



# Manhasset High School

## ***11<sup>th</sup> Grade Information Night***

*November 6, 2025*

*High School Counseling Department*

# SCA: Summer Studies Program

The Manhasset SCA provides awards to rising seniors in the form of Summer Studies Awards.

This program is for students to participate in a summer enrichment activity between their junior and senior years. Summer Studies Awards are not based on financial need or academic excellence. Rather, motivation, sincerity and clarity of purpose will be considered. Any enrichment program the student finds of interest is acceptable. Past winners have participated in various programs focusing on a wide range of interests including: art, music, academics, sports, or programs for cultural or personal growth.



# Our Counseling Team

*Kerry Fallon, Director*



- **Marcy Fogel**
- **Jennifer Landman**
- **Lori Margulies**
- **Kristen Ruthkowski**
- **Kim Cosenza**
- **Danielle Cerulli**

# Program Purpose and Goal

*Purpose:* *To present an overview of the post-secondary planning process*

*Goal:* *To identify and provide you with the Resources and a written guide that will help you work alongside your child throughout this process.*

*Post-Secondary Planning Guide*

# Post Secondary Planning Guide

- *A comprehensive guide designed to address the post-secondary planning process in three (3) phases:*

## Getting Started

**Phase I: November 2025- December 2025/January 2026**

## Active Searching

**Phase II: January 2026 - August 2026**

## The Final Act

**Phase III: September 2026- December 2026**

*Phase I*

*Getting Started*

*November 2025 - January 2026*

***Mrs. Danielle Cerulli***

# Phase I: Getting Started at Home

- \* Finalize a testing schedule
- \* Self-reflection
- \* Become aware of policies and practices
- \* Understand the “myths” related to the process
- \* Become familiar with the language of the process

*-Using the Glossary*

# Recommendations for Phase I

- **Begin reading the Post-Secondary Planning Guide**
- **Set aside time to discuss the recommended activities**
- **Commit time and energy on both sides**
- **Acknowledge the importance of “process” and your college/university choice being the best “fit.”**
- **Understand that this is a test of patience, encouragement and listening skills**
- **Be positive...everything will work out in the end**

# Standardized Testing Policies

## Score Reporting Options:

- SAT or ACT
- Test Optional vs. Test Blind/Test Free

*\*Speak with each school you visit to confirm how/if scores are used.*

# Free Test Prep

## SAT

*Khan Academy*

Free test prep and interactive support.

[www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)

## ACT

*Kaplan* resources available on the ACT Website

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

## SAT and ACT

*Method Learning*

Access through Castle Learning

# Getting Started in School

## *Student Classroom Meetings:* *January 2026*

- Review the purpose/structure of the Post-Secondary Planning Guide
- Students will complete a preliminary post-secondary questionnaire
- Students will create a Common Application Account
- Students will conduct a guided college search

# College Visits

- *Mini Fairs and College Rep Visits*
- *Future Opportunities will include:*
  - The Spring Expo**  
*Nassau Counselors' Association*  
*April 2026*
  - NACAC Specialized Fairs**
  - SUNY Fairs**
  - Fall College Expo**  
*Nassau Counselors' Association*

*Phase II*

*Active Searching*

*January 2026 - August 2026*

*Mrs. Jennifer Landman*

# Phase II: Active Searching

*January - August*

- Identify your desired types of colleges
- Review and refine the college search
- Compare search results to Scattergrams and College Match features on Naviance
- Attend the family conference with your counselor
- Schedule campus visits
- Attend local and regional college fairs
- Register for and take standardized tests
  - *AP's, SAT, ACT's*

# Post Secondary Options

*Liberal Arts Colleges*

*Comprehensive Universities*

*Honors Colleges/Programs*

*Fine and Performing Arts Programs*

*Technical and Engineering Schools*

*Accelerated/Combined Programs*

*3/2 Engineering Programs*

*Career, Vocational, and Business Schools*

*Military Academies/ROTC Options*

*Junior and Community Colleges*

*(All of the above are described in the Post-Secondary Guide)*

# College Search

**Goal: *Decipher a list of schools that reflect student interests and needs.***

## **To That End:**

- All students will conduct a **guided**, preliminary college search at the January meeting
- Search results **should be** completed prior to the Junior College Conference

