# FLEETWOOD AREA HIGH SCHOOL

## School Counseling Office

*presents*




# "Senior Year and the College Application Process"

# School Counseling Office Staff

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# Fleetwood Graduation Requirements

- You need 25 credits to graduate…
  - English (4 credits)
  - Math (3 credits)
  - Social Studies (4 credits / 3 credits BCTC)
  - Science (3 credits)
  - Health (0.5 credit)
  - Phys. Ed. (1.5 credits)
  - Financial Literacy (0.5 credit)
  - Tech./Business (1 credit)
  - Arts (1 credit)
  - Humanities (1 credit)
  - Electives (5.5 credits)



* Requirements adjusted for students enrolled in BCTC

# What's my Plan for After Graduation?

## Workforce

*Have you…*

- Updated your resume
- Looked for jobs
- Started working P/T

## Military

*Have you…*

- Decided which branch
- Spoken to a recruiter
- Taken the ASVAB

## College

*Have you…*

- Visited colleges
- Spoken with a rep.
- Taken the SAT/ACT

**Make sure you are speaking with your school counselor to make sure you are on the right track!**

# If You've Decided to Apply to College…

- In this presentation you will learn about…
  - Types of college applications
  - Ways to complete your application
  - Application requirements
  - Using Xello (our NEW college and career software)
  - Tracking your college applications in Xello
  - Requesting your initial transcript
  - Requesting recommendation letters
  - Sending standardized test scores (SAT/ACT)
  - NCAA Initial Eligibility for Student-Athletes
  - Applying for financial aid
  - Searching for scholarships
  - Requesting your final transcript



# ATTENTION! - Berks County Regional College Fair

- **LOCATION:** Penn State Berks - Beaver Athletic & Wellness Center
  1450 Harper Road
  Wyomissing, PA 19610

- **DATE:** Tuesday, October 13, 2026

- **TIME:** 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

All students and families are welcome to attend for **FREE!**
More information along with a list of participating colleges can be found here

# Types of College Applications

- Do You Plan to Apply:
  - **Early Decision** - this is a binding application, meaning that if you are accepted by the school, you are agreeing to attend there. You can only apply to one school (most likely your top choice) through Early Decision. The Early Decision application deadline is typically November 1st and students typically receive an admission decision by December.
  - **Early Action** - this is different then Early Decision as Early Action is non-binding. You can apply to multiple schools through Early Action. Early Action application deadlines are typically in November and students typically receive an admission decision in January or February.



# Types of College Applications (continued)

- Do You Plan to Apply:
  - **Regular Decision** - this is the college/university's typical deadline for applications. Applications are accepted up to the deadline and then are reviewed once the deadline has passed. Regular Decision deadlines are typically in January and students typically receive an admission decision in March.
  - **Rolling Admission -** colleges that accept applications through rolling admission will evaluate applications as they are received. Applications are typically accepted until all slots for the incoming class have been filled, which offers students a large window in which they can apply.



# Completing the Application

- You can typically complete your college application in one of these two ways:
  - **Direct to the Institution -** many colleges/universities have their own internet-based application that allows you to complete the application for their college alone and submit it directly to them.
  - **Common App (https://commonapp.org) -** the Common App is an internet-based application that allows students to apply to any schools that are in Common App's network of nearly 1,000 colleges/universities. This is useful if you are applying to multiple colleges/universities who accept the Common App.

# Reviewing Application Requirements




- Does the College/University require:
  - A self-report transcript
  - Recommendation Letters
  - An essay
  - Standardized test scores (SAT/ACT)
- Where can I find my school's requirements:
  - While every school's website is a little different, look for a section titled "Admissions" and/or "Undergraduate Admissions." Application requirements can typically be found there.
  - Look at Penn State University's website and try to find their undergraduate admission requirements.

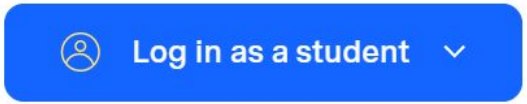
# Requesting Documents through Xello

- What is Xello?
  - Xello is a college and career readiness program that allows students to explore and research colleges and careers but also allows the high school counseling office to electronically submit documentation required for your college applications.




