DENMARK

HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Kickoff
Fall 2026

Agenda

- Who is my counselor?
- College Application Process
  - Common App
  - Parchment (transcript requests)
- Georgia Match
- Scholarships
- Military
- Senior Graduation Information

Who is my counselor?



Mrs. Carlson
A-Chap



Mrs.
Spurlock
Char-For



Mr. Brooks
Fos-John



Mrs. Sadler
Jones-Ma



Mrs. Shariett
Mb-Pete



Mrs. Lyons
Pett-Si



Ms. Locke
Sl-Z

College Application Process

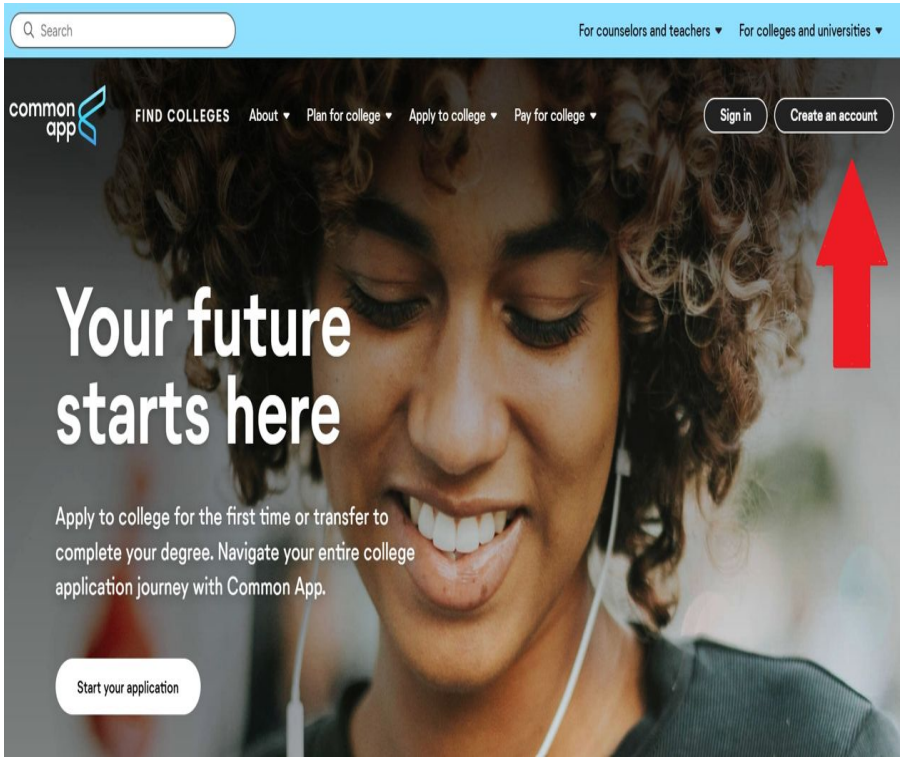
!!!BEGIN SEPTEMBER 1st!!!

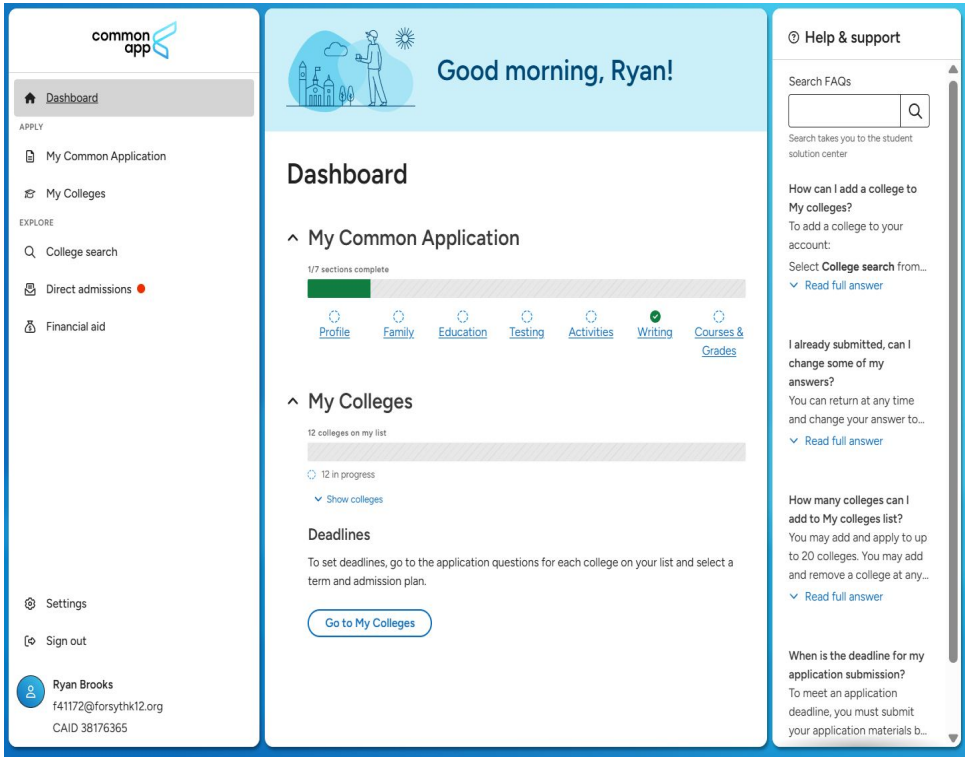
- Determine what college(s) to apply to
- Review deadlines & determine when you will apply (early admission, early decision, regular decision, or rolling admissions)
- Determine what application format you will be required to use.
    - ie:Common App, gaFutures, or other
- Submit application & application fees (usually range from $40-$90 per institution)
- Submit supporting documentation.
    - Transcript
    - Test Scores
    - Letters of Recommendation (if required)
    - Essay (if required)
- Follow up with admissions frequently.
    - Check portal
    - Rolling admissions
    - Scholarships/Housing information