# Informed College Search

*The List should include consideration of:*

- College Type
- Affiliation
- Selectivity
- Social Climate
- Program Offerings
- Special Programs
- Size of School
- Affordability
- Location

# College Search

Your list should not be:

1. **A wish list**
2. **A list of schools taken from the back of the School Profile.**
3. **Created by parents or relatives ONLY.**
4. **Compiled from the list of schools in US News & World Report.**
5. **Limited only to schools you know**



# Naviance

*College Search results should be examined in relation to the data stored in both the College Match and Scattergram features found in Naviance.*

*From there, a list should be generated that contains the following elements:*

# Naviance & The Application List

- **Safety Schools**: Student profile is well above the average mean of accepted student
- **Target Schools**: Student profile is within the mid-50% range of admitted students
- **Reach Schools**: Student profile is below that of admitted students.

*\*Scattergrams can be used to best align the list to each category*

# Scattergrams

**Visual representation of student's academic profile as compared to past MHS applicants**

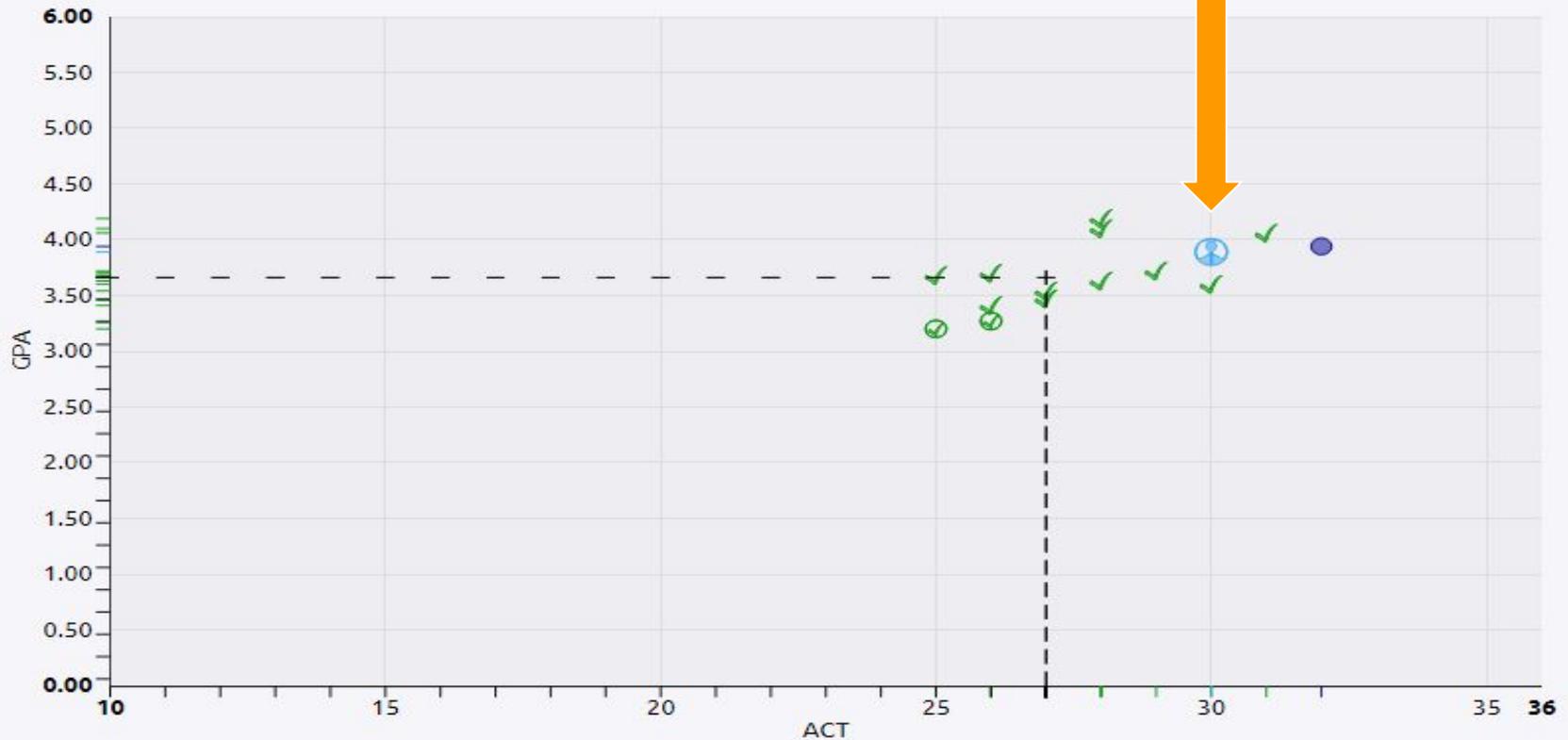
- \*Keep in mind that this is academics only**
- \*Arrow points to student being compared**

