Senior Year College Application Night for Families

Parent Brag Survey 25-26



While you're waiting...
Please use the QR code to brag about your student! This provides information for teachers/counselors who write letters of recommendation!

IHS Counseling Department
Fall 2025







How are you feeling?

Senior year is an exciting time but can be overwhelming!

- Understand the process
- Make a plan

What should my student be doing?

- Narrowing down college choices
- Register for and take SAT/ACT
- Ask for Letters of Recommendations (and update résumé in Naviance)
- College Applications
- Transcript Request Forms

Naviance

- Our Post High School Planning Program
- Career & college searches, etc.
- IHS submits all college materials through Naviance
- Every student has an individualized log-in

Students will need to use Naviance for:

- To request teachers who they would like to write a letter of recommendation for them
- Update Résumé
- Match Naviance with Common App



TO ACCESS NAVIANCE:

- **On student laptop - Launch Google Chrome Browser**
- **Click "Clever" App**
- **Click "Log in with Microsoft"**
- **Click "Naviance" App**
- **Explore!**

Narrowing Down College Choices



Research

- Naviance/College Websites
- College Fairs:
  - College representatives will visit on different dates to meet with students and provide information
  - Western NY College Tour (Buffalo Area College) - Wednesday, **11/5 during 1st and 2nd period**



College Visits

- Open Houses
- Campus Tours/Information Sessions
  - Make sure to schedule through the school's admissions office (many have online registration)!
  - Feel free to ask for an application fee waiver!

College Admissions Counselors may keep track of student contact, visits, etc. (called "Demonstrated Interest"); staying connected is important!

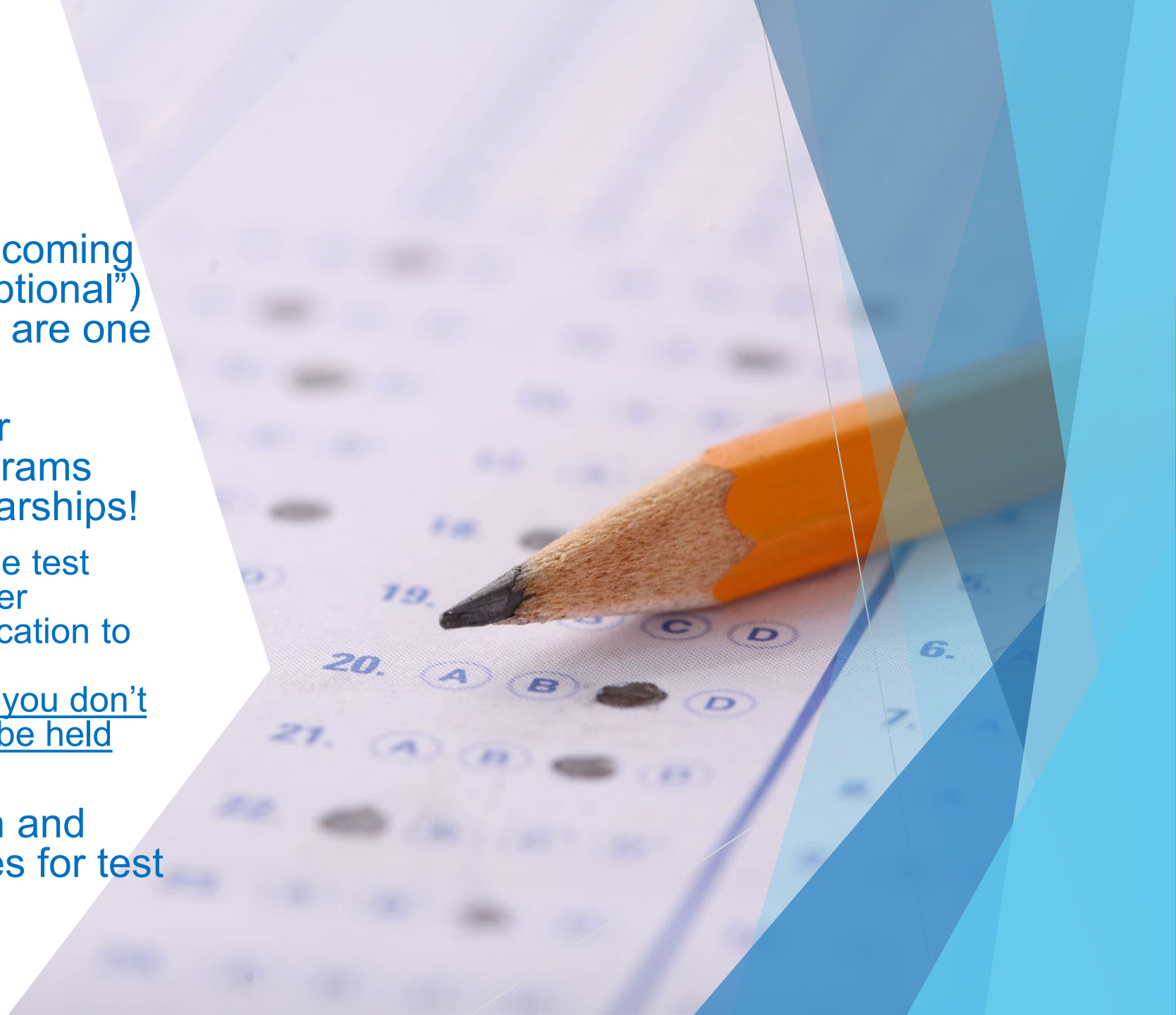
College Choices...

