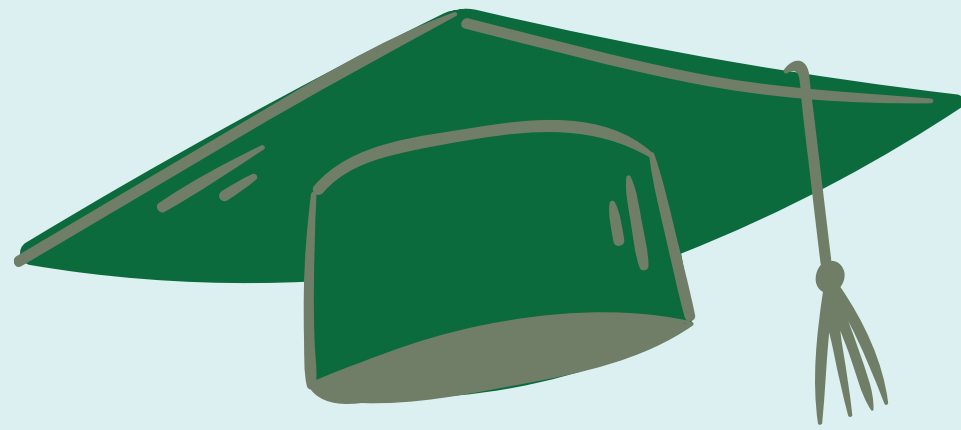




COLLEGE APPLICATION INFO FOR SKYLINE HS SENIORS

Class of 2027



THE COUNSELING CENTER TEAM IS HERE TO HELP!



- Hayden Kersey (A-COT)
 - KerseyH@issaquah.wednet.edu
- Todd Caffey (COU-HIL)
 - CaffeyT@issaquah.wednet.edu
- Megan Rieke (HIM-LOR)
 - RiekeM@issaquah.wednet.edu
- Stephanie Veyera (LOS-PAT)
 - VeyeraS@issaquah.wednet.edu
- Adam Dickenson (PAU-ST.G)
 - DickensonA@issaquah.wednet.edu
- Kristen Flemer (STA-Z)
 - FlemerK@issaquah.wednet.edu

