
BRIARCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL



CLASS OF 2027

JUNIOR INFORMATION NIGHT

DECEMBER 3, 2025

TIMELINE: OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

- **October 8th** - Financial Aid Night with Marist College Financial Aid Office via Zoom
 - The recording and presentation are available on our [website](#)
 - **November 7th** - PSAT scores were released
 - **November 18th-24th** - Counseling presentation in US History classes: Naviance & College Search
 - **November 26th** - Alumni Day
 - Students were asked to schedule their **individual meeting** with their counselor through **Microsoft Bookings** (an email with the link was sent to students on Friday November 21st @ 8:30am from Erin Ryan). *This meeting is for just the student and counselor*
 - Students were asked to complete questions 1-12 of their **Student Autobiographical Record in Naviance** *prior to* their individual counselor meeting
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TIMELINE: DECEMBER-FEBRUARY

- **December 1st-December 23rd** - Students will meet with their counselor to discuss preliminary plans for life after BHS
 - **December 3rd** - Today, Junior Information Night!
 - **December 5th** - Conversations with Counselors **at 9:30am at the high school**
 - **December 8th** - Parents will receive an email with the link to the **Microsoft Bookings** page to schedule the junior family conference in January. The individual student-counselor meeting *must* happen first
 - **January 6th-February 13th** - Junior family conference with counselor
 - **January 30th** - Teacher course recommendations for the 2026-2027 school year and 2nd quarter grades will be posted to the student/parent portals
 - **February 2nd-February 13th** - Students will meet with their counselor for a course selection meeting
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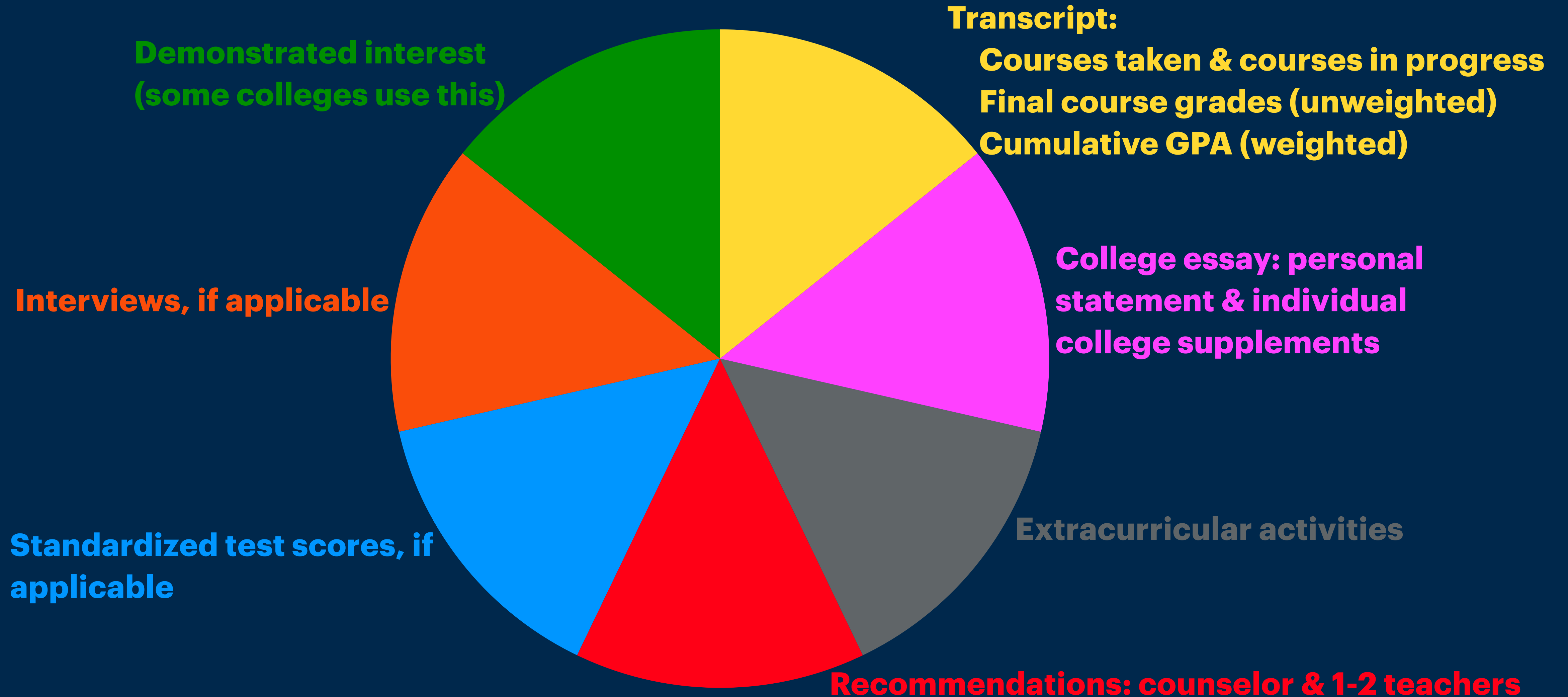
TIMELINE: MARCH-JUNE