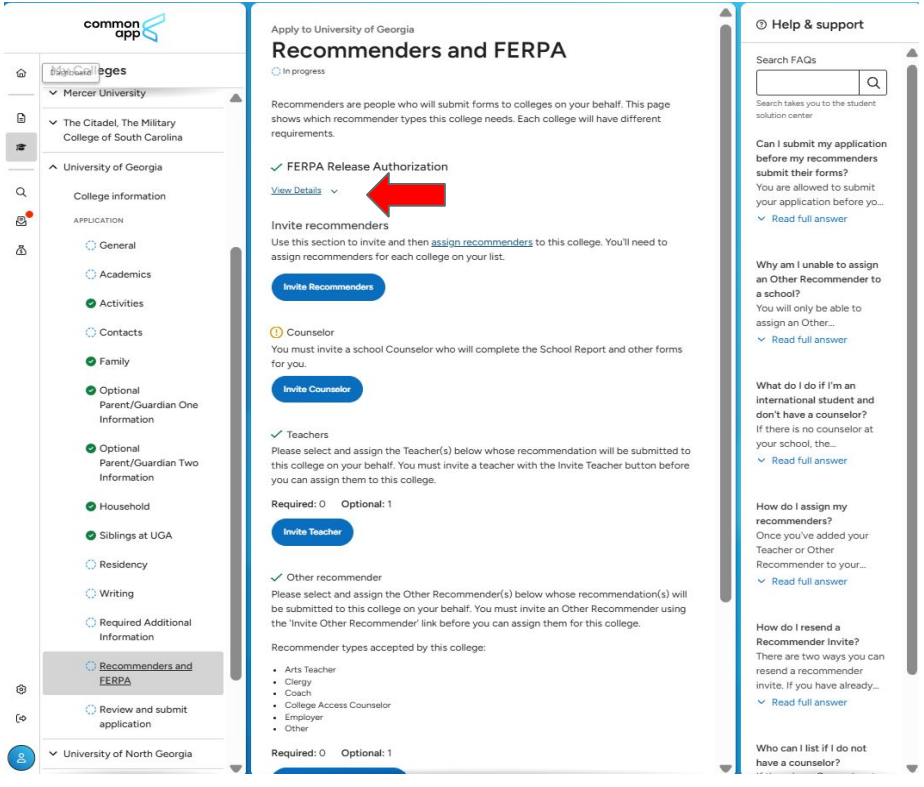
*Check out the **College Application Toolkit!***

