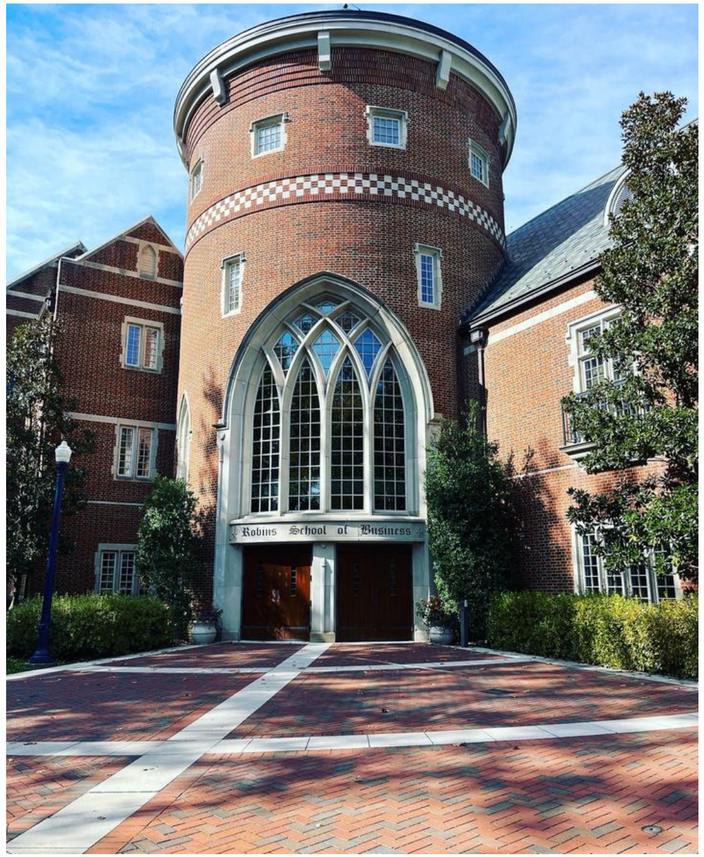


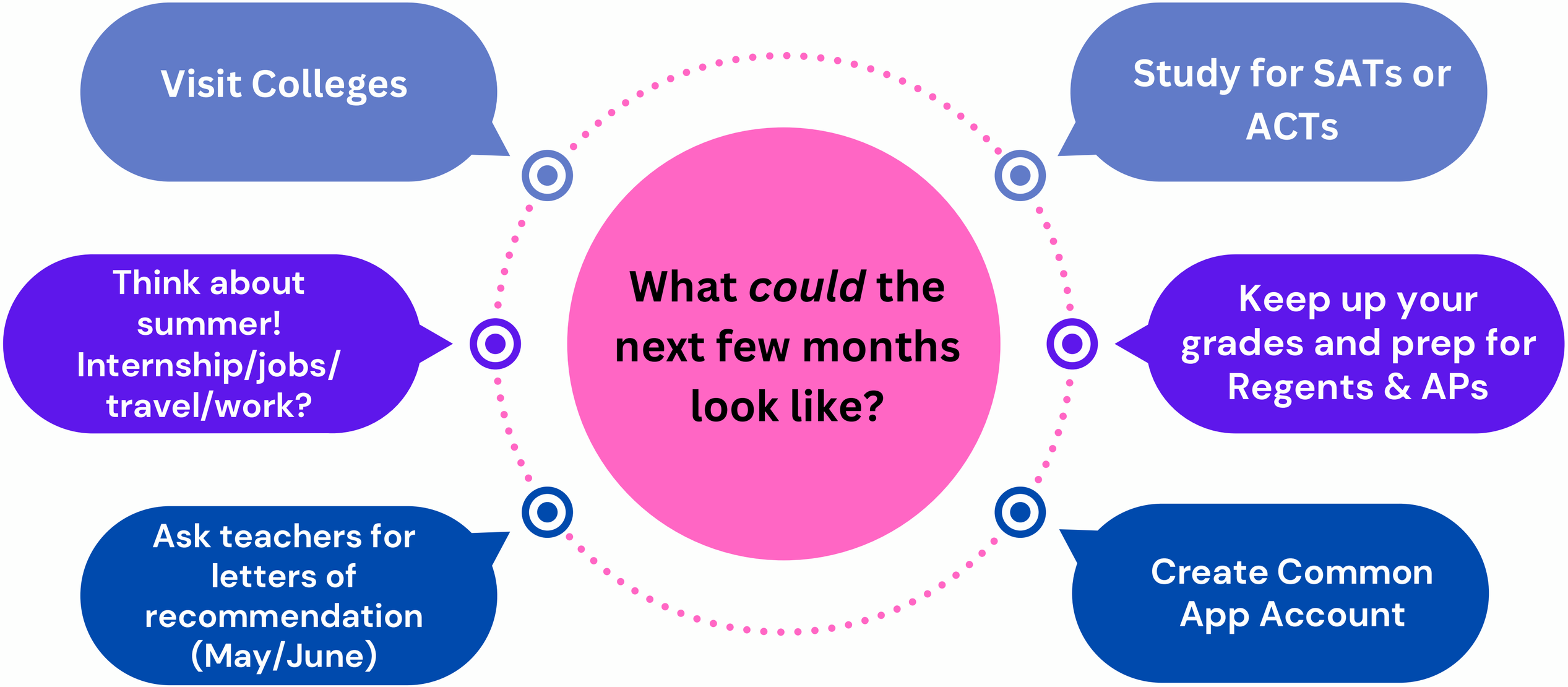
Welcome 11th Grade Parents!