- **Mid-Late March** - Criteria Review applications will be reviewed, if applicable
 - **March-June** -
 - Students may take the SAT and/or ACT, if they choose to do so
 - Students should ask 1-2 teachers to write letters of recommendation
 - The counselors will visit the English classes for a college essay workshop
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TIMELINE: AUGUST-NOVEMBER

- **Beginning of August** - The Common App rolls over to the new application year
 - **Mid-August** - You will receive an email from the Counseling Office with instructions for getting started on your Common App, linking Naviance to the Common App, requesting teacher recommendations, and returning the transcript release form
 - **September-November** -
 - Senior family conference with counselor
 - Follow up with teacher recommenders
 - Work on applications
 - College application drop-in sessions with counselors
 - Students may take the SAT and/or ACT, if they choose to do so
 - **College Deadlines** - October 15th-January 15th, November 1st is the most common deadline
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WHAT MAKES UP A COLLEGE APPLICATION?



INTRODUCTION TO NAVIANCE

WHAT IS NAVIANCE?

- **Naviance** allows you to:
 - **Search for colleges and careers**
 - **Compare colleges and view scattergrams**
 - **Create and maintain a resume**
 - **Keep track of colleges visiting BHS (in the fall)**
 - **Track school documents sent to colleges**
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HOW TO LOG IN TO NAVIANCE

- **Students sign in to Naviance via **Clever**:** We recommend students create a cell phone contact for all college application accounts: **Common App, individual school portals, etc...**
 - **Parents:**
 - 1. Email your child's counselor, they will activate your account or reset your password**
 - 2. You will receive an email from *Naviance Account Information* with your username and a temporary password**
 - 3. Go to www.briarcliffschools.org > **Parents** > select "**Quick Links**" > click "**[Family Connection, Powered by Naviance](#)**" > select the "**Parent or Guardian**" icon:
 - ▶ **Enter your username and temporary password, you will be prompted to change your password when you log in****
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COLLEGE SEARCH

