

Junior College Kickoff

Presented by the MLHS Counseling Team

Tonight's Agenda

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



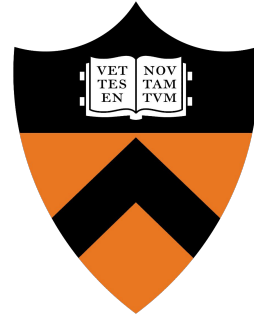
- ✓ Provide a roadmap for the next year & help families gain a better understanding of what to expect

STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Application Volume is Increasing
 - The total number of applications through March 1 rose 7% from 7,041,256 to 7,541,148.
- Demand is outweighing supply
- *As schools become more selective, the character attributes of students become even more important.”* Kevin McMulin, Founder & CEO, Collegewise
- A survey of college admission departments conducted by the National Association for College Admission Counseling ranked “positive character attributes” as the third greatest factor in admissions decisions.

RECENT ACCEPTANCES

- Amherst College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Fordham University
- Gettysburg College
- Northeastern University
- Princeton University
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- University of Chicago
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- Villanova University
- Wake Forest University
- Wesleyan University



NAVIANCE

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
- [Go See Campus](#)
- College Fairs: MLHS fair on 3/3/25 during the school day!
- In the Fall: Rep Visits & College Fair

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

- Ask 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
- Counselor Brag Sheet
- Parent Brag Sheet
- How to request recommenders once you have “Colleges I’m Applying To”



Brag Sheets

About Me Tab > Surveys From Your School, then you will see My Surveys

You are viewing Naviance Student as **Sample25 Sample25**



[Home](#)

[Self-Discovery](#)

[Careers](#)

[Colleges](#)

[Planner](#)

[About me](#)



EN



[Log Out](#)

Quick Links

INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT ME

[Resume](#)

[Game plan](#)

[Documents](#)

[Journal](#)

My Surveys

Filter by

All progress



[Counselor Brag Sheet](#)

NOT STARTED

[Graduation Survey](#)

NOT STARTED

[Teacher Brag Sheet 1](#)

NOT STARTED

[Teacher Brag Sheet 2](#)

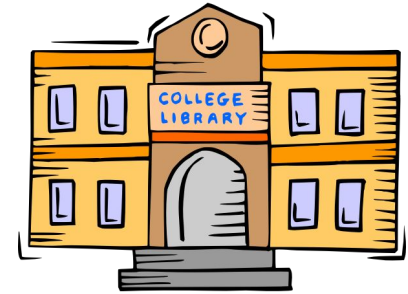
NOT STARTED

[Teacher Brag Sheet 3](#)

NOT STARTED

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



Focus on the FIT

“We encourage you to look beyond the rankings, name-recognition and ‘prestige’ of a college. Selectivity is not the only marker of a ‘good’ school. A ‘good’ school will be different for every student: think about who you are and the kind of environment where you will thrive. It’s about finding the best fit!”

-Lincoln-Sudbury Regional HS Guidance Office

Creating a Balanced List

LIKELY

(2-3)

TARGET

(3-5)

REACH

(3)

THE APPLICATION

How to Apply

- Apply through the Common Application (www.commonapp.org) whenever possible
- Institutional Specific Application



Application Components

- Student and Demographic Data
- Academic Information
- Extracurricular Activities/Honors/Awards
- Essay(s)/Supplements
- Electronic Signature & Payment
- Self-report or Send Test Scores (AP, SAT, ACT, etc.) (when required)
- SRAR/SSAR–Self–Reported Academic Record (when required)
 - [SRAR/SSAR](#) *Remember that you must go to a separate website*

Students submit their applications once completed (do not wait for counselor/teacher submission)

Next Steps in the Application Process

- Fall 2025 –hand in Pink Authorization/FERPA form & Transcript Request Form
- Match CA–Naviance accounts after CA FERPA waiver is electronically signed
 - [How to match accounts](#)
- Counselors submit the following documents via Naviance:
 - School Profile, Secondary School Report Form, Counselor Recommendation, Transcript
- Teachers submit their recommendations via Naviance

Mountain Lakes High School
Powerville Road
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF RECORDS

I request that the records of _____
Student's Name
which include: _____
High School Transcript
Courses in Progress
be forwarded to the colleges, universities, or other educational institutions that I indicate in writing.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 WAIVER

This form is to be used as a reference for college admissions by the Department of Education, the Act provides that students inspect and review an evaluation if it is retained by the school in writing. Sign your name below only if you wish to waive your right.

The MLHS Counseling Department strongly suggests that you write recommendations on your behalf as doing so is the best practice.

I request that any references written on my behalf be sent to applying and that these references may be used in the admission process. I may not read these references, and I will not seek to do so.

Print Student Name _____
Student Signature _____
Parent/Guardian Signature _____

MLHS Transcript Request Form

Student Name _____ Date _____
Counselor Name: _____

Please submit this form to your school counselor at least THREE WEEKS prior to your FIRST college deadline. Forms can be submitted via email or in person.

If My College Deadline Is:	Submit This Form To Your Counselor By:
October 15	September 24
November 1	October 11
November 15	October 25
December 1	November 11
December 15	November 22
January 1-15	December 9

Name of College	Application Deadline	Application Type (Circle one)	Common Application? (Circle One)
1.		ED EA RD	YES NO
2.		ED EA RD	YES NO
3.		ED EA RD	YES NO
4.		ED EA RD	YES NO
5.		ED EA RD	YES NO
6.		ED EA RD	YES NO
7.		ED EA RD	YES NO
8.		ED EA RD	YES NO
9.		ED EA RD	YES NO
10.		ED EA RD	YES NO

Please send your college applications out when you are ready. You do not need to wait for counselor/teacher documents to be submitted.

Student Responsibilities:
Please make sure that the following tasks are completed:
 — Complete the permission to release school records (FERPA waiver)
 — Request letters of recommendation from teachers in Naviance
 — Make sure all colleges are listed in Naviance under "Colleges I'm Applying To"
 — Send your standardized test scores to college/universities, if applicable
 — Ensure Student Bug Sheet is completed in Naviance (for counselor)

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
- Extracurricular Activities
- Interview (if offered)
- Demonstrated Interest (check to see if school tracks this)
- Major
- Fit
- Institutional Priorities

Deadlines Defined

- **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

Standardized Testing

- Colleges have no preference for one over the other (try both)!
- **SAT:** Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math
 - Scored on a scale of 400–1600
- **ACT:** English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning (test format changes for the National Test –April 2025 and for District Testing –April 2026) [ACT Changes](#)
 - Scored on a scale of 1–36
- MLHS School Day Testing – More information to follow!
 - SAT – March 3, 2025 and ACT – April 8, 2025
 - Register for exams EARLY (collegeboard.org or act.org)
 - It is not necessary to test more than 3 times
 - 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
 - Understand your college’s testing policy
 - Test optional, test flexible etc. [Fairtest.org](https://fairtest.org) for a list of test-optional schools

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/zoom
- Prepare and register for SAT/ACT exams
- Research & visit colleges. Remember to add schools to “Colleges I’m Thinking About” in Naviance
- Review the [MLHS College Application Manual](#) - we will send this out!



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?