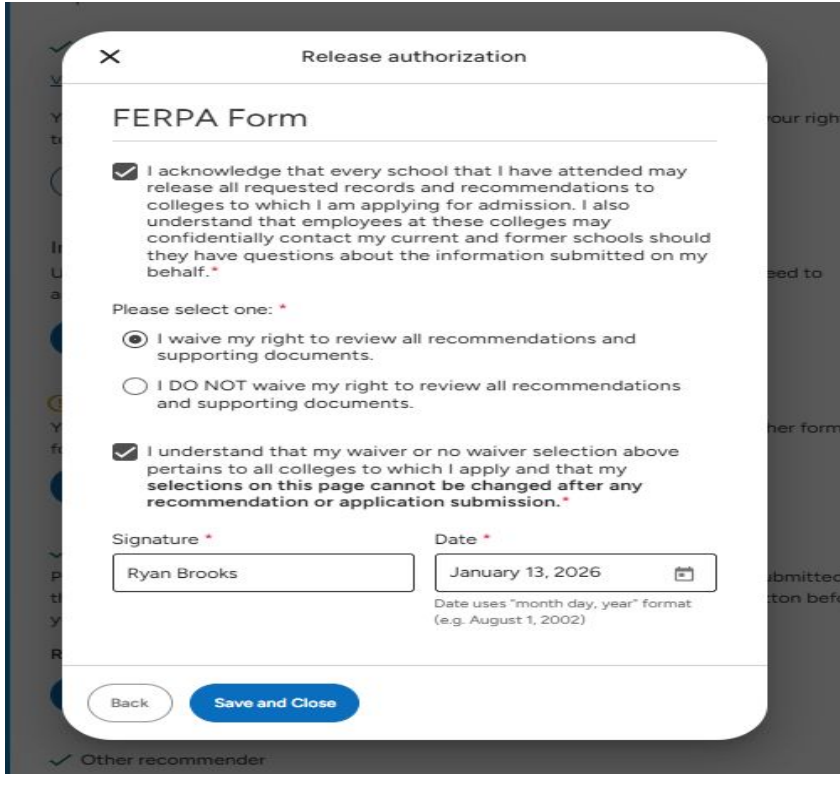
Common Application Website



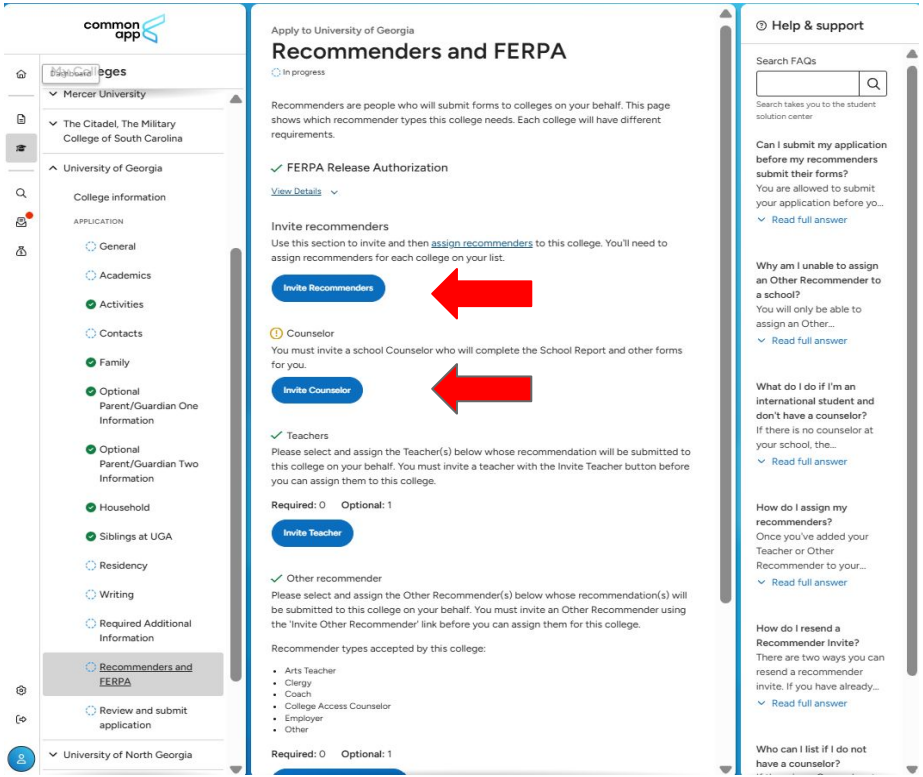


Common App Recommendations and FERPA



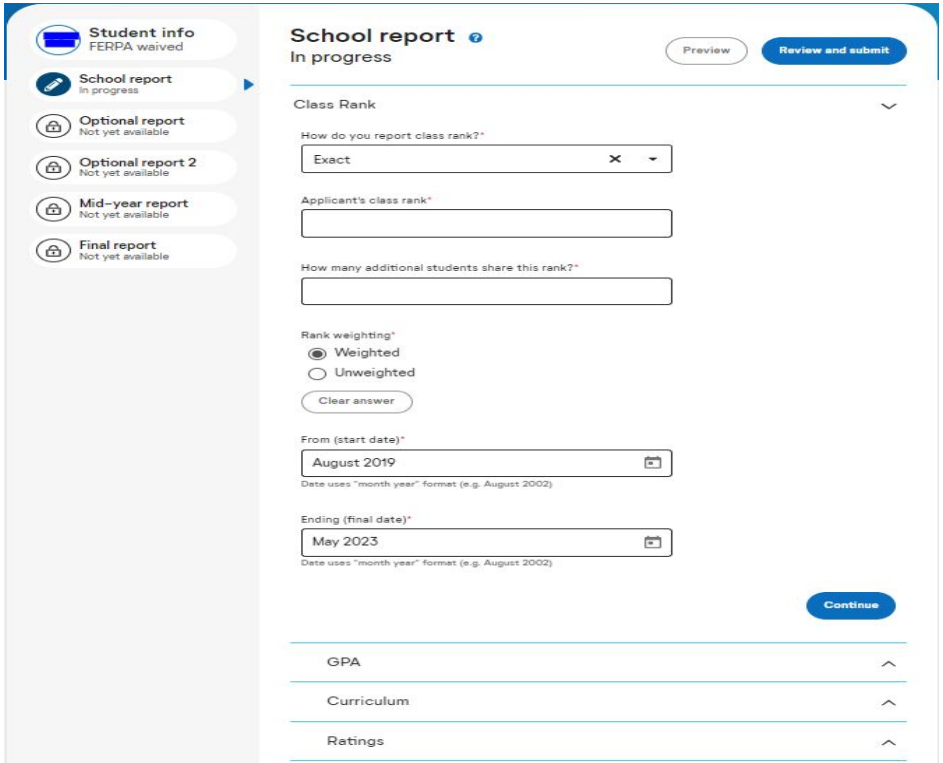


Common Application Counselor and Recommender Invites



- Invite their Recommenders
  - Teachers, Coaches, Community members, etc..
  - Make sure to talk to your recommenders before submitting a request from them.
- Invite their Counselors
  - This initiates an email to us
  - Make sure to use the email you see on the website.
  - We will email you back using the email associated with the Common Application with any next steps.
  - Once all your required steps are completed, we will fill out School Report and submit any required counselor letters of recommendation.

