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# BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL



**CLASS OF 2026**

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# **SENIOR INFORMATION NIGHT**

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

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# TIMELINE

- **August 21st:** Detailed [College Application Process message](#) emailed to senior families
  - **Complete the electronic [transcript release form](#) ASAP**
  - **September 10th, school day:** Common Application & Naviance Workshop in English classes
    - Transcripts, FERPA waiver, connecting Naviance and Common App accounts, teacher recommendations, Student Autobiographical Record, STARS.
    - The presentation will be posted to the [BHS counseling webpage](#) for students and parents to reference
  - **September 10th, evening:** Senior Information Night
    - The presentation will be posted to the [BHS counseling webpage](#) for students and parents to reference
  - **September 11th-October 31st:**
    - College admissions counselors visit BHS
    - Individual family conference with counselor
      - ▶ Sign up via Microsoft Bookings (the link was sent Monday afternoon and [linked here](#))
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# TIMELINE CONTINUED

- **September 15th-September 19th:** First of four College Application Drop-In Weeks with the counselors; 8:00am-8:30am and during the CLEAR periods in the CLIFF
  - **October 1st:** Initial transcripts uploaded to Naviance
  - **October 15th-January 15th:** Application deadlines (Rolling, ED, EA, RD)
    - **Important Note:** Students must have applications on their Naviance “Colleges I’m Applying To” list 10 school days prior to the application deadline
  - **October 15th (PSAT Day):** College Essay Drop-In with English teachers
  - **TBD (evening presentation via Zoom):** Financial Aid Night with Marist University Financial Aid Office. The link for this event will be sent to families prior to the event
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# THE APPLICATION PROCESS

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# APPLICATION COMPONENTS

- **Application:**

- Sent from the student to the college(s). Includes application, personal statement, and supplemental essays/materials

- **Transcript, Secondary School Report, School Profile, Counselor Letter of Recommendation:**

- Sent from the Counseling Office directly to the college(s) via Naviance. Students must manually add non Common App colleges to their Naviance account.

- **Teacher Letter of Recommendation:**

- Sent from the teacher directly to the college(s) via Naviance. Students must request teacher recommendations in their Naviance account.

- **Outside Letter of Recommendation:**

- Sent from the recommender directly to the college(s) via Common App, college portal, or USPS.

- **Standardized Test Scores:**

- Students may choose to self-report test scores on their application. Students may also send scores directly from the testing agency (College Board/ACT). If you want your test scores considered in the application process, consult the individual college for their policy.
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# TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

- **Common Application** - These colleges will auto-populate from your Common App list to your Naviance list
- **School Application** - These colleges must be manually added to your Naviance list



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# TRANSCRIPT

- **Check that the following are correct:**
    - **Courses completed**
    - **Final grades**
    - **Regents exams taken and scores**
    - **Final weighted GPA**
      - ▶ **PE, Dance, and Community Service are not factored into GPA calculation**
    - **Senior year courses in progress (if your child changed their schedule after Monday, this will not be accurate - transcripts will be reposted to the portal at the end of the month for families to check for accuracy)**
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# TRANSCRIPT

- **Make sure a parent/guardian completes the Transcript Release Form ASAP**
  - **The form is on our website and [linked here](#):**
    - [www.briarcliffschools.org](http://www.briarcliffschools.org) > click **“Our Schools”** > select **“[Briarcliff High School](#)”** > click **“School Information”** > select **“[Counseling Center](#)”** > click **“Forms”** > select **“[Transcript Release Form for Current Seniors](#)”**
      - ▶ **Make sure you/your parent or guardian go through the process and confirm the email address used and verify the signature**
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# **COMMON APP FERPA WAIVER**

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# THE COLLEGE LIST

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# CREATING A THOUGHTFUL COLLEGE LIST

- **What is important to you? Consider your “must haves” and/or deal breakers**
  - **How many schools should you apply to? There is no magic number**
    - **Balance of scholarship potential, target, and reach schools**
    - **Enough schools vs the right schools: Apply to schools you are interested in attending (would you enroll in the safety schools on your list?)**
    - **Keep in mind that schools have supplemental essays. Applying to the school should be worth the time, effort, and money.**
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# COLLEGE REP VISITS

