

Senior Meeting
September 14th, 2026

School Counselors

- Taylor Thines

  A – C

- Whitney Coen

  D - I

- Alison Cymbal

  J - M

- Selena McKnight

  N - Sf

- Nick D'Errico

  Sg - Z



Agenda

- Senior year at a glance
- Testing
- SchooLinks
  - College Application Process
  - Transcripts
  - Letters of Recommendation
  - Personal Essay
  - Sign up for College Visits
  - Scholarships
- Senior Conferences



Post-Secondary Options



- Military
- Work
- Gap year
- Technical/Trade School
- 2 year college
- 4 year college/university

Senior Year At a Glance

- Fall of Senior Year:
  - Schedule and Honors diploma requirements
  - Individual senior conference with counselor
  - College representative visits
  - Complete ACT/SAT testing
  - Complete applications
  - Complete the FAFSA
- Spring of Senior Year:
  - Apply for local scholarships
  - Finalize post-secondary plans



Graduation Requirements

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits (gov and econ)
Physical Education	½ credit
Health	½ credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Personal Finance	½ credit
Electives	1 or more
	Total = 22 credits

Academic Honors Diploma Requirements

*Must meet 7 of 8 criteria

Math	4 credits
Science	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
Foreign Language	3 yrs of 1 or 2 yrs of 2
GPA	3.5 or above unweighted
ACT/SAT	27 ACT / 1280 SAT
Seal Requirement	2 Additional Seals
Experiential Learning	OMJ, Portfolio

Ohio Graduation Plan

Complete Courses

Earned Olentangy's required 22 credits:

English	4 credits
Math	4 credits (Including Algebra II or equivalent)
Science	3 credits (Including one physical science, one life science and one advanced science)
Social Studies	3 credits (Including world history, US history, US gov and econ)
Health	½ credit
Physical Education	½ credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
Electives	6 credits

Demonstrate Competency

Earn the required "competency" score on both Algebra I and ELA II.

Test	Competency Score
Algebra I	684
ELA II	684

- There are three alternative ways for students to show competency:
  - CCP
  - Career Experience/Technical Skill
  - Military Readiness

Demonstration Readiness

Earn at least two seals, and one **must** be state defined:

State Defined
- OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal
- State Seal of Biliteracy
- Industry-Recognized Credential Seal
- College-Ready Seal
- Military Enlistment Seal
- Citizenship Seal
- Science Seal
- Honors Diploma Seal
- Technology Seal

Locally Defined
- Community Service Seal
- Fine and Performing Arts Seal
- Student Engagement Seal

College Admission Factors

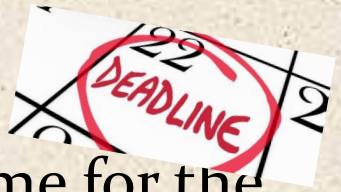
- High School transcript
- Grade Point Average
- Senior Schedule
- Test Scores
- Extracurricular Activities
- Leadership Experiences
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Essay
- Counselor Evaluation



ACT/SAT Testing

- Some colleges require ACT/SAT test scores, some are test optional
- Last testing dates for colleges to receive scores by November 1st deadline:
  - ACT: September 19th, October 17th
  - SAT: September 12th, October 3rd
- Official scores must be sent directly from the testing agency (act.org and/or collegeboard.org)
- Request scores by Oct. 16th for Nov. 1st deadline
- Transcripts **DO NOT** include official test scores.

Application Types and Deadlines



- **Regular Decision** - traditional time frame for the college application acceptance process; each college has a different deadline
- **Early Decision** - option for the application to be one "first choice" school; BINDING; must attend if accepted
- **Early Action** - early deadline, early response, NON-BINDING, merit scholarship consideration
- **Rolling Admissions** - students are accepted/denied as applications are received

Common Application

- Common Application (commonapp.org) - one stop application shop for over 1000 participating colleges/universities
  - Select schools to which you're applying and pay separate fees
  - Opens in August 2026
    - OHS transcripts available this week
  - Visit college admission websites to determine if your school is a Common App school

SchooLinks

- Icon in myOLSD (no login required)
- Send documents for college applications
- Link with Common App
- Request recommendations and transcripts
- Sign up for College Rep Visits
- Search for scholarships
- ACT/SAT Test Prep