What is a School Report?



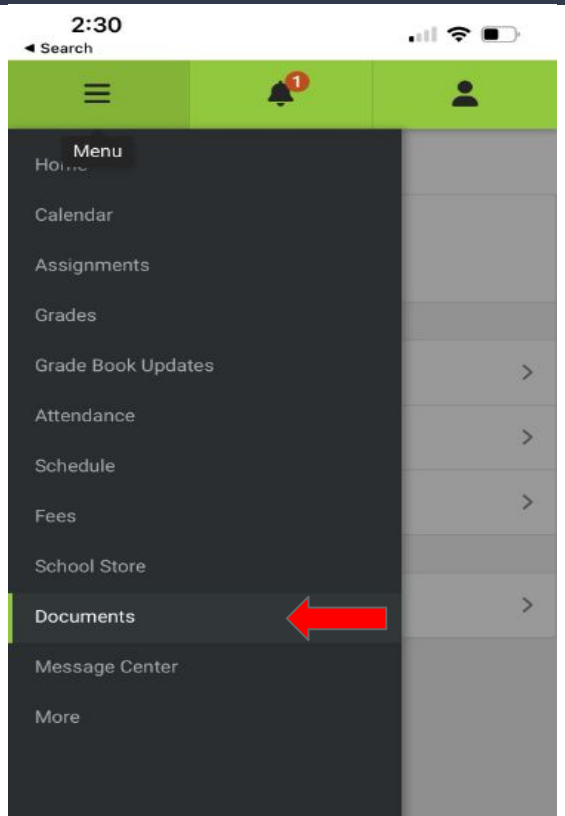
A school report contains:

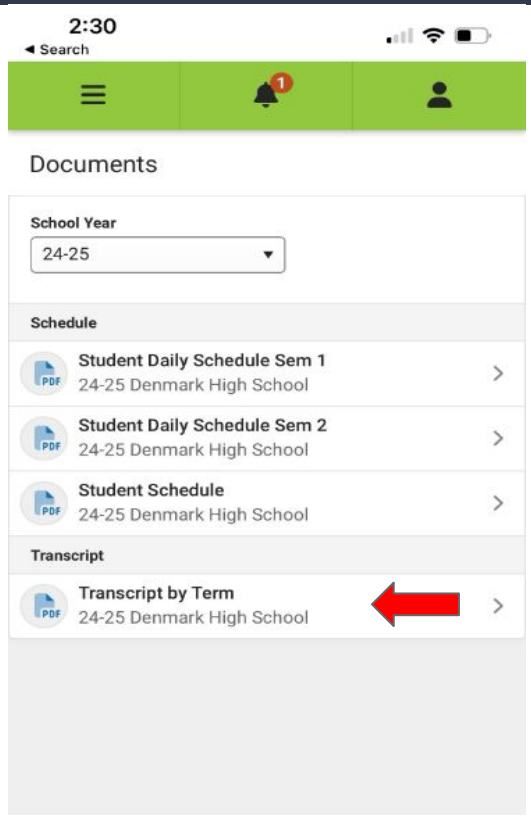
- GPA
- Class Rank
- Transcript
- Brief likert scale academic and extracurricular assessment

A school report CANNOT be submitted until a Common App transcript is requested from Parchment.

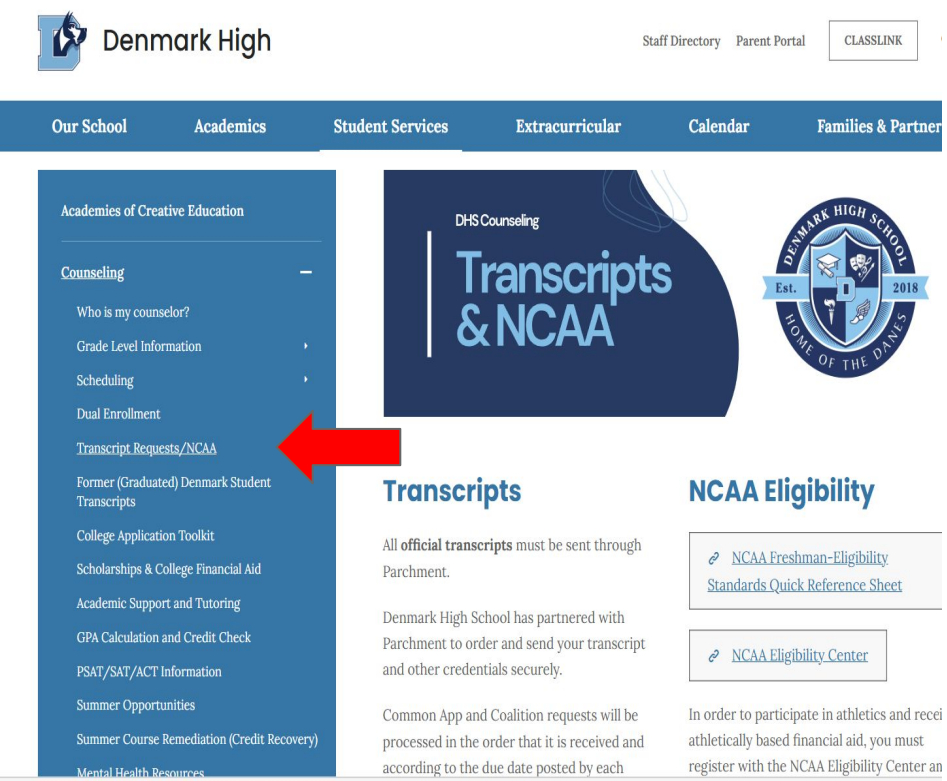
A counselor recommendation will only be completed if it is required by the college.

