



**SENIOR PARENT NIGHT  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

**School Counseling Department  
Lyme-Old Lyme High School**

**Tracy Lenz**

**Jo Williams**

**Christie Williams-Kahn**

**Tiffany Goss: Admin. Assistant**

# Tonight's Agenda

- ❖ **Review Graduation Requirements**
- ❖ **College Admissions Criteria**
- ❖ **Application Process & Procedures**
  - **Admissions Plans**
  - **Forms! Forms! Forms!**
  - **Student Responsibilities**
  - **Deadlines**
  - **School's Responsibilities**
- ❖ **1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grades**
- ❖ **How to Ease the Stress**
- ❖ **Common App Tips**
- ❖ **Naviance Student**
- ❖ **NCAA Clearinghouse**
- ❖ **Financial Aid Night**
- ❖ **NCAA Clearinghouse**
- ❖ **Web Resources**
- ❖ **Questions**

# Graduation Requirements

## 25 Credits

*Status letters sent home in August*



Humanities: 9 Credits		Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: 9 Credits	
English	4 Credits	Mathematics	3 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits: including .5 Civics and 1.0 US History	Science	3 Credits
Fine Arts	1.0 Credit	Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Business Electives	3 Credits
Humanities Elective	1.0 Credit	Physical Education and Wellness	1 Credit (.25 each yr.)
World Language	1 Credit	Health & Safety Education	1 Credit (.25 each yr.)
		Diploma Mastery Assessment	1 Credit
		Electives	3 Credits

### Standardized Testing Requirement:

- ✓ SAT: 480 EBRW and 530 Math
- ✓ Proficiency on NGSS

# What they are looking for...

- Ability to master a challenging curriculum
- Grades that represent strong effort and an upward trend
- Solid scores on Standardized Tests: SAT/ACT **Many are Test Optional**
- “Passionate Involvement” in a few select activities
- High quality community service activities
- Work or out of school experience
- A well written essay
- Counselor/Teacher recommendations that describe special characteristics
- Supplementary rec. from adults who have had significant contact with the student
- Anything special that makes the student stand out: art portfolio, music and drama auditions

# Transcript & GPA

- ❖ The **Transcript** is the most important piece of the college admission requirements.
- ❖ Official academic record
- ❖ Shows the levels and final grades from classes taken during grades 9–11 & senior year work in progress.
- ❖ Cumulative, Weighted GPA
- ❖ WE DO NOT RANK.

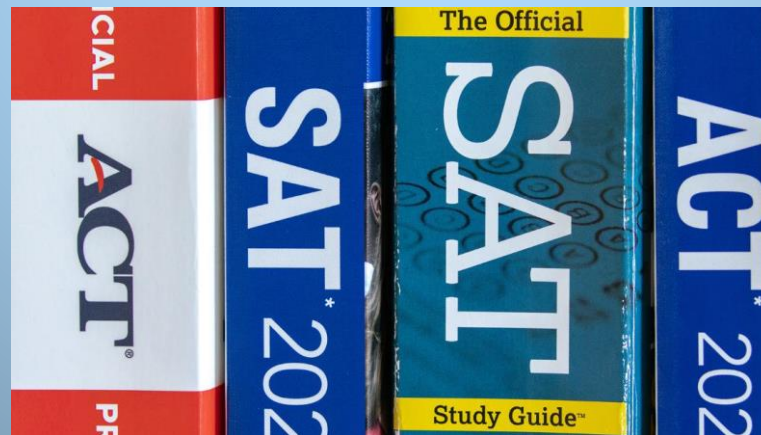


# What does Test Optional mean in the Admissions Process?

- Many colleges and universities moved to a **test-optional policy for Standardized Testing (SAT/ACT) during the application process.** Test-optional institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions.
- Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, **“Does test optional really mean test optional?”**
  - ***YES. But read the requirements for each school.***
- Some schools will require SAT/ACT scores for the following reasons:
  - **Used for academic placement/advising and sent once admitted**
  - **If the student’s GPA does not meet their standard**
  - **Required for some programs**

# TEST OPTIONAL RESOURCES

- **WWW. FAIRTEST.ORG**
- **The college websites are the BEST resource.**



# College Admissions Testing Dates and Deadlines

## SAT

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTER BY</u>
10/5/24	9/20/24
11/2/234	10/18/24
12/7/24	11/22/24

**REGISTER AT:**

**[WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.ORG)**

## ACT

<u>TEST DATE</u>	<u>REGISTER BY</u>
10/26/24	9/20/24
12/14/24	11/8/24

**REGISTER AT:**

**[WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG](http://WWW.ACTSTUDENT.ORG)**

**Fee waivers** are available to those who meet the requirement guidelines. Please see your School Counselor for more information.