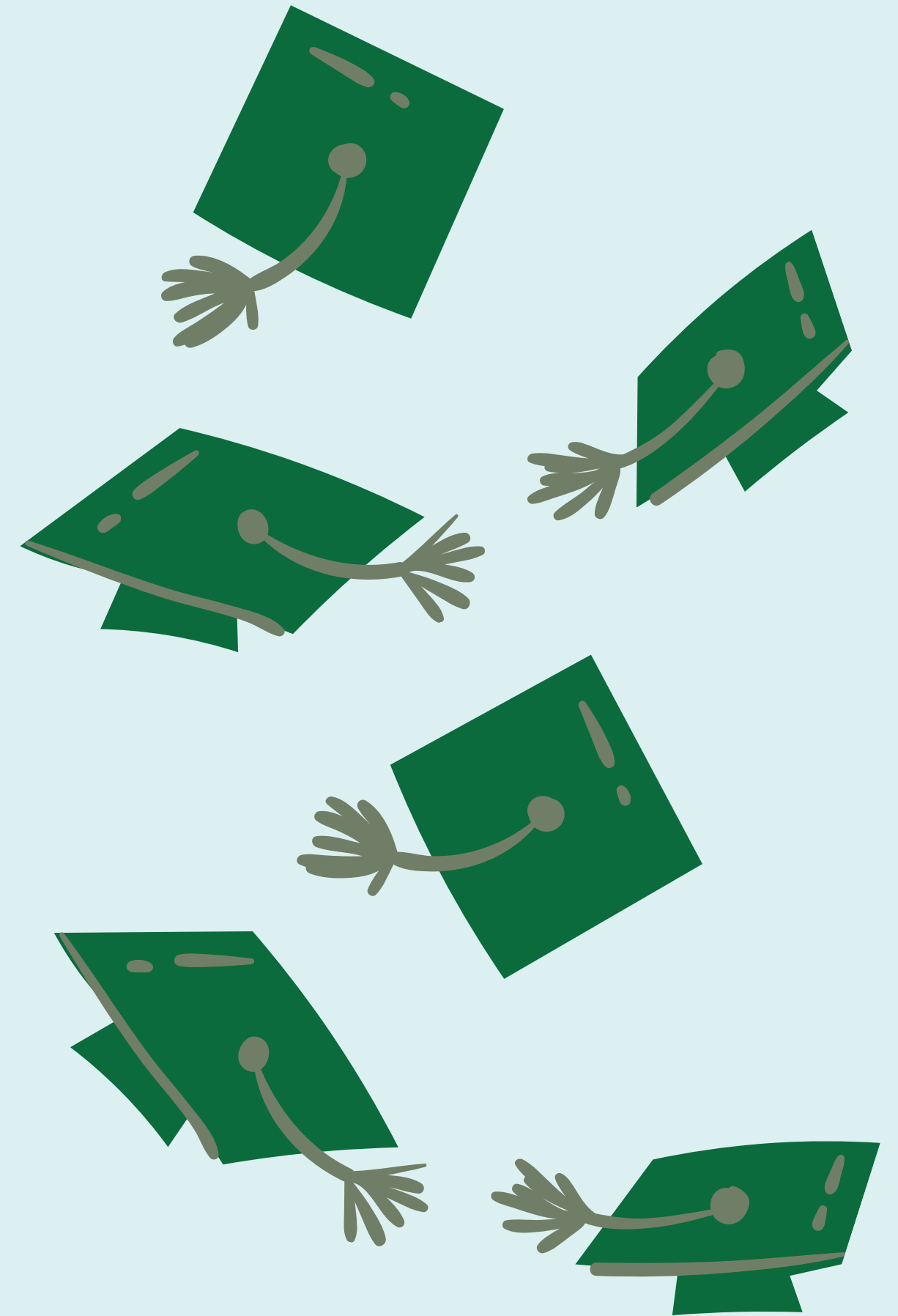
SKYLINE HS GIVES YOU OPTIONS, SO THAT YOU CAN GRADUATE TO:

- 4 year college
- 2 year college
- Trade school/apprenticeship
- Military
- Full-time employment



TODAY, WE'LL FOCUS ON 4 YEAR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- Types of applications
- Completing applications
- The Common App
- Schools not on the Common App
- Secondary School Report
- Letters of Recommendation
- Essays
- Test Scores
- Transcripts
- Financial Aid and FAFSA
- Virtual College Visits
- Timeline and To-dos



HOW TO APPLY



- College applications are online through various sites such as the Common Application, Coalition, SendEdu, or independent portals
- Check each college's website for specific application instructions
- If using Common App or Coalition, on the Recommender/FERPA tab, invite your school counselor to complete the Secondary School Report
- You will be able to invite your counselor and/or teachers to the portal if you are required to submit letters of recommendation if necessary
- Order your transcript from Parchment.com (more information to follow)
- Be sure to complete all sections

COMMON APP



- Common App (the Common Application) allows students to complete one main college application and use it to apply to multiple participating colleges.
 - 1000+ Common App member colleges
- Instead of entering the same information separately for every college, students can reuse much of their application across schools.
- Common App is the application platform. Each college still has its own admission requirements and deadlines.

SYSTEM APPLICATIONS



- A single application that applies to an entire system of schools
- UC Apply (9 schools)
- Cal State Apply (23 schools)
- SUNY (64 schools)

DIRECT APPLICATIONS



- The student applies directly through the college's own application
- Specific to an institution, check the school's website
- If a school is on the Common Application, there is no benefit to applying directly through that school's website

TYPES OF COLLEGE APPLICATIONS



- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Regular Application
- Rolling Application