Tappan Zee High School



December 4 2025


Visit Colleges
Study for SATs or ACTs
Think about summer! Internship/jobs/ travel/work?
What *could* the next few months look like?
Keep up your grades and prep for Regents & APs
Ask teachers for letters of recommendation (May/June)
Create Common App Account

Factors influencing the college search

- Geographic Location
- Size
- Environment
- Type of Institution
- Major
- Cost
- Diversity
- Social Life
- Special Interests / Programs
- “Prestige”



You'll never know

who you'll meet,

and if you're

lucky...

what you'll eat!

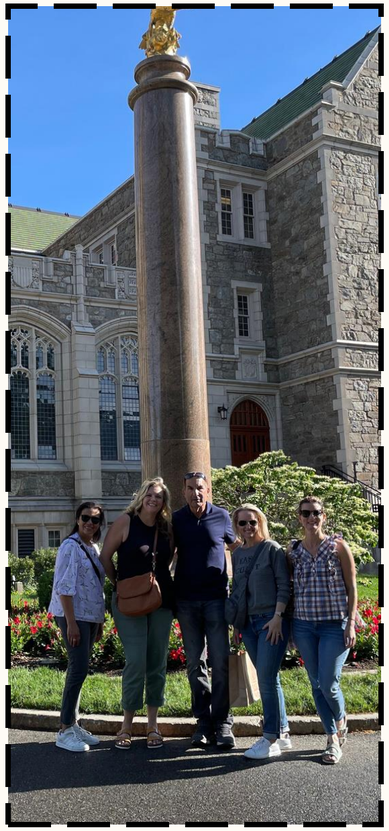








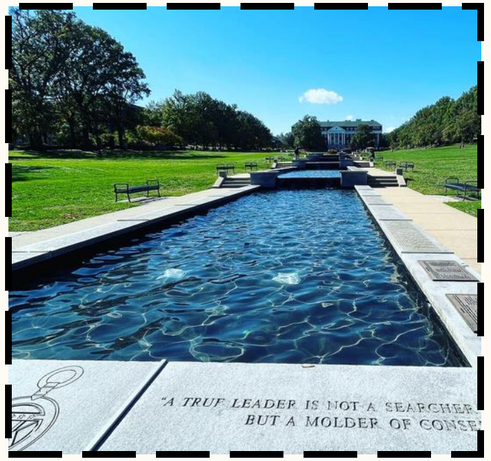












How To Find Out More

- Meet with your counselor
- Visit Colleges
- View College Websites
- Other college search engines like BigFuture, Niche, The College Tour, Unigo
- Meet with College Reps!
- E-mail / call admissions for specific questions
- Naviance - Comprehensive search engine (better than College Board), college descriptions, tours, TZHS admissions scattergrams





- Tool for career and college planning
- All students are registered & parents will receive an email.