Most Students Apply to 3-6 Schools



College Testing

- Generally, SAT/ACTs are becoming less of a requirement (“test optional”) for admission; SUNY schools are one example
- But they might be required for consideration to specific programs within the institution; or scholarships!
  - When applicants do not include test scores, institutions rely on other academic aspects of the application to make admissions decisions (TRANSLATION: If you don’t submit scores, it *should* not be held against your application)
- Bottom line: do your research and check specific school websites for test requirements!!! :)



College Testing: ACT/SAT

- ACT* - www.myact.org
  - October 18, December 13
- SAT - www.collegeboard.org
  - November 8, December 6
- There are deadlines to register for each exam
- Fee waivers are available to those who qualify (Free/Reduced Lunch application)
- Try both or retake one for a second time (Superscoring) ← please contact college directly

Example of Superscoring

Test1: SAT in March
- 800 in math, 500 in reading/writing = 1300

Test 2: SAT in October
- 650 in math, 650 in reading/writing = 1300

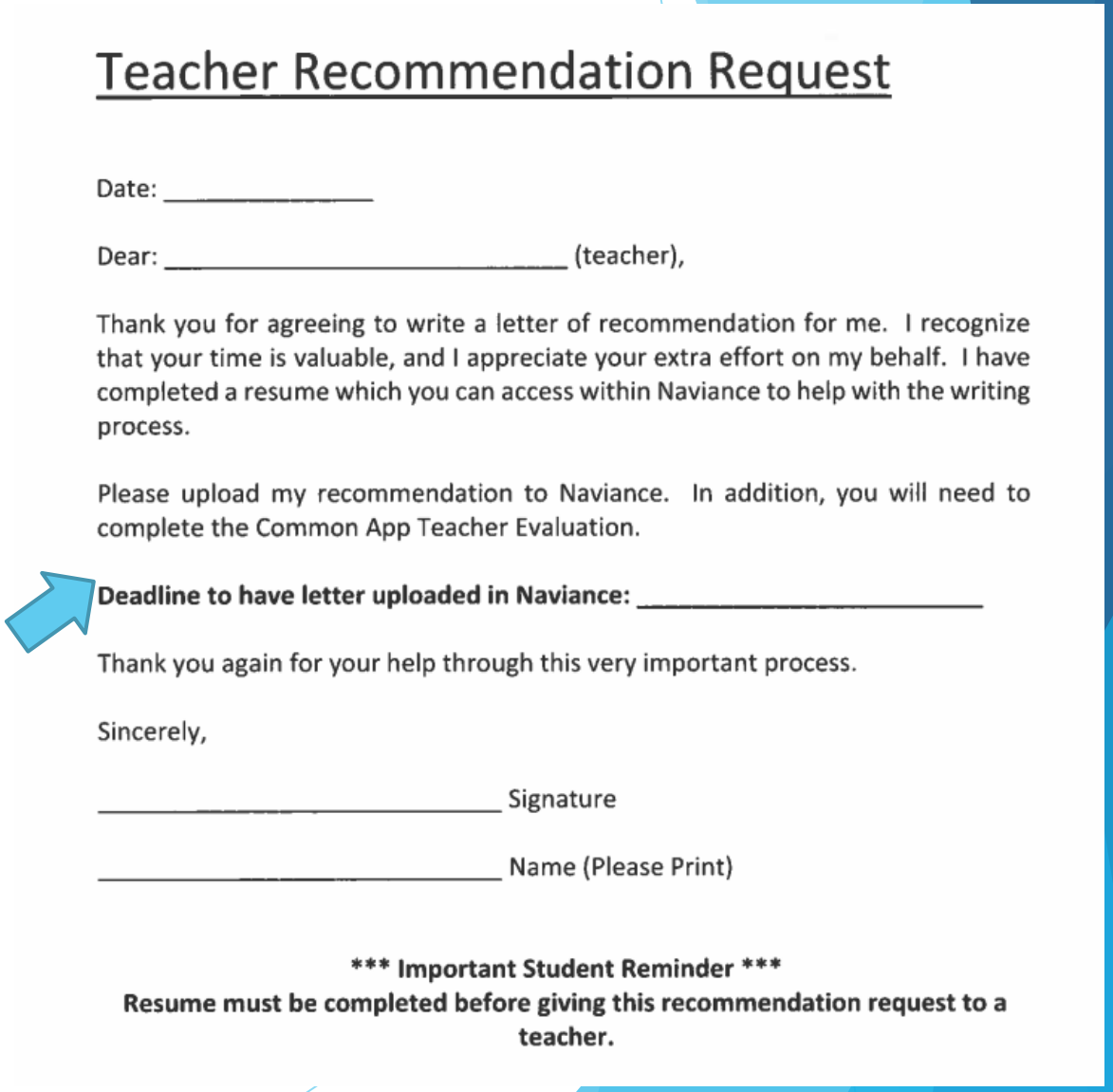
Superscore
- 800 in math (test 1), 650 in reading/writing (test 2) = 1450

