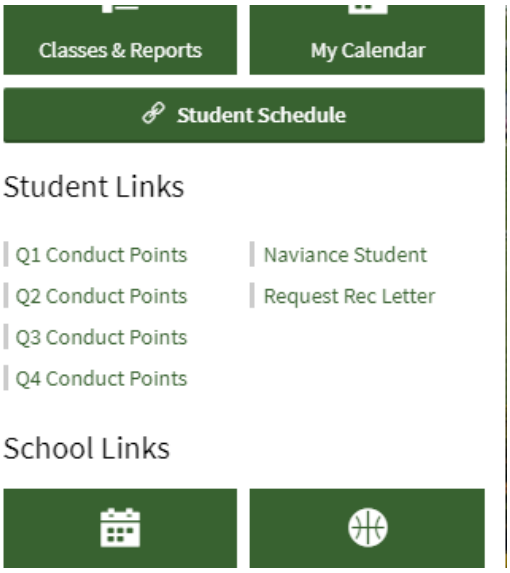
BERKSHIRE SCHOOL COLLEGE COUNSELING

Summer College Checklist for Class of 2026

Greetings from the College Office! Please make time over the summer to complete the tasks listed below. These tasks will ensure a smooth transition back to campus in the fall and will set you up for successful completion of your application process. Most of you will be applying to college in October for a November 1 deadline, and those dates arrive only a few weeks after your return to Berkshire. If you have any questions over the summer please reach out to astosiek@berkshireschool.org or me at abowler@berkshireschool.org.

Teacher Recommendation Request (Required)
If you have not done so, please email two teachers to ask if they would be willing to write a recommendation for you. Once the teacher has agreed, you must fill out the Teacher Recommendation Request form for each teacher.



Student Survey (Required)
If you haven't done so already, please complete the student survey (Class of 2025 Google Survey) by July 1. Only your college counselor will have access to this survey. Please be thorough and very specific with your answers. This survey will help your counselor represent you to colleges and universities.

Common Application (Required)
Our college timeline goal is to have your Common App ready to be submitted in October ahead of many November 1 deadlines. To achieve this, you should have the main part of the Common App completed by the time you return to campus at the start of September. Most of you opened your account during our Boot Camp in the spring. For those few of you who have yet to do so, you will need to create an account on the Common App **(www.commonapp.org).**

Draft of Common App Essay: After drafting a personal statement in English class this spring, please continue to revise your essay this summer. The *Sixth-Form Summer College Essay Requirement* is also available online at the College Counseling website. Feel free to follow up with your college counselor if you have any questions. *Again, each college counselor will carefully review your essays (primary and any required supplements) before these are submitted with any applications.*

Campus Visits (In Person or Virtual)
If possible, we encourage you to schedule visits to colleges during the summer months. Most campuses have reopened for in-person visits and will continue to host virtual events. In addition to being a helpful tool in the decision process, visits are also an important way of expressing interest in a college. Students should be sure to visit schools across the full range of their list, not just their "reach" schools. It's a great idea to make copies of your (or your child's) transcript to take to interviews. When visiting campuses, be sure to call ahead of time to schedule a tour, information session, and interview (if they are offered). Take photos and jot notes down on the way home from the visit. Impressions can begin to blur together after visiting a few schools!

If you drop by a campus without an appointment, be sure to complete an inquiry card in the admission office so they know you were there. These visits can also help narrow your initial college list. It is meant to be a working list and, in most cases, will change over the summer.

If these college visits cannot be made during summer, please make arrangements to visit schools during the scheduled Berkshire breaks in October, November, and December.

Sixth Form/Post Graduate Testing Plan
Standardized tests taken during the Sixth Form year will vary by individual. Please be aware that the August SAT, September ACT, and October SAT and ACT test dates below have very early registration deadlines. You should consider signing up online before arriving on campus at www.collegeboard.org (for SATs) or www.actstudent.org (for ACTs). A credit card is required. College Board registration opens the second week of June; ACT opens the first week of July. Students who have been approved by the College Board or ACT for accommodations can also register online. If you have questions about which test(s) to take, please be in touch with us over the summer.

- If students plan to take the ACT, they should register for the **September 6 and/or October 18** test dates. Berkshire will once again be a closed test center and you will need the code **195110** to register.
- Students taking the SAT should register for **August 23 at an off-campus testing center** or **October 8** on campus. **October 8** is a school-day test and students will register during a form meeting in early September.

Financial Aid
If your family plans to apply for financial aid in college, it is essential that all financial aid forms be carefully completed. You should visit each college's website to see the specific financial aid formulas they use and to get a cost estimate using the school's Net Price Calculator. Please note that different institutions require different forms for financial aid evaluation. Below are the forms most often required.

- FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is required by all colleges and universities. Online filing is available, but not required.
- CSS Profile: This is required by many private institutions and some state schools.
- Institutional Forms: These are individual institutional forms sent to you by a college or university or found on an institution's website. You will also need to submit copies of your family's and your child's tax forms.
- The CSS Profile should be done during the fall term, ideally by Oct. 1. The FAFSA is available on Oct. 1 and should be submitted before November 15 for early applications. These forms take some time to complete. We highly recommend doing them as early as possible. *It is essential that you meet each school's filing deadline to receive full consideration for aid.*

International Students

- International students will, in many cases, need to submit original bank statements and an original Certification of Finances form with each college application even if they are not applying for Financial Aid. If possible, students should bring these forms with them to school in September.

- Students whose first language is not English *must* take the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) exam. Students should take the TOEFL *over the summer if at all possible*. In the fall, Berkshire will offer transportation to take the test off campus at an official testing center.

- The FinAid website has helpful financial aid information. Fastweb is a valuable resource for locating scholarship opportunities.