(video is still available on @TZHSCounseling via YouTube)

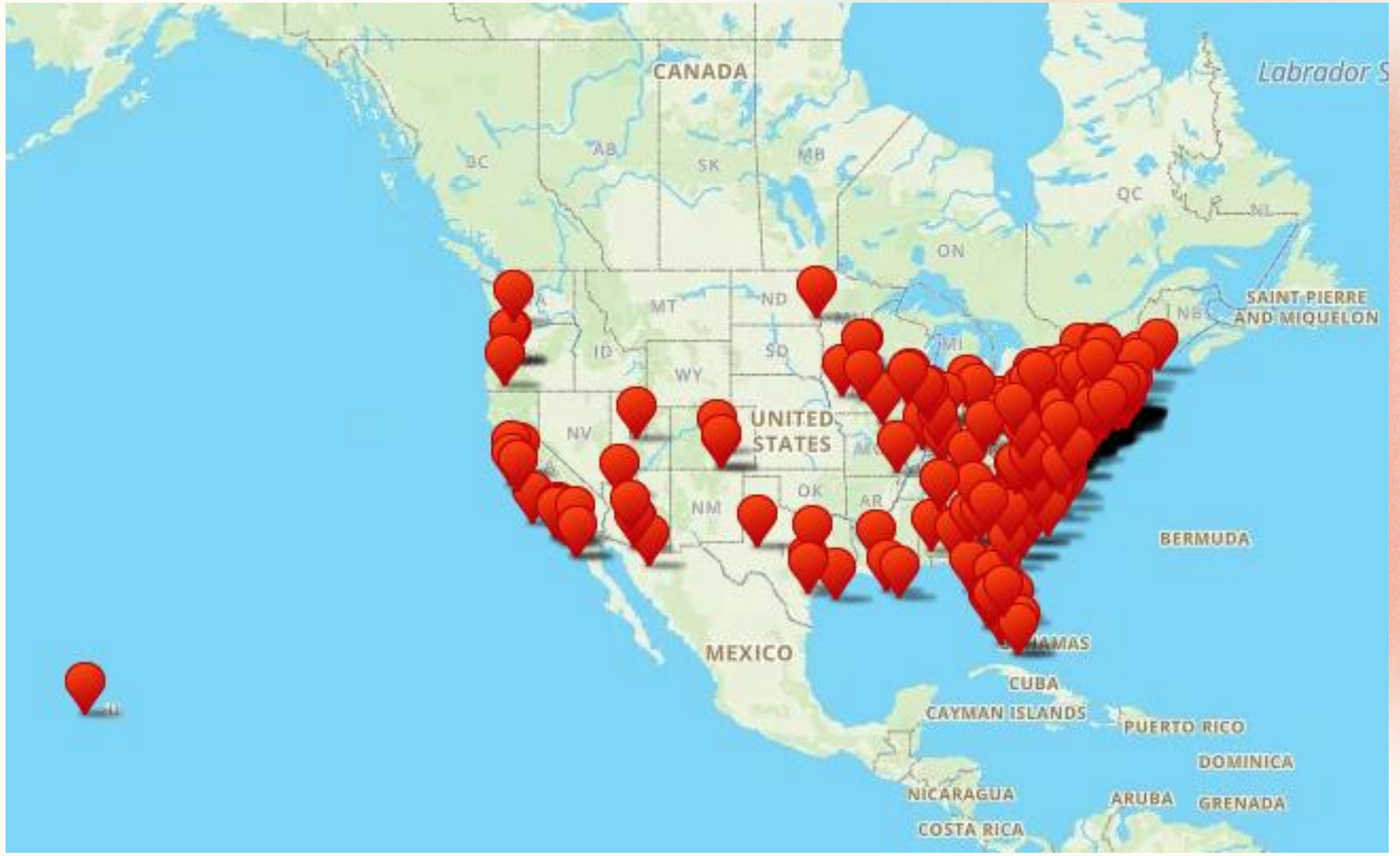
- College search program with TZHS specific data!