*As a reminder, we are not a testing site

Letters of Recommendation

- How many?
  - 1-3
- Who to Ask?
  - Teacher letter is essential
  - Counselor letter may be required
  - Coach/advisors/employers
    - Non-staff members can be invited through Common App
- Process
  - Update Résumé on Naviance!!!
  - Conversation with teacher/complete a Teacher Recommendation Request form (available in the Counseling Center)
  - Request the teacher via Naviance
  - Send a thank you note!

Student does not see these letters, but they need to be on file for the Counseling Department to send the information to colleges!



Teacher Recommendation Request

Date: _____

Dear: _____ (teacher),

Thank you for agreeing to write a letter of recommendation for me. I recognize that your time is valuable, and I appreciate your extra effort on my behalf. I have completed a resume which you can access within Naviance to help with the writing process.

Please upload my recommendation to Naviance. In addition, you will need to complete the Common App Teacher Evaluation.

Deadline to have letter uploaded in Naviance: _____

Thank you again for your help through this very important process.

Sincerely,

_____ Signature

_____ Name (Please Print)

***** Important Student Reminder *****
Resume must be completed before giving this recommendation request to a teacher.

College Applications

4-Year Schools

- Common App
  - www.commonapp.org (and click on APPLY NOW)
- SUNY App
  - www.suny.edu (and click on APPLY) ← **Don't forget about SUNY Free Application Weeks: 10/20 – 11/3!**
- Individual College Website

2-Year Schools

- Individual College Websites such as Embry Riddle
  - www.monroecc.edu (click on Admissions, First Time College Student, APPLY – will now be taken to SUNY app)

*A fee waiver is available for the Common App/SUNY App for those who qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch ← Although all school lunch is now free, a reminder that you STILL need to fill out this application to see if your family is eligible

College Application Deadlines

- **Early Decision** - is a binding agreement that student WILL attend that college should they be offered admissions
  - Can only apply to one (1) college ED; if accepted, withdraw all your other applications to other colleges
  - Typically October/November deadline to submit
- **Early Action** - plans are nonbinding — students receive an early response to their application
  - Typically October/November deadline to submit
- **Regular Deadline** - this is a standard application deadline that is specific to each school, often in January
- **Rolling Deadline** – there is no deadline date, schools will evaluate applications as they are received versus waiting to evaluate all applications after a hard deadline; schools will continue to evaluate applications until they've filled all the slots for their incoming class

