

# Post-Secondary Planning Class of 2025

School Counseling Office April 2024

# School Counseling Office

- **What we do:**

- Meet individually, in the classroom, or in groups with students to address academics, post-graduation options, career readiness and social emotional skills.

- **Who we are:**

- Ms. Mary Kate Opferman: School Counselor (A-D), [mopferman@pinerichland.org](mailto:mopferman@pinerichland.org)
- Ms. Natalia Steen: Substitute School Counselor (E-K), [nsteen@pinerichland.org](mailto:nsteen@pinerichland.org)
- Mrs. Filipowski: School Counselor (L-R), [tfilipowski@pinerichland.org](mailto:tfilipowski@pinerichland.org)
- Mrs. Straub: School Counselor (S-Z), [lstraub@pinerichland.org](mailto:lstraub@pinerichland.org)
- Mrs. Secen: Transition Counselor, [jsecen@pinerichland.org](mailto:jsecen@pinerichland.org)
- Mrs. Welshonce: Social Worker, [cwelshonce@pinerichland.org](mailto:cwelshonce@pinerichland.org)
- Mrs. Whalen: College and Career Counselor, [jwhalen@pinerichland.org](mailto:jwhalen@pinerichland.org)

# Evaluating Your Choices

- ▶ Community College
  - ▶ Four Year College
- ▶ Technical College
  - ▶ The Military: U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard
  - ▶ Apprenticeships
  - ▶ Employment: On-the-Job Training
- ▶ Gap Year

# Self-Reflection

## Identify what you need

- What are my goals?
  - College
  - Career
  - Other
- What jobs do not require a degree?
- Am I going to college?
  - Why?
  - Specific major? Undecided?
  - Academic fit? Social fit? Financial fit?
- How do I learn? Do I need support?

# Research & Exploration

## College Bound

- Naviance
- College Board Big Future
- Niche
- Khan Academy
- College websites
- Visit campus
- PRHS Visits
- Virtual tours
- College fairs

## Employment/Career

- Naviance
- College Board Big Future
- Education Planner
- Business websites
- Interviews
- Shadow
- Apprenticeships

# Follow Junior Year Timeline

- Review past College Planning Night events
- Review Khan Academy's Applying to College Course
- Register with NCAA Eligibility Center for D1 or D2 athletics
- Research college admission/testing requirements. Is your college test-optional?
- Create an appropriate SAT/ACT testing timeline
- Research summer enrichment programs
- Update your resume
- Complete and return Parent Signature Form (Sapphire)
  - Annually
- Attend a Summer Workshop (Mrs. Whalen will send an invitation)
  - View past workshops

# Letters of Recommendation

## Ask 2 core academic teachers

- Ask your teachers *in person* before the end of the school year
- Teachers *can* say no to writing your letter!
- Follow their process for letters of recommendation
- Give your teachers plenty of time to write a letter in the fall
- Add teacher requests in Naviance
  - Follow Naviance directions (These will be updated this summer)
  - Naviance does not open until August
- FERPA Waiver: You are waiving/not waiving your right to petition your college to view your letter of recommendation

**Follow application directions.  
Many colleges no longer require  
or accept letters of  
recommendation.**

(Pitt, Penn State, Clemson, VT, USC, Arizona State, etc.)

Remember:

If a college **does not require** a letter of recommendation, it may not be reviewed in the admission process.

# Applying To College

## When can you apply?

- You can start working on the Common Application now.
- Most applications officially open on August 1

## Where is the application?

- Look on each college website under Admission - Apply
- Search for schools on the Common App. Over 1,000 are listed.
- Applications are *not* in Naviance



# What Do We Use Naviance For?

**Sending the following information to colleges/technical/community colleges:**

- High school profile
- Transcript
- Senior Year schedule
- Secondary school report form
- Mid-year grades (if required)
- School counselor/teacher letters of recommendation
- Final transcript

# Resources

- Common App
- School counselor
- College counselor
- College/community college/technical school admission office
- College websites
- Khan Academy
- CollegeData
- College Board's Free Virtual Advising
- SRAR

Questions?