# College Board: Multiple Uses

- Register for the **SAT**
- Test preparation information & practice tests
- Send scores to colleges/universities
- **AP Test** Information
- College Search Engine
- Individual College Information
- Financial Aid Information
  - **Apply for the CSS Profile**



# Where are you in the process?

- **Students are all at different stages in the process:**
  - Have not done a search yet
  - Have a list of schools they are interested in but have not yet visited
  - Have visited a few schools but not sure if the schools are likely, match or reach schools
  - Know all the schools applying to and have begun the Common Application
  - Have completed the application and ready to submit it

# Important Points to Keep in Mind When Choosing Colleges

- There is no absolute when it comes to applying to a range of colleges. The goal, of course, is to be admitted to college(s) of your choice.
- Most students will apply to two-three schools in the “Reach” category, between four and six in the “Target/Match” category, and at least two or more in the “Likely” category.
- The definition of each category varies based on the individual student. What may be a “Likely” school for one student may well be someone’s “Reach” school.
- Give as much thought to your Target/Match and Likely schools as your Reach schools.
- Apply only to schools where you believe you would be happy for 4 years, even for “Likely” schools.

Remember, you are looking for the best match for you!

# Understanding Admissions Plans

**Rolling Admissions:** Applications are reviewed on a continual basis and a decision is made when all information has been received.

**Early Decision – Binding:** An application plan where a student makes a commitment to attend a college if accepted. Apply by Nov. 1, decision rendered by Jan. 1.

**Early Decision II:** Another ED opportunity typically due by the regular application deadline: Jan 1, Jan 15.

**Early Action:** A form of early application which also requires credentials be submitted early; however, students are not committed to enroll.

**Early Action II:** Another EA opportunity typically due by the regular application deadline: Jan 1, Jan 15

# Admissions Plans

## the fun continues.....

**Early Action Single Choice/Restricted Early Action:** A non commitment enrollment option but a student is only allowed to apply to one college under this option. The expectation is that the student doesn't apply to any other schools early action or early decision.

**\*\*may apply to other institutions for rolling admission, regular decision, a public school's early action or to international schools.**

**Early Notification:** This concept is similar to early action, but requires a deposit from the accepted candidate.

**Regular Admissions:** The deadline for submission of applications ranges from January 1 – April 1. Applicants are notified by April 15 and must reply to the college by about May 1.

# School Counseling Dept. **FORMS! FORMS! FORMS!**

- **Purple** Parent Brag Sheet
- **Pink** Educational Records Release Form (FERPA)
- **Blue** Teacher Recommendation Form
- **Green** Counselor Recommendation Information Form
- **Resume**

**All necessary forms are available on the School Counseling Website, Class of 2025 Canvas Module and in the School Counseling Department Office.**

# Application Process Organization is Key!!



## Student Responsibilities:

- **Personally ask teachers to write letters of recommendation.**
  - Request the teachers through Naviance.
  - Give teachers Blue Recommendation Form
- **Request Transcripts through Naviance.**
- **Complete Counselor Recommendation Form and give resume to SC.**
- **Submit all required forms to the School Counseling Department.**
- **Send SAT scores to the colleges through the official website: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (if necessary, you may be able to self report)**
- **Send ACT scores to the colleges through [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). (if necessary)**
- **Complete and Submit application which may include:**

<b>Essays</b>	<b>Portfolios</b>
<b>Supplements</b>	<b>Interviews</b>
<b>Fee</b>	<b>Auditions</b>

# **MEET ALL DEADLINES**

## **For BOTH, the Colleges & LOLHS**

- **Students must submit all the required materials to their School Counselor and Teachers at least 3 weeks prior to their first college application deadline.**
- **Please use the chart below to ascertain the date the forms and the Naviance Transcript Request MUST be submitted to your School Counselor/Teacher**

### **College Application Deadline:**

October 15, 2024  
November 1, 2024  
November 15, 2024  
December 1, 2024  
December 15, 2024  
January 1, 2025

### **Submit Forms to your School Counselor by:**

Monday, September 23, 2024  
Friday, October 11, 2024  
Friday, October 25, 2024  
Friday, November 8, 2024  
Tuesday, November 29, 2024  
Friday, December 1, 2024 (due to holidays)

- While we appreciate and encourage the submission of your materials in advance of the 3-week minimum, please note that we prioritize the processing of all materials including sending the transcript and the counselor letter of recommendation by the student's first application deadline.

# School Responsibilities:

## Teachers:

Upload and send the Teacher Written Evaluation and Forms through Naviance.