How to Link SchooLinks with Common App

1. From the Dashboard, click on "Colleges" on the lefthand side
2. Select "College Applications"
3. If prompted, complete Personal Details
4. Sign the FERPA waiver in SchooLinks
5. SchooLinks will prompt you to sign in to Common App to complete linking - Must sign FERPA waiver in Common App (must have at least 1 college added in Common App)
6. Once linked, colleges will automatically populate in SchooLinks

Letters of Recommendation



- Not all colleges require recommendations – visit the college websites or Common App to determine the number, if any, that are required
- Speak to the teacher(s) in person
- Allow a minimum of two weeks prior to deadlines
- Provide a resume of activities
- Indicate the specific schools and their deadlines
- Write a thank you note for their time

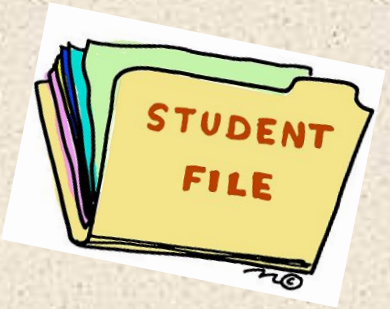
How to Request Letters of Recommendation in SchooLinks

1. From the Dashboard, click on "Colleges" on the lefthand side
2. Select "College Applications"
3. Click on pencil next to each college in the Incomplete Application column
4. Under Teacher Evaluations, select Request Teacher Evaluation
5. Search teacher name
6. Select subject and click Add Recommender

*For recommenders outside of OLSD, add manually by email address

Transcript Requests

- Transcripts are automatically requested once colleges are added in "College Applications"
  - Must be linked with Common App
  - If not applying via the Common App (direct to institution), must manually add colleges
- OHS transcripts available week of September 14th, 2026
  - Senior Year Courses
  - 8th grade grades (P versus letter grade)
  - CCP Courses



Counselor Evaluation

Counselors automatically complete evaluation once transcripts are requested

Student's course selection is:

❑Most Demanding ❑Very Demanding ❑Demanding ❑Not Demanding

	Below Average	Average	Good (above average)	Very Good (well above average)	Excellent	One of the top few encountered in my career
Academic Growth Potential						
Extracurricular Accomplishments						
Personal Qualities and Character						

Seals

Use SchooLinks to track:

- Student Engagement
  - Clubs, Activities, and non school-sponsored sports
- Volunteer Hours/Community Service
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal
  - Requires 3 different mentors
- Military Enlistment

Application Status

- Order that materials are submitted does not matter, as long as ALL materials are received by the application deadline
- Check SchooLinks for status updates (submitted, downloaded, etc.)
- Understand that individual college system/portals are not as up to date and takes time to download/process all materials

Personal Essay

- Your authentic voice (no AI)
- Tell your story
- Opportunity to share something not reflected on your transcript
- Ask others for input, take the time to have others edit

Sign up for College Representatives at OHS

1. In SchooLinks, click on "Events" along the top of the Dashboard
2. Click on desired College representative event
3. Click "Register for this event"

*Remember you may attend 3 visits and you need to sign up by the day before event



Search for Scholarships

1. Click on "Colleges" on the lefthand side
2. Click "Scholarship Matching"
3. Complete personal profile
4. Generates list of potential scholarship opportunities

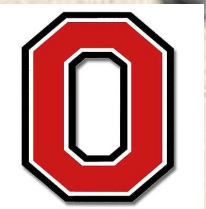
*Includes local and national scholarships, November - April check regularly

Financial Aid



- The FAFSA is available beginning October 1st
- Parents use information from 2025 tax return
- ALL families are encouraged to complete the FAFSA, regardless of financial need
- Pay attention to the priority deadlines at each college or university to which you are applying

The Ohio State University



- Early action deadline – completed application by November 1st
- Test Scores Required (*Super score accepted)
  - October 17th ACT and October 3rd SAT are the last test dates to meet priority deadline (send scores directly)
  - Request Scores by October 16th
- No letters of recommendation required – will take ONLY ONE if it adds to your application, counselor may send one additional letter
- If you plan to major in engineering and nursing, you MUST apply by November 1st

Senior Conferences

- You will have an individual senior conference with your guidance counselor
- Your counselor will call you down, preferably during a study hall, lunch, early release/late arrival
- Review graduation requirements, Honors diploma, and high school credits from middle school
- Discuss future plans



Important Dates

- Suburban College Fair at Otterbein University on Sunday, October 11th from 1:00-3:00 PM.
- Individual Senior meetings begin next week with your counselor
- Consider a college visit September 21st, October 16th, or October 21st(PSAT)
- Financial Aid Workshop for parents on October 28th at OHS