Requesting Transcripts

IHS TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM

Fill out this form for EACH College you apply to.
We have 12 SCHOOL DAYS to complete this request.
Turn in this form to MS. COOK – College and Career Center or MS. BLYSZCZAK – Counseling Center

Student Name: _____ Counselor: _____

Personal Email: _____ Cell #: _____ DOB: _____

Name of Institution: _____ Deadline: _____

CHECK ONE: Early Decision (Binding) _____ Early Action (Non-Binding) _____ Regular/Rolling: _____

Checklist for COMMON APP submissions (If your college/university does not accept Common App, how did you apply? Please circle one: College Website, SUNY App, Other):

_____ I have completed my Common App "FERPA Release Authorization."

_____ I have MATCHED my Common App with Naviance.

_____ I have added this college to my Common Application "My Colleges" tab.

_____ I have **submitted** my application to this college on Common App.

_____ Did you indicate on your application that you qualify for a fee waiver? Circle one: YES NO

_____ I have requested my TEACHER RECOMMENDATION(S) on Naviance and in person.

REQUESTED ITEMS TO BE SENT BY IHS:

_____ Official High School Transcript

_____ Counselor Recommendation

_____ Teacher Recommendations

List NO MORE than four (4) Teacher Recommendations in the order you would like them sent.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

IHS does NOT send SAT or ACT scores. Go to CollegeBoard.org or ACT.org to send scores.

Student Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____
(If student is under 18 years of age)

For Office Use ONLY:

Date Received: _____ Date to Counselor: _____ Counselor Initials/Date: _____ Date Sent: _____
Notes:

GOAL:
Submit Applications and turn in Transcript Request Forms by Thanksgiving Break

Reminder: WE GET 12 SCHOOL DAYS to fulfill our documents – which means: DO NOT turn in our Blue sheets on the due date!

A Few Specifics for Some Applications

- Division I or II sports?
  - Register at web3.ncaa.org
  - Request a transcript to be sent to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center [see Mrs. Cook for Release Forms]
  - Make sure the NCAA worksheet has been completed with School Counselor
- Military Academy/ROTC
  - Military Academy applications have extra requirements – talk to School Counselor
  - Make note of these Fairs: Thursday, 11/20 and Tuesday, 2/10 during the Lunch periods
- Theatrical or musical major
  - Auditions may be required, pay attention to specific college requirements
- Art majors
  - Portfolios may be required, pay attention to specific college requirements

A Few Specifics for Some Applications (cont.'d)

- "Pathways" or "Seamless Transfers"
  - Formerly called 2+2
  - ONLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE

What to Be Prepared For

- Acceptances
  - Celebrate them!
- Waitlist
  - Make a Plan B (deposit on 2nd choice school, etc.)
  - Next steps – maintain contact with Admissions Rep, send updated materials
- Letters of denial
  - It's OK to grieve the loss

Timeline:

- April
  - Making a final decision – what school is the best fit for your student
    - Pro & Con list of all accepted schools
    - Visit!
- May 1
  - Decision Day - you HAVE to put in a deposit
- June
  - Final Transcripts – NO SENIORITIS

Financial Aid/Scholarships

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - http://www.fafsa.gov - IS OFFICIALLY OPEN

- Students must first create an FSA ID to electronically sign your FAFSA upon completion – both you and your parent will need your own FSA ID
- Financial Aid presentation - Post High School Planning Workshop: **November 12th from 5:30PM – 8:00PM**

Scholarships

- General vs School-Specific
- Where to find them?
  - S'more Newsletter
  - Schoology
  - College and Career Center - Mrs. Cook
  - www.racf.org
  - www.fastweb.com
  - www.scholarships.com
  - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/

Scholarship Information Spreadsheet

Next Steps

- Seniors meet 1:1 with their School Counselors
- Resources can be found on Schoology -> Counseling Center -> Post High School Planning
- Senior Class of 2026 S'more Newsletter
- College Planning Guide
- Common App Workshops
- Additional meetings always available; students/families can always email questions, too
- College and Career Center is a great resource as well! Go to Mrs. Cook for help with Common App AND Naviance!!!



Upcoming Event!

- Post High School Planning Workshop
  - Wednesday, November 12th @ 5:30PM
  - There will be a Financial Aid Presentation will be during this event
    - College financial aid counselor presenting
  - Multiple sessions available to attend



- Don’t hesitate to reach out to your student’s School Counselor - we are here to help!

Feedback Survey

College Application Night
Feedback 25-26