

College Planning & Resource Guide

Resources

[BHS Academic Calendar](#)

[The Application Diagram](#)

[Career & College Counseling website](#)

[SchoolLinks](#)

[School Counselor Appointment](#)

[The Common App](#)

Student Tasks

Getting Started

- Transcript: available in [SchoolLinks](#) (click on School-Transcript Requests) or request a paper copy with Mrs. Bowling in the high school office.
- [ACT](#) / [SAT](#): view score reports (if previously taken) OR register for an upcoming [ACT](#) / [SAT](#) test.

Getting Organized

Staying organized is extremely important throughout the application process. *SchoolLinks* is a terrific resource to help with this but students need to identify the approach that works best for them. Whether it is SchoolLinks, a Google Folder or paper and pen, use whatever works best for you. Some of the information student's will need to keep track of include:

- To-do list: personal timeline, short-term and long-term tasks, tracking progress, etc.
- School search and list (interests, application requirements, demographics, location, cost).
- Applications ([decision types](#), [deadlines](#), writing a [personal essay](#), testing policy (required / optional, only accept one score or can I [superscore](#)?)

SchoolLinks

- Login to [SchoolLinks](#) using your *Gmail* account and complete the personal details, fee waiver and [FERPA Waiver](#) information (the first time you login).
- Use the [College Application Manager Guide](#) for instructions on getting started, connecting your *SchoolLinks* and *Common App* accounts and requesting teacher recommendations)
- Register for [College Rep Visits](#) in *SchoolLinks*.

The Common App

- [Create an account](#) and begin completing the information required under the *Common App* tab.
 - *College Search & Financial Aid* tabs: add schools and learn about financial aid opportunities.
 - *ACT / SAT Scores*: under the *Testing* section of the *Common App* tab, students should self report test scores (ACT, SAT or AP). Students can decide later whether to include them or not depending on each application being submitted. To compare the score conversion between an ACT and SAT, use the [ACT vs. SAT Score Conversion Chart](#).
-

College Planning & Resource Guide

- If you are going to include a test score with an application, you must submit an official score report from your [ACT](#) / [CollegeBoard](#) account(s).
- Testing Policy: [review each school's testing policy](#) to determine if a test score is required or optional. review the [general guidelines](#) as well as meeting with their School Counselor to discuss the pros / cons of including a test score.
- Supplemental Essay(s): if an essay is optional, students are strongly encouraged to complete it.

Parent / Guardian Tasks

Application Process

- [Common App](#): help complete the *Family Information* section
- [FAFSA after December 1, 2024](#)
 - [Financial Aid Presentation](#): September 13, 2024
- [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#) and [Net Price Calculator](#)
- [College Scholarship Service \(CSS\) Profile](#) if required
- [Self-Reported Academic Record \(SRAR\)](#) if required

Family Discussions & Planning

- Expectations and responsibilities for everyone?
- How to keep everyone up to date on the process, updates, etc.?
- Create a list of potential schools; the list should have a balance of likely, target and reach schools
- Discuss expectations and limits (geography, financial, number of visits to prospective schools, etc.)
- Which schools do we want to visit and when can we go?
- Senior year academic expectations
- What are we comfortable sharing with family and friends? Where we are applying, results of application decisions (often over the holidays), etc.

Continue to Monitor

- Application due dates and all application requirements
- Teacher recommendations
- Sunday evening newsletter (sent via email) for college rep visits, senior-specific information, etc.

Meet with your [school counselor](#) throughout the application process