***See following for examples:***

# Safety

## Scattergrams | Applications for Manhasset High School

Comparing Weighted GPA with



### Legend

You

Average GPA

Average Score

### Accepted

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

### Waitlisted/Accepted

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

### Waitlisted/Unknown

Regular Decision

### Waitlisted/Denied

Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

### Denied

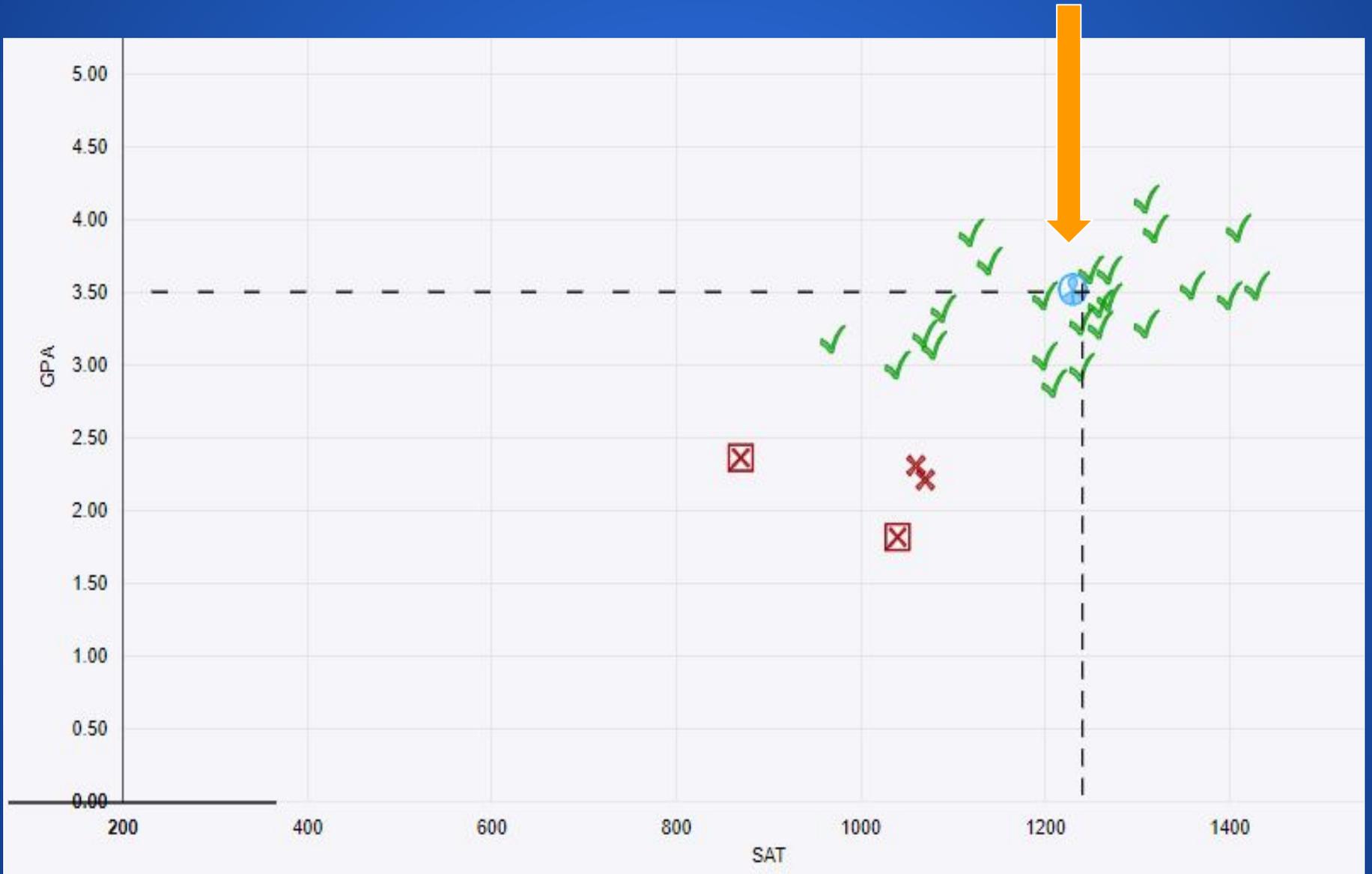
Regular Decision

Early Decision

Early Action

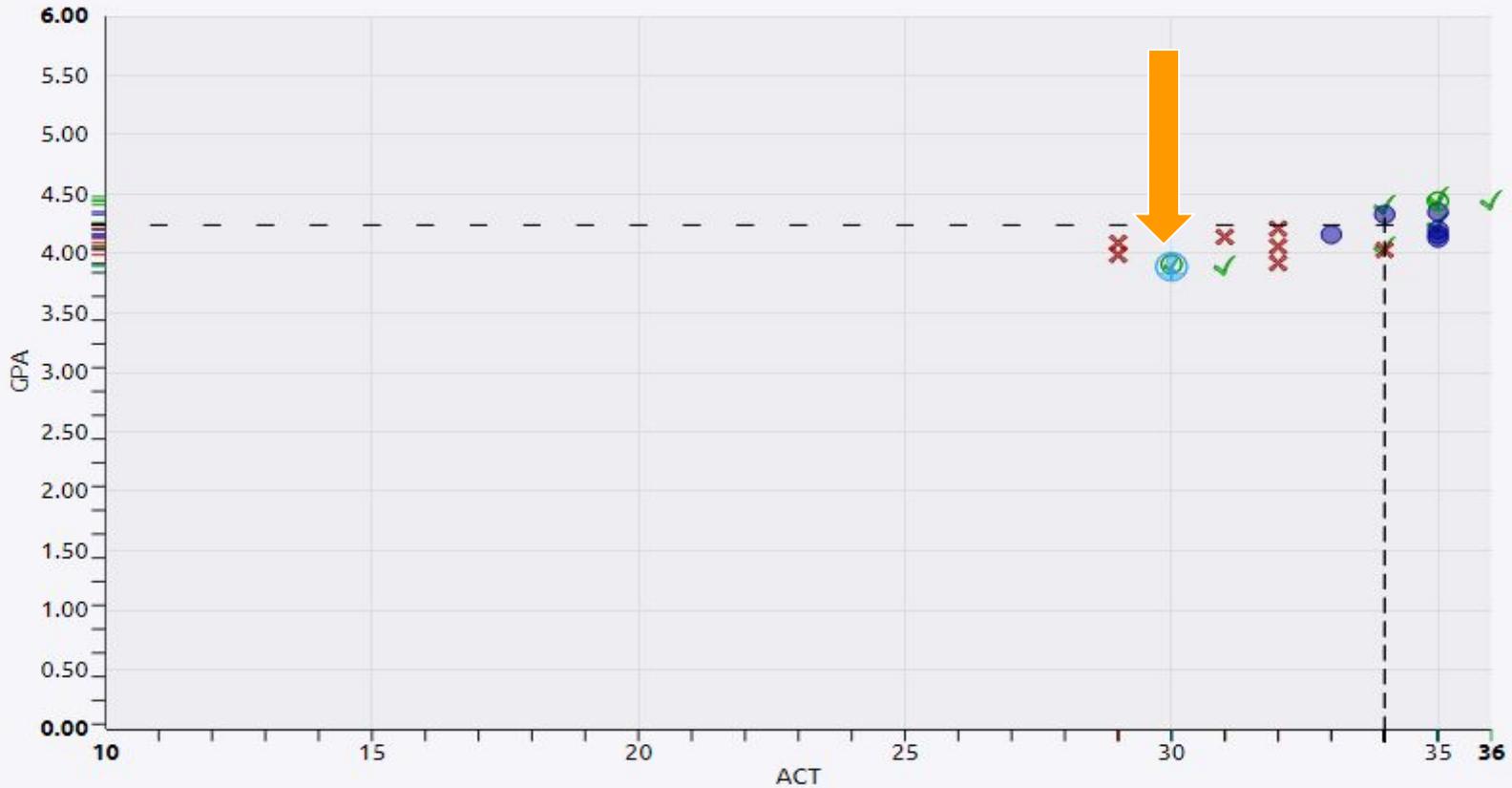
Click on legend icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram. Doubleclick to reset zoom.

