

# Junior College Kickoff 2024

**Presented by the MLHS Counseling Team**

# THE NEW YEAR

- Brown University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Lehigh University
- Harvard University
- Miami University
- Princeton University
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia



# You Will Get There

- There are more than 4,000 colleges in the U.S.
- Only ~100 colleges offer admission to less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of applicants
- Average acceptance rate at four-year schools has consistently been around 60/65%
- Your job is to gather information to find a good fit - academic, social, and financial
- Lots of resources at MLHS: your School Counselor, Naviance, Rep Visits.

# Tonight's Agenda

- Naviance overview
- Researching colleges
- Recommendations
- Outlining the application process
- Standardized testing
- Financial aid & scholarships
- Tips & resources



- ✓ Provide a roadmap for the next year & help families gain a better understanding of what to expect

**NAVIANCE**

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# Naviance Tools

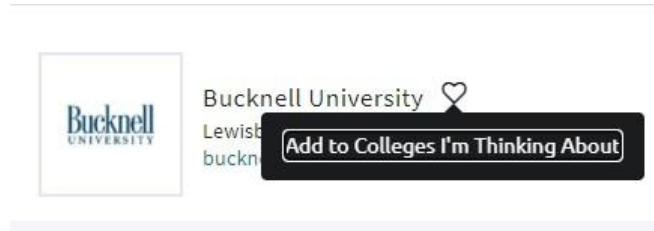
- Complete a college search
  - SuperMatch: search schools by location, cost, size, and more to find your best fit
- Compare colleges
- View scattergrams
- See acceptance history
- Develop a prospective & final college list
- Track deadlines
- View upcoming college visits
- Match to Common Application
- Request letters of recommendation
- Take career inventories
- Complete surveys

# Researching Colleges

- Naviance SuperMatch
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [College Board's Big Future](#)
- [Collegedata](#)
- Individual College Websites: sign up for tours & information sessions, virtual tours, webinars, and student panels
- [Goseecampus](#)
- College Fairs: MLHS fair on 3/5/24 during the school day!

# Colleges I'm Thinking About

- To add colleges to this list, click the “heart” button
- This is a good way to keep track of schools you're interested in
  - Lets your counselor know what colleges you are considering
  - Students, parents, and counselors can add colleges to this list
- Will eventually move schools to “Colleges I'm Applying To”





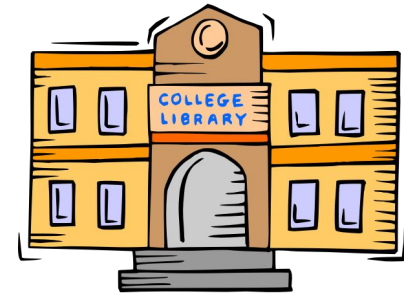
# Recommendations

- Request before the end of the school year - in-person
- Most students request 2 teacher recommendations
  - Core academic subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language
  - See individual college requirements
- Teacher Brag Sheet
- Student Brag Sheet (for Counselor letter)
- Parent Brag Sheet
- How to request once you have “Colleges I’m Applying To”



# Factors to Consider

- Majors offered
- Location
- Setting: urban, suburban, rural
- Type of school: public, private, religiously affiliated, single sex vs. coed
- Size of school
- Activities (Greek life, athletics)
- Curriculum (core curriculum vs. open curriculum)
- Class size
- Are courses taught by TAs or professors?
- Standardized Testing Policy



# Looking Beyond...

- Boston College
- Boston University
- Bucknell University
- Cornell University
- Fordham University
- Lehigh University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Rutgers University–New Brunswick
- Pennsylvania State University
- Syracuse University
- The College of New Jersey
- Tulane University of Louisiana
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland–College Park
- University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- Villanova University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

# Creating a Balanced List

**LIKELY**

(2-3)

**TARGET**

(3-5)

**REACH**

(3)

# THE APPLICATION

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# How to Apply

- Apply through the Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) whenever possible
- Coalition Application
- Institutional Specific Application



# Application Components

- Student and Demographic Data
- Academic Information
- Extracurricular Activities
- Test Scores (AP, SAT, ACT, etc.)
- Essay(s)
  - Supplements
- Electronic Signature
- Payment (if required)