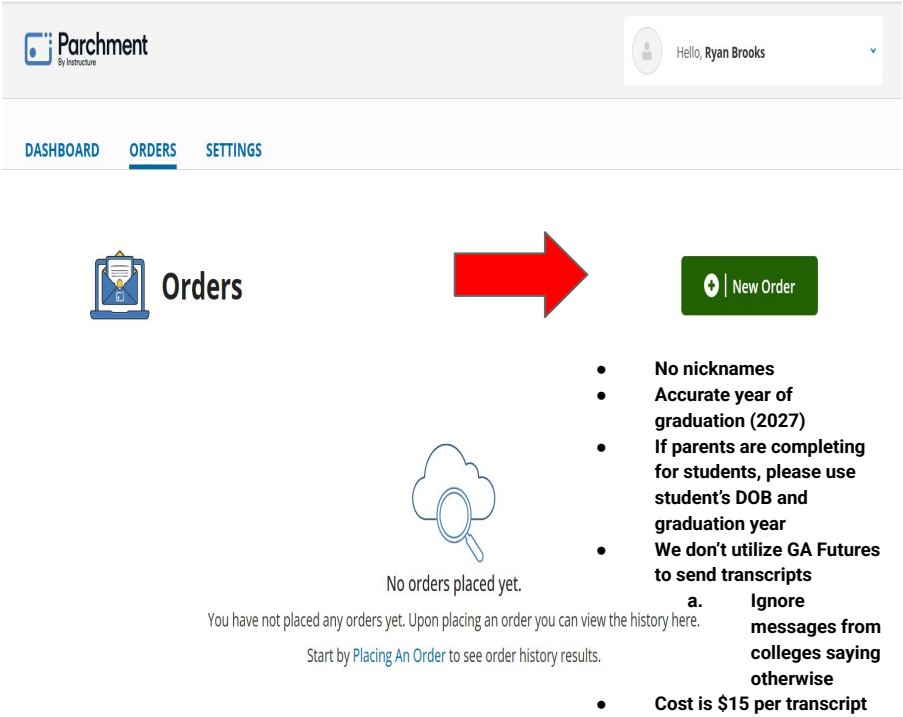
Transcripts: Self Reporting





Transcript Requests





- **No nicknames**
- **Accurate year of graduation (2027)**
- **If parents are completing for students, please use student's DOB and graduation year**
- **We don't utilize GA Futures to send transcripts**
  a. **Ignore messages from colleges saying otherwise**
- **Cost is $15 per transcript**

Letters of Recommendation

1. Check to see if this is a necessary part of your college application. We will not write letters if they will not be read.
2. Provide your counselor or teacher with your resume and Letter of Recommendation Info Sheet. DHS Senior Profile
3. Provide recommender with application due date, making sure to give them at least **7-10 business days** to complete your request.
4. Remember, we do not work during school breaks.

**Guidelines- Ask a teacher that knows you very well to write you a letter. This could be a club sponsor, or a teacher that you have had that can speak to your struggle or investment in a course. Teachers reserve the right to decline your request for a letter of recommendation.

Click here for an article on high school resume templates.

Essays (Workshop 8/19 Senior Night)

What are the 2026-27 Common App essay prompts?

Below is the full set of essay prompts for 2026–2027:

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.

Tips for using AI for your college essays.

- Use AI as a helper, but you **MUST** make it your own.
- The misuse of AI has had a negative impact on many college applications. (ie buzz words… tapestry)

Resources:

Crafting an Unforgettable College Essay

How to Write a College Essay

Common Deadlines

School	Early Action	Regular Decision	App Method
UGA	Oct 15th	Jan 1st	Common App
Ga Tech	Oct 15th	Jan 5th	Common App
Kennesaw	Rolling	Rolling	Common App
Ga State	Nov 15th	May 23rd	Common App
UNG	Nov 15th	March 1st	Common App or gaFutures
The Citadel	Rolling	Rolling	Common App



*Any students who are applying to a school with an early January deadline needs to submit their applications by December 11th. If applications are submitted over winter break, they will be processed when we return starting January 11th.

