HERSHEY HIGH SCHOOL Class of 2026
Process, Timeline and Naviance
for College Applications

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS/COMMON QUESTIONS:

- ❑ What is the CEEB Code for HHS? 391-765
- ❑ How many students are in the senior class? (To be announced during the first week of school)
- ❑ Is my cumulative GPA weighted or unweighted? Weighted
- ❑ What scale is used to calculate my GPA? 4.0 Scale
- ❑ What is my class rank? We do not rank. Select "no rank" when prompted or type "HHS does not rank"

TIMELINE

Summer 2025

In a recent survey of the most recent graduating class, seniors were asked what advice they would give to juniors. Many of them said "don't procrastinate, start early" so, use your summer wisely!

- ❑ Start/continue to research colleges that are a good fit academically and financially.
- ❑ The Common Application for the class of 2026 will not be live until August 1st. The essay questions are going to remain the same so you can brainstorm your essays:
  - Check out the essays from 2025-2026 Common App Essay Prompts
- ❑ Check individual school's admission pages to find out when their applications will go live.
  - Suggestion: Make a list of the application requirements for each institution you are applying to.
- ❑ Mid-late summer: If needed, register online for the August and/or October SAT at www.collegeboard.org (confirm that the college(s) to which you are applying will accept October scores if you are planning to take the test in October) or ACT (www.act.org).
- ❑ During the summer, if you have any questions or need help with anything, the best way to contact your counselor is by email.
- ❑ Review the Junior Class Presentation (Spring) under the presentations tab on the school counseling website.
- ❑ Schedule college visits through the college's admissions website or by calling the admissions office for each school you are strongly considering applying to. More than 600 schools offer virtual tours through You Visit.

SAT Dates for 2025-2026 (Anticipated)

https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
August 23, 2025	August 8, 2025	August 12, 2025
September 13, 2025	August 29, 2025	September 2, 2024
October 4, 2025	September 19, 2025	September 23, 2025
November 8, 2025	October 24, 2025	October 28, 2025
December 6, 2025	November 21, 2025	November 25, 2025
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026	March 3, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026	April 21, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026

September

- ❑ Attend the **individual senior meeting** with your school counselor (Note: This will be scheduled for you and you will receive a pass).
- ❑ Complete the **Counselor Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire** in **Naviance Student** if you need a letter of recommendation for any college from your counselor.
- ❑ Complete the **Transcript Request Form** for any college(s) you are applying to. You must submit the Transcript Request Form at least 12 days before the application deadline.
    - **The counseling office will not be processing transcript requests until the second week of school.**
- ❑ Request teacher recommendations in Naviance Student.
- ❑ If needed, register online for the October SAT (confirm that the college(s) to which you are applying will accept Oct. scores) or ACT.
- ❑ Sign up to meet with college representatives who visit the HHS Counseling Office by logging in to **Naviance Student**, look at the *"What's New,"* tab on the main page and click *"More Info,"* to sign up. (Note: Do this at least 2 days prior to the visit and print the email you receive as your pass for the visit).
- ❑ Identify, review, and **begin online college applications**.
- ❑ Begin the essay(s) if required and be sure to have someone proofread your application and essay(s).
- ❑ Reminder: Pay close attention to all deadlines and plan ahead! Don't wait until the last minute to register for a test, request a letter of recommendation, or submit your Transcript Request Form.
- ❑ Sign up for college visits in the counseling office through Naviance.
- ❑ Sign up for **Instant Decision Day**, which will be held on October 15th, if you are interested in any of the post-secondary institutions attending (please see the HHS Counseling Website for more details).

October

- ❑ Attend Instant Decision Day on October 15th (if applicable)
- ❑ Attend **Financial Aid Night** to learn about the financial aid application process (Date & Time TBD). The FAFSA will open in December.
- ❑ Complete the **Transcript Request Form** when necessary.
- ❑ **Be aware of "postmarked by" or "due dates" for applications**, especially Early Decision and/or Early Action applications and plan ahead—don't wait until that date to submit the Transcript Request Form!

November

- ❑ Attend **Senior Scholarship Night** held in November (Date & Time TBD).
- ❑ Register for AP exams to be given in May. The AP Testing sign-ups will be available online. QR codes will be posted in each AP classroom for instructions on how to sign-up.
- ❑ Sign-up for the **Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** if needed. The test will be held in November.
- ❑ Create an account on www.goingmerry.com to be eligible for senior scholarship opportunities. Many scholarships will open in November and have deadlines in March.
- ❑ Follow up with your teachers or coaches to make sure that your letters of recommendations are submitted on time. Provide them with whatever information they need and remember to thank them for writing your recommendation letter.
- ❑ Send your official test scores electronically through the testing agencies to the colleges where you are sending applications. Due to College Board's implementation of Score Choice, the Counseling Office does not provide SAT/ACT/AP test scores with your transcript.

December

- ❑ Reminder: Transcript requests need to be submitted no later than **Friday, December 5th** for processing prior to the winter break. Many applications have an early January deadline and must be sent before the winter break.
- ❑ Continue working on and submitting your application(s). Be aware that some large state universities (i.e. Penn State, University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, etc.) have **rolling admissions**. Pay attention to priority deadlines, as you may gain an advantage!
- ❑ Check with your college(s) to see if the CSS Profile is required.
- ❑ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) financial aid form available at https://studentaid.gov/ starting in December.
- ❑ If you are considering playing a college sport at the Division I or II level, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and submit an official transcript using the Transcript Request Form.

January/February

- ❑ Early decision applicants who have been accepted must withdraw all other applications.
- ❑ Check Naviance Student for instructions on how to submit a midyear report request (only necessary if a college requires a mid-year report.)
- ❑ AVOID SENIORITIS! Senior grades can be crucial to your admission (including second semester). All acceptances are tentative until colleges see that your final grades continue to meet their standards.
- ❑ Continue researching and applying for scholarship opportunities through www.goingmerry.com
- ❑ Research the college's website for their "Advanced Placement Policy" to understand how they grant college credit for AP exams. You can also visit College Board's AP Policy Search to learn more about which colleges accept credits.
- ❑ Contact colleges to confirm that they have received all of your information.

March/April/May

- ❑ Visit the colleges physically or virtually that have offered acceptance. Your perspective is very different once you have been accepted!
- ❑ Make your final decision and mail your deposit by the institution's deadline. Most institutions have a **May 1st** deadline for student decisions. A non-refundable deposit may be required to secure your housing.
- ❑ Continue researching and applying for scholarship opportunities through www.goingmerry.com. A majority of scholarship deadlines are in March, April, and May.
- ❑ If you were placed on a waitlist for college acceptance, now is a good time to contact the college and indicate that you are still interested.
- ❑ Take any scheduled AP Tests in May.

May/June

- ❑ Notify your counselor of college admissions decisions and scholarships. We want to celebrate your good news!
- ❑ Notify any colleges that you were accepted to but will not be attending.
- ❑ Write a short thank you note to teachers, employers, and others who have written recommendations for you.
- ❑ Finish the year with strong grades. Colleges have the right to rescind or revoke their offer of acceptance if your performance dramatically decreases without a convincing reason.
- ❑ Complete the **Graduation Survey** on Naviance when requested. This is how the counseling office will send your final transcript to the college you are attending.
- ❑ If you are going to be playing a college sport at a Division I or II level, see Mrs. Malik to request that a final transcript be sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center in June.