# Target



# Reach

Comparing Weighted GPA with ACT



Legend	Accepted	Waitlisted/Unknown	Waitlisted/Denied	Denied
You	✓	● Regular Decision	● Regular Decision	✗ Regular Decision
Average GPA		● Early Decision	● Early Decision	✗ Early Decision
Average Score		● Early Action	● Early Action	✗ Early Action

Click on legend icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram. Doubleclick to reset zoom.

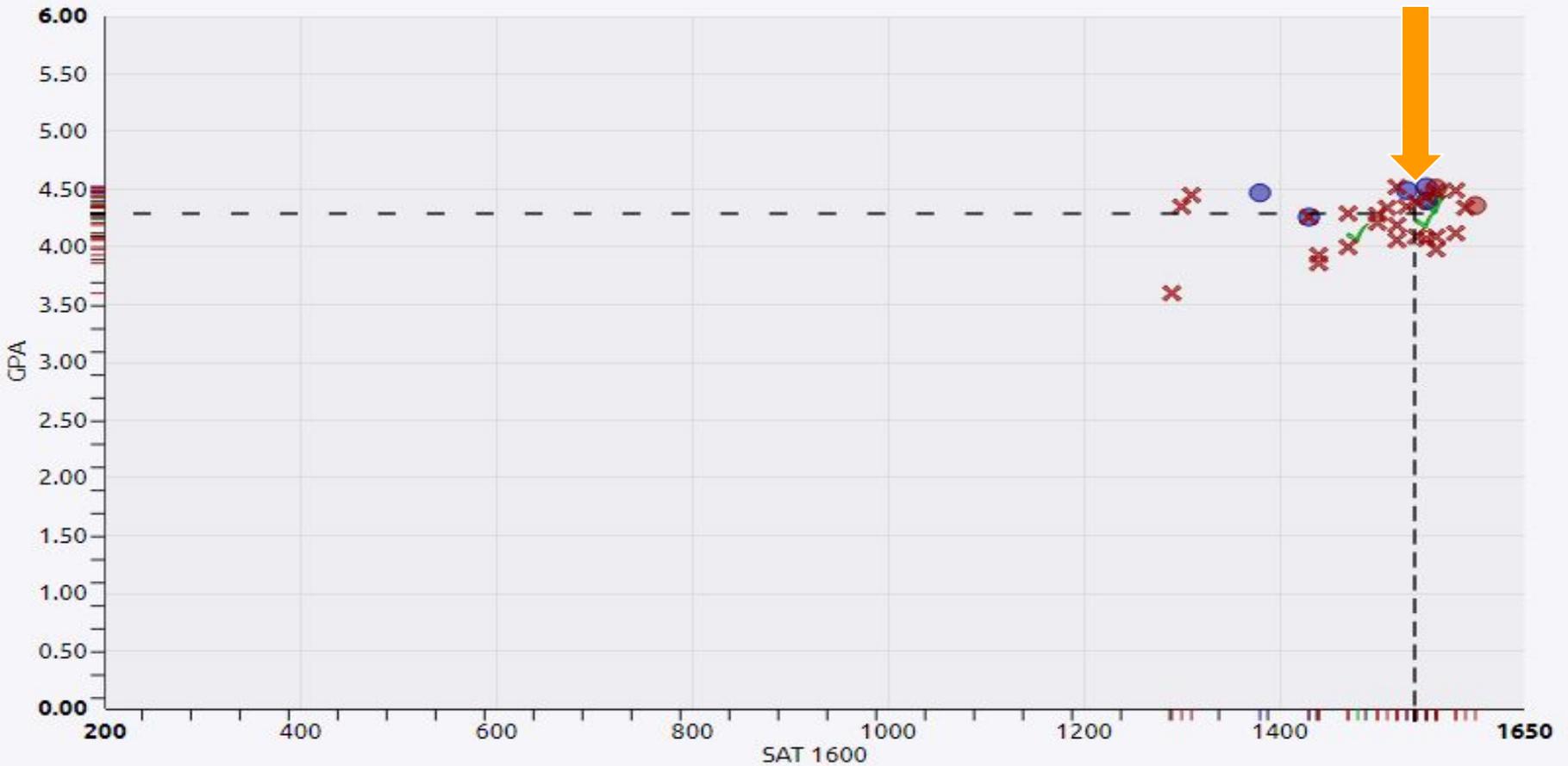
# The Unpredictable Schools

*The student's profile matches that of admitted students but admission is completely, "unpredictable."*

*These tend to be the most highly selective schools.*

**As the following Scattergram will show, even students who clearly match the profile of admitted students, cannot know for sure if they will be admitted:**

# Unpredictable



## Accepted

- ✓ Regular Decision
- ⊙ Early Decision
- ☑ Early Action

## Waitlisted/Accepted

- Regular Decision
- ⊙ Early Decision
- ☑ Early Action

## Waitlisted/Unknown

- Regular Decision
- ⊙ Early Decision
- ☑ Early Action

## Waitlisted/Denied

- Regular Decision
- ⊙ Early Decision
- ☑ Early Action

## Denied

- ✗ Regular Decision
- ⊙ Early Decision
- ☑ Early Action

Click on legend items on bottom to hide each type or group in the scattergram. Double click to expand group.

# The Family Conference

*Prior to appointments, families should:*

- Complete the Common Application, minus the essay on the website
- Complete a College Search on Naviance

**\*Conferences are scheduled for 90 minutes**

# Family Conference

February 2026-May 2026

- **An extensive agenda will include a review of the student's:**
  - *Current academic profile (GPA/Test results)*
  - *12<sup>th</sup> grade projected schedule*
  - *Academic and personal interests*
  - *Common Application and college search results*
- **Ample time will be allotted for questions and the counselor will make recommendations for further exploration of college choices.**
- ***When your appointment slip arrives, please review and if unable to keep it, contact the HS Counseling Office ASAP. The counselors will also be meeting with 9<sup>th</sup> Grade families and will have over 100 conferences to schedule between both groups.***

# Students with Disabilities

- Colleges and universities offer different levels of support services for students with special needs.
- Post-Secondary Planning Guide includes an outline of the different levels of support and identify college and university programs.
- Parents of and students with special needs should begin to consider what type(s) of support service(s) will be most helpful to meet with success in college and consider this in their search.