- Application management system
- All students were instructed to take the Achieve Works Personality Inventory & Strengths Explorer Inventory

Where are our graduates?

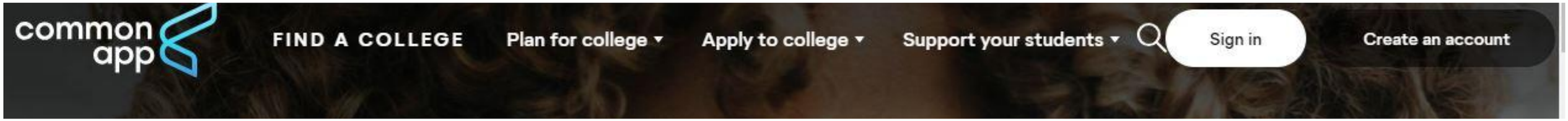
The class of 2025:

- 47% attending Public Institutions;
- 43% attending Private Institutions
- 48% In State and 42% Out of State
- 79% (192 students) applied EA or Rolling
- 19% (48 students) applied ED, ED2, or REA



WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

- **Grades (transcript)**
- **Strength of Schedule**
- **Test Scores (if applicable)**
- **Essay(s)**
- **Co-curricular activities, part-time work, summer experiences, etc.**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- **Demonstrated Interest**



- Allows students to apply to multiple colleges and universities using a single, standardized application. There are over 1000 colleges both in the United States and internationally on Common App.

- The platform provides a standardized application form that includes personal information, academic history, extracurricular activities, and the essay.

- Many schools will require a supplement in the form of short answers and / or additional essays. The supplements are on the Common App website. Some schools require students to create a STARS (Self-reported Transcript and Academic Record System) account which is an external portal where they need to upload their grades. The key is to keep checking emails. Deadlines are deadlines!

- If schools do not use the Common App, those applications can be accessed through their individual websites. CUNY schools are not on the Common Application. SUNY schools are.



Application Types

- Early Decision / Early Decision 2
- Early Action
- Restrictive EA
- Rolling Decision
- Priority / Scholarship Deadline

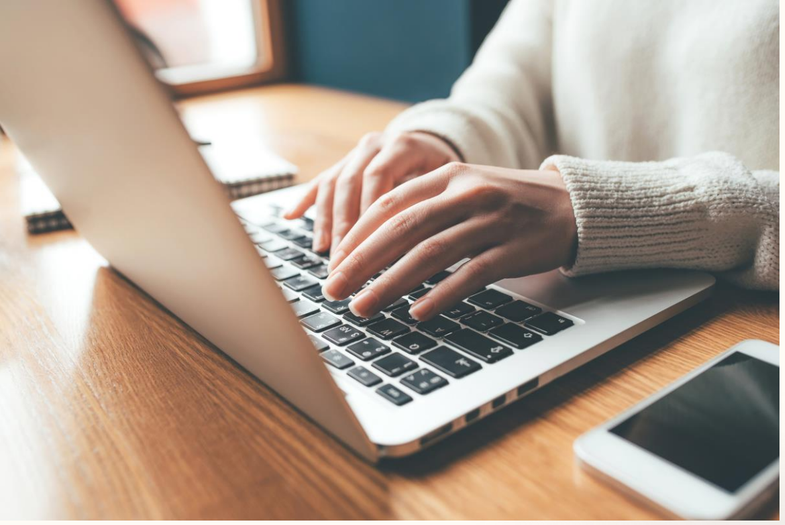




The PSAT, SAT and ACT

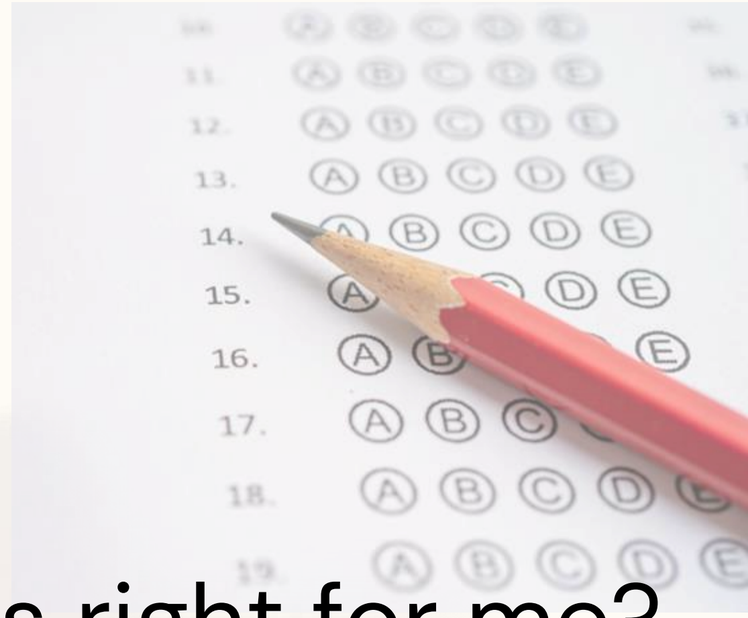
PSAT

- Given in October - completely digital
- Results were released on CollegeBoard and on the BigFuture School mobile app in November.
- Qualifying exam for the National Merit Scholarship (NMSQT)
  - Juniors who achieve a high Selection Index Score (based on PSAT/NMSQT scores) may advance in the National Merit Scholarship competition.
  - Semifinalists are determined by state and represent the top 1% of test-takers.
  - Finalists may receive scholarships funded by the NMSC, colleges, or corporate sponsors.





SAT v ACT



- To test or not to test? Which test is right for me?
- Test Blind / Test Optional / Test Mandatory
- How often should I take them?
- What is score choice/superscoring?
- How are scores sent?
- Fairtest and Compass are great resources

A Breakdown…

Pre – Act	• Grade 10 • *Math = Pre-algebra, algebra through geometry/coordinate geometry* • Science section (this is optional as well as the writing)
PSAT	• Grade 11 • *Math = Algebra, geometry through trigonometry*
ACT	• Grade 11 and / or beyond. New ACT is shorter with 44 fewer questions (pace will feel slower) • Optional Science and Writing section. • *Math = Pre Algebra through Alg 2 / Trig (Calculator can be used on all sections!)* • Paper and digital started in April 2025.
SAT	• Grade 11 and / or beyond • Test is slower paced • *Math = Pre Algebra through Pre Calc* • Digital only (as of March 2024)

What Lies Ahead

- Individual family meetings with counselor
- College Admissions Panel - May 7th at 6:30
- 11th Grade small group meetings with students for college application information
- Common Application Workshops – Aug 2026
- 12th Grade Parent Workshop in September
- Application Deadlines: Oct - Jan
- SAT / ACT
- Fall Financial Aid Workshop / Filing Deadline
- Decision Day - May 1, 2027!



Tips for Parents

- Avoid making college admissions the only thing you talk about at home.
- Instead of telling your son/daughter what to do, ask how you can help?
- Keep communication channels open; Share your thoughts, feelings, and reality openly and honestly.
- Sometimes, all students need is a listening ear, so be that person for them.
- It's your son/daughter who is heading to college, so let them take the lead.
- Remember, your parenting skills are not defined by which college your child gets into.
- Don't forget to reach out to the school counselor, we are here to help.

Support



- Junior and Senior Year *can* be overwhelming for students*
- Students emotional well-being should and always will be our top priority



Psychologists:
Dr. Burns
Dr. Hercman

Social Workers:
Mrs. Cursio
Mrs. Scott

*It also can be fun and exciting!

Helpful links

Naviance Fairtest Cappex College Board

Fastweb Niche ACT Unigo 16 Personalities

The College Tour Khan Academy Common App

The College Essay Guy Compass Education

The College Scorecard SnowDay

QUESTION & ANSWER