What is GEORGIA MATCH?

- Georgia Match is an easy way for you to see what Georgia Colleges you “fit” academically with. (*UGA , GT, and GCSU excluded*).
- You should receive a letter in the mail listing the colleges you qualify for based on your HOPE GPA.
- You can also log into GAFutures to see the schools you matched with.
- If you didn’t receive a letter, or you are not able to find your GEORGIA MATCH schools, the school likely doesn’t have your SSN on record. Please bring in your physical copy to our registrar. (Ms. Anne Tanksley)



Financial Aid- HOPE/Zell Miller

- Access your HOPE GPA at any time on the gaFutures website.
- **HOPE Scholarship**: Minimum 3.0 HOPE GPA & 4 rigor requirements
    - Typically covers 75-85% of tuition costs (based on lottery funding)
- **Zell Miller Scholarship**: Minimum 3.7 Zell Miller GPA; Minimum combined score of 1200 on the math and reading portions of the SAT or a minimum composite score of 25 on the ACT (single national administration of either test) and meet 4 rigor requirements
    - Covers 100% of tuition at public institutions in GA
    - Lowers to 3.3 GPA requirement in college
- **How is it computed?** Core classes only including foreign language, .5 quality point for AP/DE courses, never goes above a 4.0
- **How do I apply?** FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid and GSFAPP
- Students are re-evaluated every 30 credit hours to earn or lose HOPE/Zell Miller in college.

Applying for HOPE/ZELL

New in High School Functions: A weekly GSFAPP/FAFSA File to share which seniors have submitted a GSFAPP and/or the 2026-27 FAFSA. The file will be in your HSF Inbox each Friday evening.

As graduation is fast approaching, here are a few things to help your seniors prepare for college in Georgia.

1) Complete the online Georgia Student Finance Application (GSFAPP)
   a) The GSFAPP is how they can apply for HOPE Scholarship or Grant, Zell Miller Scholarship or Grant, and (if attending an eligible private college) the Tuition Equalization Grant.
   b) The GSFAPP can be completed in 3-5 minutes and is good for 10 years.
2) Check their current HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship GPA Calculation in their GAfutures Dashboard through the My High School HOPE GPA tab.
3) Complete 2026-27 FAFSA – Check out the information in GAfutures to get started

Students must have a GAfutures Student account to be able to access the application and their High School HOPE GPA. Their profile must include their **CORRECT NAME, high school name, address, date of birth, and social security number.*

Other helpful links in GAfutures:

- Preparing for College in Georgia
- How To Track Your HOPE Academic Eligibility
- HOPE Scholarship - Initial Eligibility from High School
- Zell Miller Scholarship - Initial Eligibility from High School
- Selective Service – required for male students (***Changes coming 12/18/2026**)
- State Programs



Financial Aid- HOPE Grant

- HOPE Grant at Technical Schools
  - No GPA requirement upon entrance
- HOPE Career Grant- 100% tuition in certain areas
  - Automotive
  - Aviation
  - Certified Engineer Assistant
  - Commercial Truck Driving
  - Computer Programming/Computer Technology
  - Construction
  - Diesel Equipment Technology
  - Early Childhood Care & Education
  - Electrical Line Worker
  - Health Science- ex. medical coding, nurse aid
  - Industrial Maintenance
  - Logistics
  - Movie Production/Set Design
  - Precision Manufacturing
  - Welding



DENMARK HIGH SCHOOL

College/Career Search (BigFuture Scholarship)

BIGFUTURE SCHOLARSHIPS - CLASS OF 2027

Complete Qualifying Steps

Complete each step by the following deadlines to earn your entries for $500 and $40,000 scholarships. The earlier you complete each step, the more chances you'll have to win.



Start Your College List

Add three or more colleges to your list

Deadline to Complete: June 30, 2026

Start College List



Start Your Career List

Add three or more careers to your list

Deadline to Complete: November 30, 2026

Start Career List



Start Your Scholarship List

Add three or more scholarships to your list

Opens July 1 Before Senior Year



Strengthen Your College List

3 reaches, 2 matches, and 1 safety

Opens July 1 Before Senior Year



Complete the FAFSA

Complete and submit FAFSA Summary

Opens October 1 of Senior Year



Apply to College

Apply to two or more colleges

Opens October 1 of Senior Year

Financial Aid

- **Institutional**: check college financial aid websites for criteria and categories; apply early for merit scholarships
- **State/Federal:** HOPE, Work-Study Programs, Pell Grant
- **Community**: church, civic groups, local organizations.
- **Private**: parents place of work, FREE scholarship search through websites.
- Visit the DHS Counseling Website.
- www.scholarships.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.gafutures.org
- GSFC

College Fairs at Denmark HS

Student only College Fair:
9/23/2026 During Dane Time 1

College Fair: 9/16/2026
5:30-7pm (students & parents)

Why come?