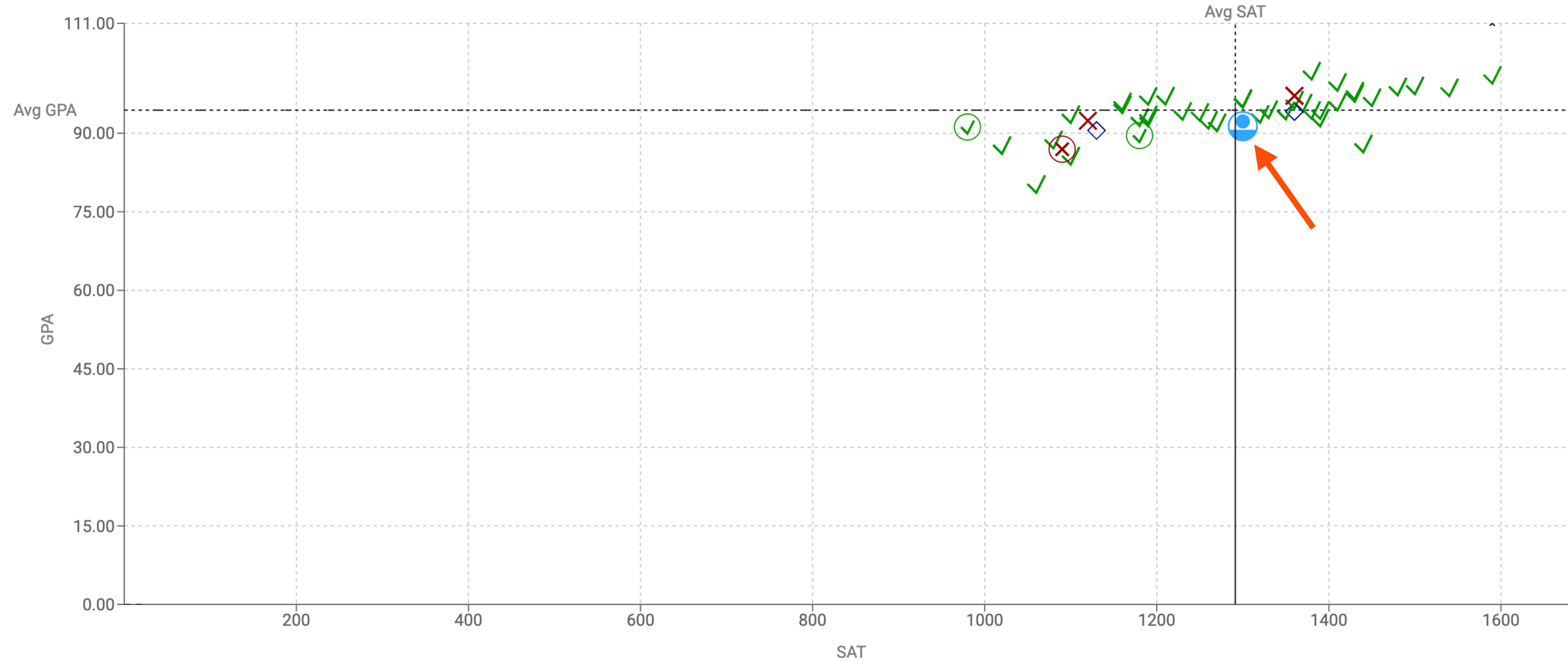
- **In class last week, we asked the students to do a college search**
 - **We told them to keep the initial search broad, choosing only a few of the filters: size, location, selectivity, major**
- **On this platform, the percentages next to the colleges on the search results page are not the odds of your child getting accepted, they represent how much that school matches the search criteria entered**



SCATTERGRAMS

- **These graphs compile data (GPA and standardized test scores) from the past 5 years of BHS**
 - **Students are plotted on the graph if they have a PSAT, SAT, or ACT score (assessments taken in the Fall should be in the account now)**
 - **Scattergrams supply recent, relevant, and specific data but they do not provide a complete picture of your chances of getting in to a college**
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Comparing Weighted GPA with SAT (1600) and Applied test optional



Scattergram legend

Display Waitlisted

Legend



--- Average GPA

: Average Score

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 icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram. Double-click to reset zoom.

THE COLLEGE LIST

WHERE DO YOU START?