- Xello allows you to:
  - Track your college applications
  - Request that your transcripts are sent to the colleges/universities to which you are applying
  - Request that recommendation letters are sent to the colleges/universities to which you are applying

# Logging-in to Xello

- Go to Clever.com
- In the upper right hand corner, click on: 

- Search for and select **Fleetwood Area High School**
- Login with your school email address and password
- Select Xello from your list of Apps:



# Tracking Your College Applications (Common App)

- If you are applying to colleges through Common App, the first thing you want to do after you have submitted your college applications, is to "track" the applications in Xello (this allows you and the Counseling Office to keep track of the colleges you are applying to):
  - On your Xello dashboard, under **Plans,** click **College Applications**
  - In the upper right hand corner of the screen, click on **"Connect Common App to Xello"**




  - Once you've created the tracker for the college, use the **Application checklist** to stay on top of your tasks to complete for the application.

# Tracking Your College Apps. (Non-Common App)

- The first thing you want to do after you have submitted your college applications, is to “track” the applications in Xello (this allows you and the Counseling Office to keep track of the colleges you are applying to):
  - On your Xello dashboard, under **Plans,** click **College Planning**
  - Click **Create your first application** to choose the college you want to begin tracking. Use the search bar to find a school or pick one of your saved ones. Then, add details such as your application method, type, and deadline.
  - Once you've created the tracker for the college, use the **Application checklist** to stay on top of your tasks to complete for the application.

# Requesting Your Transcript

- After you begin tracking your college applications in Xello you will want to make sure that you request that your high school transcripts are sent to the colleges you have applied to:
  - On your Xello dashboard, under **Plans,** click **College Planning**
  - Select the College application that you want to track
  - Next to **Transcript,** click **Request**. Choose **Initial** transcript as the type of transcript you want to send. Add a due date and click **Send request**. This will send a request to the individual(s) in charge of transcripts at your school who will send your transcript to the college.
  - You can view the status of your transcript to see when it was sent to the college. Next to **Transcript**, click its dropdown and select **Track transcript**. Here you can view all updates of your transcript requests.

# Requesting Recommendation Letters

- Many colleges require you to submit recommendation letters as part of your application
    - Recommendation letters can be from teachers, counselors, advisors, coaches, etc. who know you well and can speak to your character and academic achievements
    - Recommendation letters can't be from family or friends
    - You will not see your recommendation letter, unless the writer chooses to provide a copy to you.



# Requesting Recommendation Letters in Xello

- Directions for requesting recommendation letters:
  - On your Xello dashboard, under **Plans,** click **College Planning.**
  - Select the College application that you need a recommendation letter for.
  - Under the **Application Checklist** you will see recommendation letters listed .
  - If you do not see the recommendation letter option listed, click on **Add task** and select **Recommendation letters** from the dropdown menu.
  - Next to the Recommendation letters option, click on **Request.**

# Requesting Recommendation Letters in Xello (cont.)

- Directions for requesting recommendation letters:
    - You will be prompted to add a due date for the recommendation letter. Choose a due date that occurs at least 1 week before the application deadline. This will help to ensure that your letter is sent on time.
    - If you are requesting the letter from a Fleetwood staff member, use the option to *Search for a referrer at your school* and type in their name. Once their name appears, next to their name click **Select**, and then click **Next** at the bottom of the screen.
    - If you are requesting the letter from a non-Fleetwood staff member, click *Enter a new email address* and enter the individual's name and email address and click **Next.**

# Requesting Recommendation Letters in Xello (cont.)

- Directions for requesting recommendation letters:
    - Once you have added a referrer, on the Add details page you will be prompted to enter a personal note for your referrer. Check out the *Need help* box for useful tips on what to include.
    - You can also upload a resume to let your referrer know your achievements
        - To create a Resume, on your Xello dashboard, under **About Me,** click on **My Resume**
    - When you are ready to send your letter request, click the **Send** button.
    - A success banner at the top of the screen will let you know your letter request has been sent!