- Deeper Dive into the college application process.
- Meeting College Reps (80+)
- Show Demonstrated Interest



Military



1. Talk w/ your School Counselor and/or Military Recruiter
2. Take the ASVAB (will offer at DHS 11/18) (QR Below to register)
3. Complete Physical Exam (MEPS)
4. Find the Job that you qualify for
5. Sign the contract and prepare for Basic Training

Military

United States Air Force
Recruiter: Technical Sergeant Cameron Hanner
Office: 678-727-8382
Cell: 678-727-8382
Cameron.Haner@us.af.mil
airforce.com

United States Coast Guard
Recruiter: SK1 Gary Crayton
ROAtlanta@uscg.mil
O.(770)671.9688
C.(470)322.9006
Atlanta | United States Coast Guard (gocoastguard.com)

United States National Guard
Recruiter: SFC Tina Bradley
Office: 912-660-1567
tina.n.bradley.mil@army.mil
100 Aquatic Circle
Cumming, GA 30040
nationalguard.com

United States Army
Recruiter: Randi Korves
Office: 678-392-0604
Cell: 678-392-0604
randi.c.korves2.mil@army.mil
goarmy.com

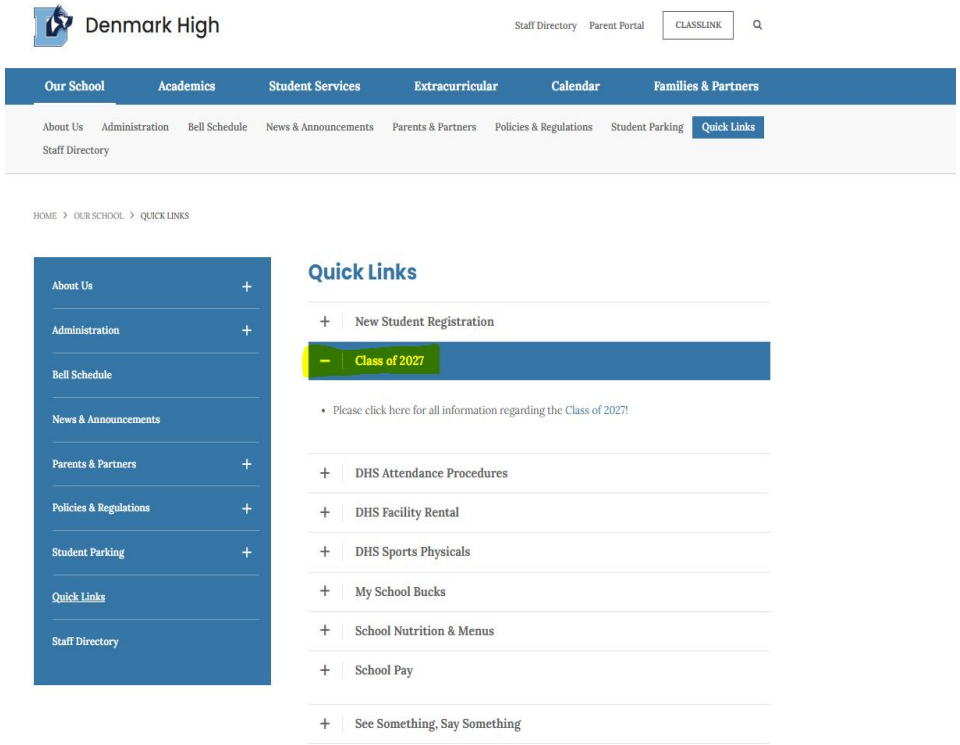
United States Marine Corps
Recruiter: Sgt. Elias Martinez
Office: 678-293-2721
elias.martinez@marines.usmc.mil
www.marines.mil

United States Navy
Recruiter: EN2 (SW/AW) Copeland, Steven
Office: 770-998-1935
Cell: 678-363-2708
steven.a.copeland2.mil@us.navy.mil
www.facebook.com/navyrecruiting

Each branch of military will be doing visits during lunch and tutorial throughout the school year

All of our recruiters' information can also be found on our website

All Things Senior



Everything you will need to know about senior events, senior dues, dates, and times will be located in the “Class of 2027” link on the Denmark HS homepage.

Graduation

Date: May 20th, 2027 (Thursday)

Time: 7:30pm

Where: Gas South Arena

- Senior dues are confirmed! The fees are **$165** at the start of the year, but the price will go up to $190 as the school year progresses. This will not only cover the cap and gown but also the diploma, diploma cover, graduation ceremony, and a host of other items pertaining to graduation.

- It benefits the senior to go ahead and pay early to avoid the fee increase. Seniors **CANNOT** do an a la carte on senior items.

- Payments should be made to the 3rd Ascent website.

Senior Portraits

SENIOR PORTRAITS



PORTRAITS MUST BE TAKEN BY DECEMBER 31ST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE YEARBOOK

Schedule at booking.cady.com for an appointment in their studio

Senior Portraits

CADY STUDIOS







No matter what type of portrait session you select to book, the formal, casual, and cap and gown shot are included. Casual and formal are included in the yearbook.