# Fine and Performing Arts:

*Students interested in a fine or performing arts program should:*

- **Become familiar with the option of attending a conservatory or participating in a program within a more traditional college/university setting.**
- **Become familiar with portfolio, recording, and audition requirements by reviewing the current application requirements.**

# Student Athletes

*Athletic Recruitment is very competitive and not always student friendly.*

- Prospective athletes must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center by end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade. ([www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org))
- Students must monitor their NCAA GPA
- Follow all leads.
  - *Identify programs of interest and forward sports profile and academic information to the coaching staff. Students can reach out to as many schools as they would like.*

# Campus Visits/Interviews

- Visit college websites to determine spring Open House programs. All websites can be accessed through Naviance.
- Plan campus visits when students are around. If not on a tour, sign in at the Admissions Office. *(Demonstrated interest is important to some colleges)*
- If possible, arrange for an interview, an overnight visit, or sit in on a class. If you have a clearly defined interest, try to meet with a department chair.

# While On Campus

## Things to Consider:

- \* Location (distance from home and campus surroundings)
- \* Do I meet the entrance requirements? (*reach, target, safety*)
- \* What core courses will I be required to take?
- \* Are there specific opportunities related to my possible major?
- \* Is the size so big/small that I'll get distracted/bored?
- \* Can I see myself at this school?
- \* Does the size limit the availability of activities?
- \* Are there opportunities for non fine arts, music, or theater majors to take courses in those disciplines?
- \* Do I want something different/similar from my past experience?

# Campus Visits/Interviews

1. **Virtual and in-person tours & information sessions**
2. **Virtual and in-person individual conversations with admissions rep(s)**
3. **Using the “SET LIST”**

**Using as many of these suggestions as possible (especially the “SET LIST”) will help you get the best feel of the school.**

# Senior Autobiography Packet

- **Students are required to complete a Senior Autobiography.**
  - Used to help the counselors write the most comprehensive letter of recommendation.
  - Mailed home in May - due by the end of June.

*(Counselor recommendations will NOT be written if this document is not submitted)*

- **The packet contains three (3) teacher Appraisal Summary Forms, which are given to three 11<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.**
  - These forms are for counselor use only
- **Teacher Recommendation Contract**

# Teacher Recommendations

- Colleges prefer 11<sup>th</sup> grade teachers
- Mid-late junior year--begin to consider which teachers you will ask
- Initial requests made in May/June (when teachers are asked to complete Appraisal Summary Forms)
- Formal request/process will be made/reviewed in September 2026

*Phase III*

*The Final Act*

*(Pulling it all together)*

September 2026 - December 2026

*Ms. Danielle Cerulli*

# Focus on Processing:

- **Student Applications**
- **School documents, including counselor recommendations, transcripts, etc.**
- **Teacher Recommendations**

# Layers of Support

- 11th Grade Classroom Lessons (January 2026)  
Small group meetings with 11th grade
- Student/Counselor College Conferences (February 2026-May 2026)
- 12th Grade Parent/Student Night (September 2026)  
Comprehensive Review of Application Process  
Checklist to guide each step of process
- Senior Classroom Lessons (September 2026)  
Follow up to 12th Grade Parent/Student Night  
Review all procedures with students

# Financial Aid Night

*OCTOBER 2026*

**Review FAFSA process, dates and deadlines,  
and submission process.**

# RESOURCES

- College Fairs/Representative Visits
- The “SET” List
- Naviance
- Counseling Department Webpage
- Essay Booklet
- Common Application/prompts/supplementals
- Planning Guide

# Final Thoughts

- \*The Guide has been designed as an outline of activities that characterize the post-secondary planning process. Please share it with your child and take the time to review thoroughly.
- \*At every stage, please be sure to include your child in the process. They should be engaged in the planning.
- \*Depending on personal interests and goals, the process will be different for each student/family

# Current Trend

- \* Roughly 89% of recent classes have applied under one of the Early options
  - \* Greater importance on having test scores available to be delivered by the early deadlines.
- \*Please keep this in mind when deciding when to test.*

Thank You!