# Sending Standardized Test Scores (SAT/ACT)

- If it is required as part of your application, you will need to remember to send your standardized test scores (SAT/ACT)
    - If you need to send SAT scores, here is a step-by-step guide for how to send them: https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/scores/sending-scores/how-to-send
    - If you need to send ACT scores, here is a step-by-step guide for how to send them: https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/scores/sending-your-scores.html
- Please remember that the counseling office is not able to send your SAT or ACT scores on your behalf.

# NCAA Initial Eligibility for Student-Athletes

- If you plan on competing in an NCAA sport at the Division I or Division II level you must be registered with the NCAA Eligibility Center
- When meeting with your school counselor, confirm that you are on-track to meet the academic standards for initial eligibility:
    - Division I Academic Standards
    - Division II Academic Standards
    * Division III Academic Standards



# Applying for Financial Aid

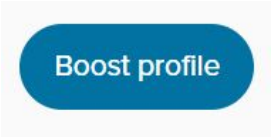
- Know your financial aid terms:
  - **Grants** - grants provide free funding for college, that typically does not need to be repaid. Grants often come from the federal or state government, individual colleges, or private or nonprofit organizations.
  - **Scholarships -** scholarships provide money for your education that does not need to be repaid. Scholarships are offered through several sources such as schools, businesses, companies, organizations, religious institutions, etc.
  - **Loans -** a loan is money that you borrow to pay for your education, that must be repaid with interest. Student loans typically come from the federal government (federal student loans), banks (private student loans), or other private sources.
  - **Work-Study -** work-study involves working a part-time job through your college/university in order to help pay for educational expenses.

# Applying for Financial Aid

- Completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - The FAFSA will available to complete on October 1, 2026
  - Apply online at the following website: https://studentaid.gov
    - Click on “Apply for Aid” at the top of the screen and follow the steps of the process
  - Completing the FAFSA is straightforward but will most likely be a collaborative effort involving you and your parents, as parents need to submit their most recent tax information
  - **BEWARE OF SCAMS:** Completing the FAFSA is FREE, so if a website or mobile app asks you to pay to fill it out, you’re not dealing with the official FAFSA site or the official app.

# Searching for Scholarships using Xello

- Xello provides a convenient way to search for scholarships from a national database, along with scholarships added by the Counseling Office.

  - On your Xello dashboard, under **Plans,** click **Scholarships.**
  - Get "matched" to scholarships by updating your profile. Click on: 
    
  - To view only the local scholarships that are added by the Counseling Office, check the box labeled, **School-added only**.
    - These local scholarships may have fewer applicants, so your chances of winning could be higher. Consider applying to these scholarships first.
    - This list is updated throughout the year, with the majority of scholarships being added during the 2nd semester.

# Searching for Scholarships using BigFuture

- https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
  - Find scholarships, other financial aid and internships from more than 2,200 programs, totaling nearly **$6 billion**.
  - Enter as much information as possible to find the most matches.
  - Scholarship information is based on the College Board's Annual Survey of Financial Aid Programs.



# Searching for Scholarships using FastWeb

- https://fastweb.com
  - Search for scholarships based on your strengths, interests, and skills
  - Complete a profile and you'll have access to Fastweb's database of more than 1.5 million scholarships



# Searching for Scholarships (continued)

- A Few Final Tips:
  - Ask your parents if scholarships are offered by their employers or any organizations to which they belong.
  - Ask an admissions counselor at the college/university you are applying to if there are any scholarships that the college/university offers.
  - **BEWARE OF SCAMS!** You don't need to pay for scholarships. All of the information is out there for you to search for free. You just have to do the legwork!



# FINAL STEPS: Updating Acceptance Information

- For each college you have applied to, you will need to indicate if you have been accepted to that college.
  - On your Xello dashboard, under **Plans,** click **College Applications**
  - Beside each college that you have applied to, you will see a drop down menu where you can enter an admission decision.
- Once you have decided where you will be attending, make sure to send your final transcript.
  - Under the **Application tracker**, click on **Add decision** in the Enrollment decision banner.
  - Next to the college you will be attending, click **Select** and enter the date you would like your final transcript to be sent.

# That's It! You're All Done!

- If you have any questions, remember to talk with your school counselor:
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*Best of luck with the application process!*