- **Keep it broad - it is OK for the list to be extensive to begin with. There is no need to have your final list until the summer/fall**
 - **Focus on what schools are a good match for you, your list will look different than your friends'**
 - **Establish your priorities, identify personal preferences**
 - **Explore likely, target, and reach schools**
 - **Keep an open mind, you might like a school you do not expect to like**
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**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION,
AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECORD,
& PARENT BRAG**

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- **How many letters do you need?**
 - **1 counselor letter**
 - **1 or 2 teacher letter(s): some schools require 2**
 - **When should you ask for the letters?**
 - **You do not need to ask your counselor, we write letters for all students on our caseload. We require students complete the Student Autobiographical Record and parents complete the Parent Brag by June 12**
 - **Ask teachers in **May/June**: This gives teachers the opportunity to write letters over the summer. Many teachers require students to complete a preliminary form before writing the letter - ask the teacher what specific material they require**
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AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

- This survey is in **Naviance** and students started working on it in class with us
 - Please give specific examples/details, **do not** simply list activities
 - Click **"SUBMIT RESPONSES"** at the bottom of the page to save! If you leave the page open, it will time out and you will lose unsaved work
 - Counselors can see partial completions once you save your answers
-

PARENT BRAG

- This survey is in **Naviance**, the questions are meant to guide you
 - Helpful tips:
 - Less information about your child as a small child/baby, more about your child now and their growth over the years
 - **You are the expert on you child!** Discuss things that are not readily apparent through grades, test scores, extracurricular activities, etc...
 - Hidden/unique talents
 - Please give specific examples/details, **do not** simply list activities
 - Click **"SUBMIT RESPONSES"** at the bottom of the page to save! If you leave the page open, it will time out and you will lose unsaved work
 - Counselors can see partial completions once you save your answers
-

Test Student's Future Planning



No Path Selected
Plan for life after high school and select the path that will lead to future success.

Select Path

- About me home
- Documents and notes**
- Document resources
- Resume
- Goals
- Portfolio
- Journal
- Test scores
- Documents shared with me

Surveys

Surveys from your school

Additional Information from Your School

Go to My Planner

What's New

Nothing new to review this visit. Check back later.

Career Essentials

Important Skills



Explore and favorite careers to discover the skills you'll need to succeed.

Explore and Favorite Careers

Top Knowledge Sets



Explore and favorite careers to discover the knowledge areas you'll need to succeed.

Explore and Favorite Careers



Trying to decide which college is right for you?

Check out colleges looking for students like you!

VIEW MATCHES

Quick Links

INTERESTING THINGS ABOUT ME

- Resume
- Documents
- Journal
- Survey history

OFFICIAL THINGS

- Profile
- Inbox
- Account
- Test scores

SURVEYS

- Surveys In progress
- Surveys Completed
- Surveys Not Started

My Surveys

Filter by

All progress

Student Autobiographical Record

NOT STARTED

The Parent Brag will be listed here on the parent account

STANDARDIZED TESTING

PSAT

- **This is a practice test for the SAT**
 - **Students had the opportunity to take the PSAT on October 15th (and in 10th grade)**
 - **Scores were released on November 7th; if you need help accessing your score report, please speak with your counselor**
 - **PSAT scores are out of 1520, not 1600 (each section is a max of 760, not 800)**
 - **The comprehensive score report provides students with a detailed analysis of strengths and topics that students should focus on for future tests**
 - **Khan Academy and Bluebook offer great FREE resources for SAT test prep**
 - **Khan Academy is offered through College Board**
 - **Students can take practice tests in the Bluebook app**
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SAT

- Digital exam
- 2 hour and 14 minute exam
- Score is between 400-1600
 - Math section: 200-800
 - English section: 200-800
- The 2 scores are **added together** for a total score
- Discontinued the optional essay

ACT

- Digital or paper based
- 2 hour and 5 minute exam
- Score is between 1-36
 - English section: 1-36
 - Mathematics section: 1-36
 - Reading section: 1-36
- The 3 scores are **averaged together** for a composite score, rounded to the nearest whole - fractions less than one-half are rounded down, fractions one-half or more are rounded up
- Optional science and writing sections

TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

- **If you receive testing accommodations for classroom tests/Regents exams, you **do not** automatically receive those accommodations for standardized tests**
 - **SAT: Your counselor may apply for you to receive accommodations for College Board exams (PSAT, SAT, and AP) at any time. We typically do this at the end of 9th grade. Check with your counselor if you have questions.**
 - **ACT: The student must first register for an ACT administration, then your counselor may apply for you to receive accommodations for the ACT.**
 - **The SAT and ACT are two different companies with two separate processes for applying for accommodations and they can yield different results. **The application review may take up to 8 weeks.****
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ARE STANDARDIZED TESTS REQUIRED?