Yearbook


ORDER YOUR
2027 BOOK TODAY!
Books from your Junior, Sophomore and Freshman year are also for purchase on schoolpay while supplies last.
BUY YOUR YEARBOOK!!!
DENMARK
BETTER IN BLUE
SCHOOL CODE: 17396
ORDER TODAY BY VISITING
HTTPS://WWW.YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM/

Medallions



- To earn a medallion, students must be a member of a specific honor society and have completed at least 3 courses within their area of completion, as well as additional requirements.

- Medallions can be earned in the following areas: **Fine Arts, Foreign Language, and Career Tech.**
  - *Please note there is no longer an Advanced Academics Medallion

*If a student qualifies for a medallion in multiple areas, they will receive a “pin” for each additional pathway. Students will only receive 1 medallion.

Requirements Continued...



To earn a medallion, students must be a member of a **specific honor society**.

- **Career Tech**: NTHS
- **Fine Arts**: NHS, ITS, Tri-M, NAHS, Quill & Scroll
- **World Language**: NHS, SNHS (Spanish), FNHS (French)

Community Service Minimum Hour Requirement:

- **Career**: 40 hours
- **Fine Arts**: 20 hours
- **World Language:** 10 hours

*All requirements can be found on our website.

Honor Society Sponsors

National Honor Society- Claire Patterson

French National Honor Society- Dustin Daniel

Spanish National Honor Society- Jeannette Pagano

Science National Honor Society- Courtney Jewett

Mu Alpha Theta (Math Honor Society)- Caitlyn Sloan

Tri-M- Kayla Poor

National Art Honor Society- Vina Jumper

International Thespian Society- Kirk Grizzle

Seals...

Career Ready Diploma Seals

- These are tracked by your CTAE teachers

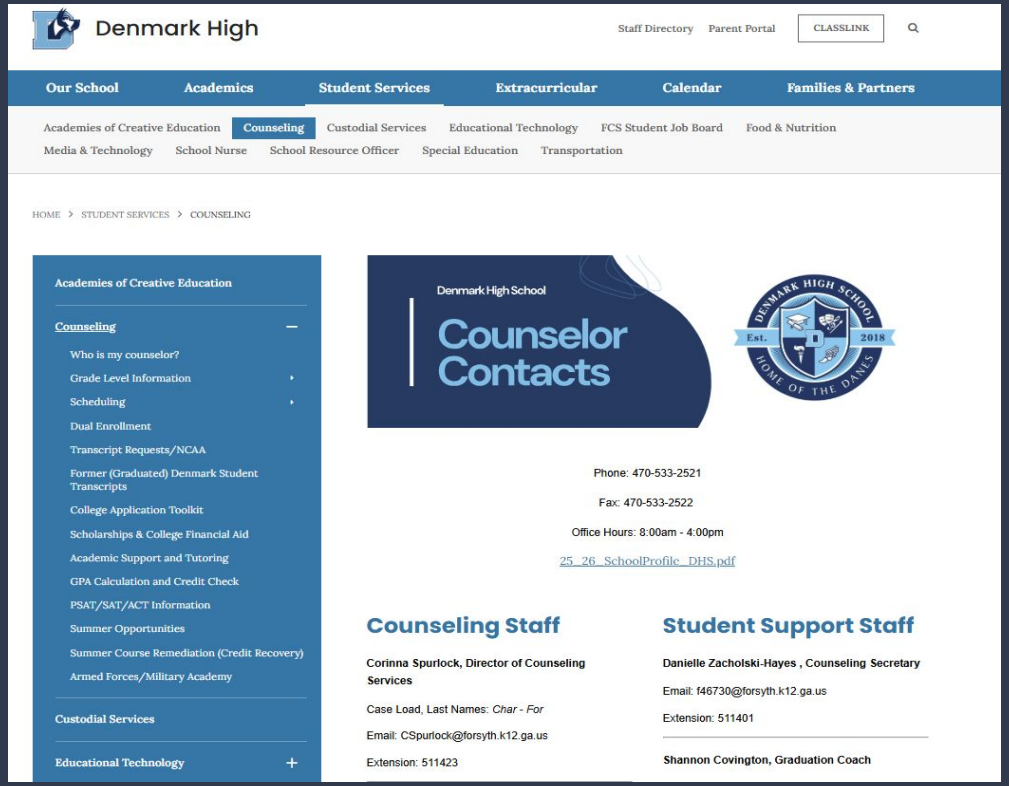
Seal of Biliteracy (Sponsor: Dustin Daniel)

International Skills Diploma Seal (Sponsor: Agnieszka Ergun)

Fine Arts Diploma Seal (Kirk Grizzle)

Social Studies: Civic Engagement Diploma Seal (Leslie Brunson)

School Counseling Website



Instagram

@denmarkhscounseling

What do I need to do RIGHT NOW?

1. Take the Fall Senior Survey.
2. Pay your Senior dues.
3. Take your Senior pictures!
4. Join an Honor Society if you want to earn a medallion at graduation (**Must meet other criteria as well)
5. Determine your postsecondary plans.
6. If applying to college, create a Common App and Parchment account.
    a. Sign FERPA and invite your counselor
7. Connect with others who can help you pursue your dreams!


THANK YOU FOR
coming