have taken the SATs. You indicate if you qualify for fee waivers on your Naviance account.**
- Ask 2-3 teachers to write a recommendation letter. Send an e-mail request through Naviance and talk to teacher directly in person. *Please provide teacher your resume.*
- Sign up for college on-site interviews and college information visits at our high school through Naviance. ***It is a good idea to visit the colleges you are interested in to see what the campus looks like.***
- Work on college essays. Have someone proofread your essays. Make sure you are answering the question the school is asking.
- College Athletes: register at www.eligibilitycenter.org for NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) eligibility, Division I and II institutions. Also visit www.2point3.org.
- Starting October 1st, apply for the **CSS/Financial Aid Profile** (College Scholarship Service) at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>. Many universities use this profile to help them award non-federal student aid funds. Other scholarship information is on the school counseling website.
- Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF)** Check to see if you are eligible at http://www.state.nj.us/highereducation/EOF/EOF_Eligibility.shtml. Prepare to apply for federal student aid at www.pin.ed.gov; be sure to get 2 pin numbers, one for you and one for your guardian/parent.
- Starting October 1st, apply for FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You will need to create a FSAID number on the top of the page-one for the student and one for a parent if you did not already do so. (If you need assistance call **1-800-433-3243**). You will receive your SAR, (Student Aid Report), within 1-3 weeks.
- Males 18 years or older must register with Selective Service; register online at www.sss.gov. If you do not register you can be denied many important opportunities such as student loans and/or government jobs.

SPRING

- Compare financial aid packages that you received from the colleges you were accepted to.

- ❑ Notify the college which you decide to attend, tell your School Counselor, complete senior survey on Naviance, and indicate the college you are attending on Naviance.

***If you have any classes that are concurrent enrollment you must get a transcript from RVCC to give to your college to see if you can get college credit. Check your AP scores as well to see if your school will accept your scores.**

USEFUL WEBSITES:

www.fastweb.com – Scholarships

www.scholarships.com

www.finaid.org

www.meritaid.com

www.petersons.com

www.scholarshipexperts.com

www.collegedata.com

www.uncf.org

www.hsf.net – Hispanic Scholarship Fund

www.collegeboard.com (Scholarship Search)

www.collegesinnewjersey.com – Colleges in New Jersey

www.bls.gov/oco - Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook (Research different careers-also on Naviance)

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> College Search through Collegeboard

www.hesaa.org – NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

www.njfafsadays.org - List of events at different college locations where you can get help filling out your FAFSA application!

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional> - SAT/ACT Optional Schools

www.collegemajors101.com

www.march2success.com- On-line program to help study for standardized tests

www.asvabprogram.com - Career Planning

<https://www.questbridge.org/> Non-profit organization matching a list of nation's best colleges to low income students.