- **No!**
 - **If a college requires standardized tests, they will accept either the SAT or the ACT, there is no preference for one exam**
 - **Submitting scores to colleges:**
 - **Score choice: Allows students to submit only their best testing administration(s)**
 - **Super score: Allows students to send all of their scores and the college may consider only the highest section scores across multiple test dates**
 - **Self report: Students may be able to report their scores on the Common App. Some schools may require official score reports from College Board/ACT - **it is the student's responsibility to send scores****
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TEST OPTIONAL

- **Most colleges have continued with their test optional policies**
 - **Merit scholarship consideration usually does not factor in test scores if the school is test optional**
 - **Yes... schools are really test optional... but what does this mean?**
 - **A greater emphasis is put on the rest of the application: transcript, essay, extracurriculars, recommendations, etc...**
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FINANCIAL AID

WHAT SHOULD YOU HAVE ON YOUR RADAR?

- **Start by doing the Net Price Calculator for a few schools to see the anticipated costs/expected family contribution**
 - **Financial Aid forms:**
 - **What is the FAFSA?**
 - ▶ **Do this when it becomes available (this year it was the end of September)**
 - **What is the CSS Profile?**
 - ▶ **This is due when the student's application is due**
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DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

HOW DO I SHOW DEMONSTRATED INTEREST?

- **College specific supplemental essays**
 - **Apply under a college's Early Decision/Early Action program**
 - **Early Decision is a binding agreement**
 - **Early Action is non-binding**
 - **Alumni or campus interviews: spring of junior year/fall of senior year, not all colleges allow interviews**
 - **Open and interact with emails, websites, virtual tours, information sessions, etc...**
 - **Follow colleges on social media**
 - **Visit!**
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THE COLLEGE VISIT

- **Attend virtual/local information sessions**
 - **Meet with college representatives when they visit BHS in the fall**
 - **Visit colleges for a campus tour:**
 - **Why should you visit colleges?**
 - **You are just beginning the college search process and do not know what kind of college you want to go to, where should you start?**
 - **When is the best time to visit a college campus?**
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THE COLLEGE VISIT

How to make the most of your college visit:

- 1. Sign up of the information session and tour**
 - 2. Walk around without the tour guide before or after the official tour**
 - 3. Eat in the dining hall**
 - 4. Read the campus newspapers and bulletin posters**
 - 5. Take individual notes and then compare with family members**
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ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

- **Schedule an interview, if offered by the college:**
 - 1. Dress appropriately**
 - 2. Bring a resume**
 - 3. Familiarize yourself with the school**
 - 4. Ask questions**
 - 5. Be able to answer “Why this school?”**
 - **Sit in on a class/meet with a professor or coach, if possible**
 - **Visit with a trusted family member/friend**
 - **Speak with current students (BHS alumni) - consult your counselor if you are interested**
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ADVICE

- **Get excited about your “likely” schools!**
 - **Buy a t-shirt/sweatshirt**
 - **Join a social media group with other interested students**
 - **Talk to friends about what a great school it is**
 - **Start rooting for their teams**
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THE JUNIOR FAMILY CONFERENCE

- **Parents: Please schedule an appointment through **Microsoft Bookings** - the link will be sent on Monday, December 8th**
 - **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 junior family conference**
 - **Parents may participate in-person, via Teams, or by phone**
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CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNSELORS

- Please join the counselors this **Friday, December 5th at 9:30am at the high school** for our Conversations with Counselors event
- We will continue the conversation started tonight



BRIARCLIFF

H I G H S C H O O L