## School Counseling Department:

Submit through Naviance or Mail a hard copy of:

- Transcript & Classes in Progress
- School Profile
- Secondary School Report Form
- Counselor Recommendation
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grades
- Mid Year Transcript
- Final Transcript



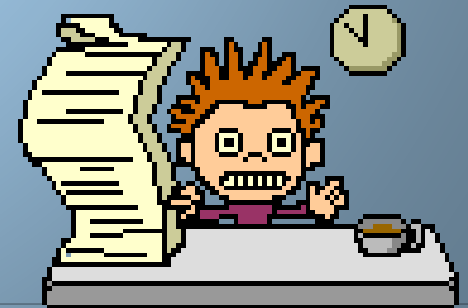
# 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Grades



- 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grades will be sent automatically to all schools the student has applied to as they are typically part of the application materials.
- BUT, Students can request to NOT SEND their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grades.....
  - To individual or all colleges
  - Form will be available in the School Counseling Office at end of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter.
- **Caution:** if a school requires the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter grades, they will need to be sent in order to complete the application.
  - Not sending them could jeopardize the application.

# ‘What’s Happening’ to ease the stress?

- Many seniors are enrolled in the ‘Writing & Communication for the Real World’ class.
- Forms are on the School Counseling Website and Canvas.
  - <https://lolhs.region18.org/counselingguidance>
- Counselors & seniors are meeting about post-secondary options and plans.
- Students can ask English teachers to review/edit college essays.
- In-person College Representative Visits occurring here at LOLHS
- In-person and virtual College Fairs



# Common Application Tips

- **This application can be sent to many colleges.**
  - Other colleges may have **their own application**: ie: California schools, Endicott College, Georgetown
  - Some schools will use the **Coalition Application** (130 schools)
- **Each college has their own page** on the Common Application for college specific information, questions and possible writing prompts.
- **One essay** for the main Common Application.
- If the college has a **separate supplemental essay**, it needs to be sent in addition to the application, it does not automatically get sent with the application.
- Parents can assist students with the **Family Tab**: parent information and dates and sibling info.
- **Submission of the Common Application will require a credit card.** You need to pay for each application and then send common application to the individual school.

# Naviance Student

- Naviance is an online program used to facilitate and manage the college application process.
- Naviance Student–LOLHS-specific data since 2002.
- Each student has a personal Naviance Account with user name and password.
- Parents also have user names and passwords.
- **LOLHS will submit transcripts and counselor/teacher letters of recommendation electronically using Naviance eDocs.**

# What Can Be Accomplished on Naviance Student?


- Complete a College Search
- Create a List of Colleges you are applying to
- Request transcripts & teacher recommendations
- Track College Deadlines
- See Scheduled College Visits & Sign up
- See SAT/ACT test scores, GPA
- Search for Scholarships
- **Receive emails from the School Counseling Office**

<https://student.naviance.com/lolhs/>

# Naviance Demonstration

<https://student.naviance.com/lolhs/>


## Colleges

 Type a college name


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# Financial Aid Preview

- **FAFSA:** This form will not be available until December 2024 and will use your 2023 tax information. This is good news.

Access it through [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

- **Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID:** [studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch](http://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch). Both student and parent(s) need an ID.
- **CSS Profile:** access it through [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
- Investigate all financial aid deadlines and requirements as you proceed through this process.
- Begin paying attention to Merit Scholarships available through the colleges.
- Be proactive and look at the **LOLHS Scholarship Bulletin** as well as on Naviance as the list is longer and sortable.

# Financial Aid Night

**Tuesday, October 1, 2024  
6:30 pm**

**Jessica Hatfield  
Connecticut College  
Financial Aid Office**



# **NCAA Clearinghouse**

***www.eligibilitycenter.org***

- **For students interested in Division 1 or 2 athletics in college**
- **Students should check their GPA and course requirements to ensure they have what is required.**
- **Students need to register with the clearinghouse and request their transcript through the on-line system.**
- **Requires that students submit their high school transcript and SAT scores.**
  - **SAT scores must be sent by STUDENT, code 9999**
  - **Transcripts must also be requested through Naviance.**
- **Final Transcripts will be sent from LOLHS by end of June.**
- **Students should call Clearinghouse directly, 319-337-1492, with questions.**

# Web Resources

- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org): SAT Info, CSS Profile, AP
- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org): ACT Info
- [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org): list SAT/ACT optional schools
- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org): Common Application
- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov): Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- [www.BLS.gov](http://www.BLS.gov): Career Search/Statistics

# Senior Parent Night Evaluation

- Please take the time to complete the evaluation of tonight's event.
- Your input is very helpful as we plan for future events both for you and the future Seniors and their parents.

**Thanks for your Help and Support!!**

# QUESTIONS / COMMENTS:

