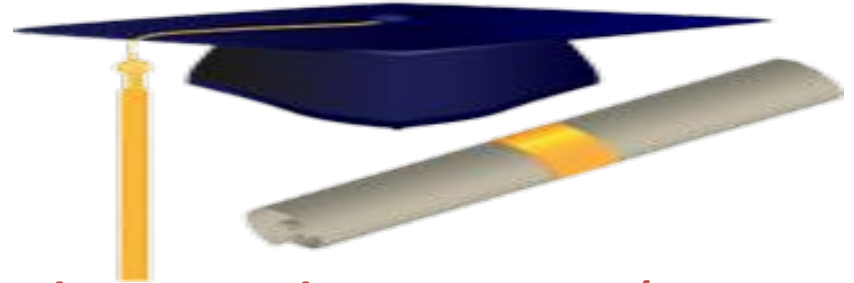




# Graduation Requirements

- 4 years of English, Social Studies and PE
- 3 years of Math, Science
- 1 year of Art/Music, Health, World Language
- Electives (3)
- Minimum 22 credits
- Regents (5 exams) vs. Advanced Regents (8 exams, 3 years World language and checkpoint B exam or 2 years CTEC)



# Junior Meeting

- **Spring 2026 Individual Junior Meeting**
  - *Review transcript*
  - *Graduation requirements*
  - *Naviance: college research tools*
  - *College application process (senior year)*
  - *Senior packet (due in September)*
  - *Select Courses for Senior Year*
    - *Prerequisites (Ex. Minimum of 85 GPA & 85 in course or on Regents Exam for College Courses)*

***The junior meeting presentation will be shared with students so they can follow along during the junior meeting-it includes step by step instructions for Common App and Naviance***

**Fall 2026 Individual Senior Meeting**

# COMMON APP vs. NAVIANCE

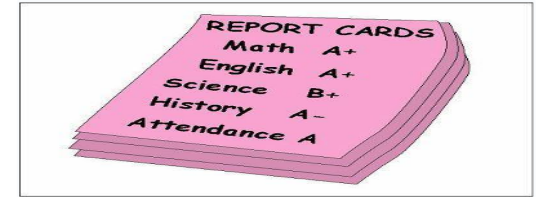
Common App: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)

*(Website to apply to four year colleges)*

Naviance: [Student link on district website](#)

*(Website for **college searches**, career assessments, create resumes; where to request teacher recommendation letters; how we send transcripts/letters to colleges)*

# First Steps



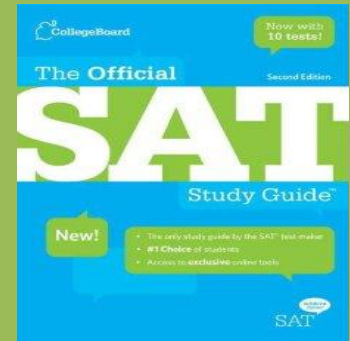
- *Keep doing their best: every grade counts*
- *GPA is finalized at the end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade (average of all final grades on transcript)*
- *SAT Accommodations are not automatic – must request (sign consent form/return to Guidance – takes 6-8 weeks for decision)*
- *Prep and Register for SAT college entrance exam at: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)*

- *Prep and Register for **ACT** college entrance exam at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)*
- ***Student athletes - register at NCAA website: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>***
- *Always use personal email – not school email - when creating Common App, College Board, ACT and NCAA accounts*
- ***CEEB Code for our high school: 331360***
- ***ACCES-VR: outside services for students with IEP/504 (see Mrs. Sternemann for packet). Can help pay for part of college tuition***
- ***Students must request testing accommodations for college they will attend (not automatic - provide IEP/504 to college for consideration)***

# SAT/ACT College Entrance Exams

Our school is not an SAT or ACT test center. Students will register to take either exam at a local high school test center.

**SAT** (now digital): [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
(practice also on [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org);  
<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/practice>).



Take exam using Bluebook app on chromebook.

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

- Full length practice tests on both websites

**For both exams: 4 free score reports to colleges**

- Superscoring (check with college)



**\*ACT exam is given at the following area high schools:  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)**

James I. O'Neill High School  
Middletown High School  
Minisink Valley High School  
Monroe Woodbury High School  
Newburgh Free Academy  
Pine Bush High School  
Port Jervis High School  
Warwick Valley High School

**\*SAT exam is given at the following area high schools:  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)**

James I. O'Neill High School  
Middletown High School  
Minisink Valley High School  
Monroe Woodbury High School  
Newburgh Free Academy  
Pine Bush High School  
Port Jervis High School  
S.S. Seward Institute  
Warwick Valley High School

**\*Exams are not given at every school on every exam date.**

# Community College vs. 4 year colleges

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- *Placement tests, usually no SAT/ACT exams required (exceptions-Nursing/Engineering)*
- *Recommendation letters usually not required*
- *Typically no college essay*
- *However! Taking the SAT or ACT exam once allows students to apply to 4 year colleges (Many 4 year colleges are **test optional** - check the websites)*
- ***Instant Decision Days at Chester Academy for SUNY Orange and SUNY Rockland in senior year***

# College Visits

- **Basis of Comparison**

- *Campus Size*
- *Location*
- *Programs*



- **Sign up online for a Tour or Open House**

- *Tour guides are often current students (provide peer perspective)*
- *Visit in person if possible, virtual tours are an alternative*



★ April 22, 2026 10:15 a.m.-12 p.m. Students only

*SUNY College Fair at S.S. Seward High School*

★ April 23, 2026 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*College Fair - SUNY Orange Gym (SUNY and private colleges). Students/families can attend*

*Great opportunity to speak to college representatives:  
ask questions about majors, athletics,  
extracurriculars, internships, study abroad*



# How to begin the college search

- **Career Interest Profiler** in Naviance (career assessment)
- Search for colleges on **Naviance Supermatch college search** using filters (major, location, athletics); **click college link for detailed, up to date info**
- **Review admissions requirements on college website** (undergraduate, FAQ pages) re: GPA, SAT/ACT required?, etc.
- SUNY information on website (including SUNY viewbook): <https://www.suny.edu/attend/learn-more/forms-and-publications>
- **Visit college campuses/attend college fairs** (in person or virtually) - check college websites
- Check to see if high school courses are prerequisite for any college courses (ex. Chemistry for Nursing)



# Common App Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

**Write about something you feel passionate about!**

# Types of College Admissions

- **Early Decision:** *Legally binding document (can apply to only one college through early decision)*
- **Early Action:** *Can apply to multiple colleges, not legally binding, no obligation to go if accepted*
- **Regular Admission:** *typically January - February deadlines (check college websites)*
- **Rolling Admission:** *continuously accept applications until programs fill up - no deadline*
- (All deadlines are firm - keep track!)
- **5/1-College Decision Day for 4 year colleges.**

# Financial Aid, Scholarships

- **FAFSA financial aid form** (to apply for federal student loans/grants/scholarships) - can apply for financial aid senior year after 10/1/26
- **Scholarship websites:**
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com); [www.fatomei.com](http://www.fatomei.com)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.chegg.com/scholarships](http://www.chegg.com/scholarships)
- [www.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com)
- <https://www.salliemae.com/college-scholarship-search/>
- [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-directory?SFMC\\_cid=EM886697-&rid=47738588](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-directory?SFMC_cid=EM886697-&rid=47738588)
- Local scholarships on Guidance website; check with parent/student employers



# College isn't the only option

- **Construction/Health careers:** Lincoln Technical Institute, Universal Technical Institute, Eastwick College, OU BOCES evening Adult Education
- **Union Apprenticeship programs** - sometimes paid to train
- **Military-ASVAB** exam (Armed services aptitude test). Sign up in Guidance or with Local Recruiter for ASVAB exam
- **Workforce** - Job applications/create resumes



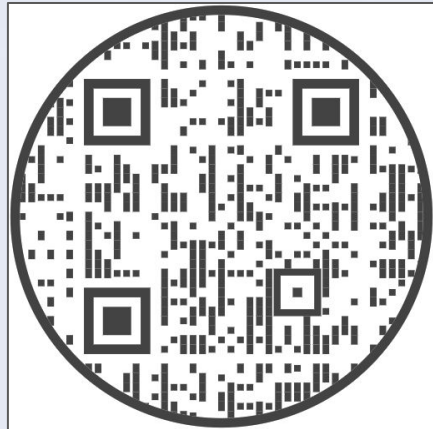
# Chester Academy Work-Based Learning Program

Jennifer Burretto

*(Work-Based Learning*

*Coordinator/School Counselor)*

[jennifer.burretto@chesterufsd.org](mailto:jennifer.burretto@chesterufsd.org)





ANY  
QUESTIONS?



**Yvonne Sternemann**

*(Junior/Senior School Counselor)*

[yvonne.sternemann@chesterufsd.org](mailto:yvonne.sternemann@chesterufsd.org)