# Completed Application

- Application submitted online by student
- SAT or ACT scores requested by student, to be sent from testing agency (if submitting scores)
- School package sent from Counseling Office which includes:
  - School Profile
  - Secondary School Report Form
  - Counselor Recommendation
  - Transcript
- Teacher Recommendations



# Factors in the Review Process

- **\*\*Grades\*\*** (most important component)
- Strength of curriculum (rigor of courses you're taking)
- Test scores (if submitted)
- Essay (make sure it is authentic and triple check spelling/grammar)
- Recommendations (previously discussed)
- Extracurricular Activities
- Interview (if offered)
- Demonstrated Interest (check to see if school tracks this)
- Major
- Fit
- Institutional Priorities

# Types of College Admissions Deadlines

- **Early Action**–Early deadline that is non-binding
- **Restrictive Early Action or Single Choice Early Action**–REA is non-binding, but students may only apply to one private school with REA. They can't apply ED to other schools, but can usually apply EA to public schools
- **Early Decision I & II (Binding)**–If accepted, student is expected to attend
- **Priority**–Same as early action
- **Regular Decision**–Standard application deadline, generally December or later
- **Rolling Admission**–Apps are reviewed on a rolling basis until the class is full

# Special Programs

- Start the process early & let your counselor know your plans
- Military Academies-Before you can apply to Service Academies, you need to receive a nomination from an elected official during the Spring/Summer of Junior Year. Application process generally starts in late 10th/early 11th grade
- ROTC Programs-Attend college & receive military training simultaneously
- Applying to international colleges/universities -could have different requirements than US institutions-check college websites for application information
- Theater, Dance, Music, Arts - may have audition and/or portfolio requirements
- Recruited Athletes - Register online with NCAA to have your transcript submitted

# SAT vs. ACT

- Colleges have no preference for one over the other
- **SAT:** Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math
  - Scored on a scale of 400–1600
- **ACT:** English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, Essay (Optional)
  - Scored on a scale of 1–36
- Consider taking both (or taking practice tests for both)
- School Day SAT on March 6, 2024 and School Day ACT on April 17, 2024
  - More information to come!
- Register for exams EARLY ([collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org) or [act.org](https://act.org))
- Consider taking the exam 2–3 times (not more!)
- We encourage students to try to finish testing by the start of senior year
- For more information on the differences between SAT and ACT, check out:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>; <https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat>

# Test-Optional

- **Test-Optional:** Neither ACT or SAT are required, but scores will be considered if submitted
  - Are your test scores reflective of your academic abilities? Are they in line with your academic performance?
  - [Fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org): More than 1900 colleges/universities were test-optional during the 2023/2024 college application season
- **Test Blind:** They do not allow students to submit standardized test scores, as they do not play a role in the college's decision-making process
- **Test Flexible**-not as common, but they accept SAT/ACT/AP scores

\*Students should still take SAT or ACT in case standardized testing is required for one of their colleges, a particular major, or for a scholarship\*

# Financial Aid & Scholarships

- MLHS hosts a financial aid evening presentation in the fall
- [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)-Generally opens in October
- CSS Profile-Online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid
- Net Price Calculators-Found on the college's website
- Apply for outside scholarships - check MLHS website for opportunities
- Types of aid: Federal Student Aid (Grants, Loans or Work Study)
  - Grants: Financial aid that generally doesn't have to be repaid
  - Loans: Borrowed money for college or career school; your loans must be repaid with interest
  - Work-Study: A federal work program through which undergraduates and graduate students at participating schools earn money to help pay for school

# What Should I Be Doing Now?

- Schedule Junior College Meeting with School Counselor
  - Parents can join by phone
  - Complete the Junior Survey on Naviance (About Me tab > Surveys From My School)
- Prepare and register for SAT/ACT exams
- Researching & visiting colleges. Adding schools to “Colleges I’m Thinking About.”
- Review the [Junior-Senior College Search & Application Timeline](#) for a month by month breakdown



# Tips & Resources

- **Start early** – the earlier you start (researching colleges, working on essays), the less stressful this process will be
- **Check your email** frequently
  - And use the same email address for all college stuff
- **Stay organized** and stay on top of deadlines
- **Work together as a family.** Identify a consistent, mutually agreed-upon time to talk about college: “if you isolate this time...you will help bolster family unity and ensure that your relationship does not unnecessarily narrow to a focus solely on college”





**QUESTIONS?**

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