- College admissions counselors are visiting BHS **Thursday, September 11th through Friday, October 31st**
  - All college rep visits will take place in the **College Conference Room**
  - Students may attend these meetings but ***must*** ask their teacher for permission to miss class
  - The list of colleges visiting is in **Naviance**: click the **“Colleges”** tab > select **“College Visits”**
    - Colleges are added in real time, as they book with us, check this list often
    - Students may choose to register for the visit in **Naviance** to receive email reminders of the visit. Students do not have to register, attendance will be taken at the meeting
  - The list of colleges visiting will also be on the morning announcements
  - A weekly college visit email will be sent to students by Ms. Ryan each Sunday afternoon
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# **COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION**

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# AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECORD AND PARENT BRAG

- **We write a letter for each of our students. You do not need to ask us or send us a Naviance request**
  - **Want an awesome letter of recommendation from your counselor?**
    - **Finish your Student Autobiographical Record and Parent Brag in **Naviance**:**
      - ▶ **In **Naviance**, click the “About me” at the top > select “Surveys from your school” > click “Student Autobiographical Record” or “Parent Brag”**
        - **Remember to click “SUBMIT RESPONSES” on the bottom of the page to save your work**
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# **REQUESTING LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

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# TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Teacher recommendations are requested and submitted through **Naviance**, not the Common App**
  - **You should not ask more than 2 teachers - consult your counselor if you have questions**
  - **You must request teachers every time a new school is added to your **“Colleges I’m Applying To”** list, whether it is automatically added to your list through Common App or manually added**
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# OUTSIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **An outside recommender, if you are using one (this is not necessary), must be requested through the **Common App** or other college portal**

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# **STANDARDIZED TESTING**

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# STANDARDIZED TESTING

- It is the **students' responsibility** to send scores to each college if you want them considered or if the scores are required
    - SAT scores may be sent from College Board - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
    - ACT scores may be sent from ACT - [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
    - AP Scores should only be sent to the college you submit a deposit to in the spring, not for admissions purposes
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# COMMON APP - TESTING SECTION

- **If you want scores considered, check if the college will accept self-reported scores (on the Common App) or if they want official score reports sent directly from College Board (SAT)/ACT.**
  - **Your AP scores are self-report only. Include these on the Common App if you want them considered. Consult your counselor to determine if you should self-report them or not. Do not send official AP scores to the colleges you are applying to - you will send them in July to the college you are attending to be considered for placement/credit.**
  - **If you would like to apply test optional, you may put your scores in the testing section of the Common App and the Common App software will suppress the scores for your test optional schools.**
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# **FINANCIAL AID**

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# FINANCIAL AID LINKS

- **Start by doing the Net Price Calculator for a few schools to see the anticipated costs/expected family contribution**
  - **Financial Aid forms:**
    - **[FAFSA](#)** - Complete this when it becomes available, the projected release date is October 1, 2025
    - **[CSS Profile](#)** - This is due when your child's application is due
      - ▶ **[Participating institutions](#)**
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# **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

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- **Admissions Policies:**

- **Early Decision I**
- **Early Decision II**
- **Restrictive Early Action / Single Choice Early Action**
- **Early Action**
- **Regular Decision**
- **Rolling Admissions**

- **Admissions Decisions:**

- **Deferred**
- **Waitlisted**

- **Financial Aid:**

- **FAFSA**
- **CSS Profile**
- **Scholarships**

- **Q1 and Q2 Report Cards:**

- **Q1 - November**
- **Q2 - February**

- **Testing Policies**

- **School Portals**

- **STARS**

- **[College Application Process Screenshot link](#)**

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## **DO**

- **Communicate with your counselor**
- **Ask questions**
- **Adhere to deadlines**
- **Trust your counselor and teachers will submit their letters on time**
- **Have applications ready for RD, even if you are applying ED/EA**
- **Attend information sessions, college fairs, and college rep visits at BHS**

## **DON'T**

- **Wait for the last minute**
  - **Contact colleges weekly for decisions or with updates to your application**
  - **Have a parent contact the admissions office on your behalf (unless it is regarding financial aid - it is appropriate for parents to discuss the financial aspect of college with the financial aid officials)**
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# THE SENIOR CONFERENCE

- Please schedule an appointment through **Microsoft Bookings** - link was sent on Monday, September 8th and [linked here](#)
  - These meetings should be scheduled during a student's free period (PE is not a free period)
  - **All of your specific individual questions will be addressed at the senior conference**
  - **Parents may participate in-person, via Teams, or by phone**
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**BRIARCLIFF**

**H I G H S C H O O L**

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