EARLY DECISION

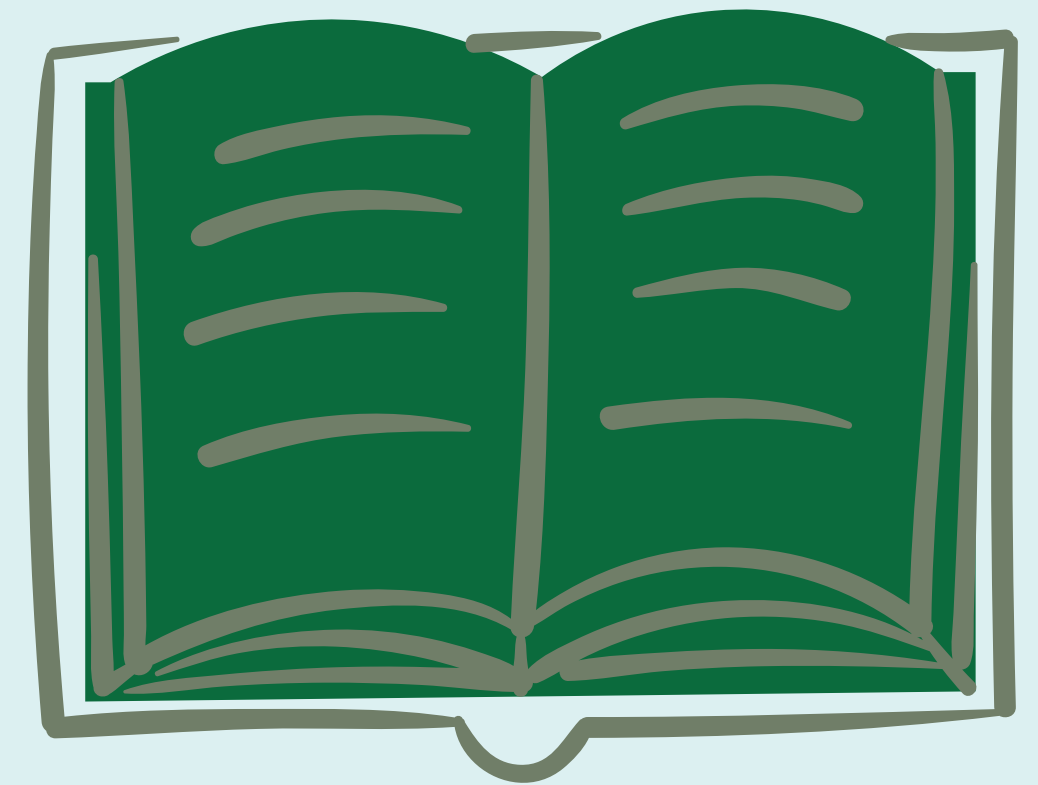
"I want this school, and I'm ready to commit."

- Apply to only one college at a time
- Helpful for students who have a clear first choice
- If the college accepts you, and provides enough financial aid, you must attend that college
- Important to understand the financial impact

EARLY ACTION

“I want to apply early, but I still want options.”

- You can apply to more than one early action college
- If you're accepted, you can choose to accept or decline their offer
- Allows comparison of financial aid





REGULAR DECISION

"I want to keep my options open."

- Apply by deadline and find out in spring
- Deadlines vary (October–February typically)
- Compare admission offers and financial aid
- Commit in spring

ROLLING ADMISSION

"I am not sure when I want to apply, but I want to attend college."

- Application open until college meets capacity
- Apply when you wish
- There may be priority deadlines



WAGAP (WASHINGTON GUARENTEED ADMISSION PROGRAM)

- WAGAP guarantees you'll be admitted to all six participating Washington four-year, public institutions, as long as you meet the minimum criteria for the program and apply to the school:
 - You have a minimum GPA of 3.0 or higher
 - You have completed or are on track to complete all the College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs)
 -
- The six participating Washington four-year, public institutions:
 - Central Washington University
 - Eastern Washington University
 - The Evergreen State College
 - Washington State University
 - Western Washington University
 - University of Washington-**Tacoma**



THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



- Early doesn't mean better
 - Applying early isn't automatically the right choice, choose a plan that fits for you
- Early Decision is a commitment
 - This is an important distinction and is binding
- You don't have to apply early
 - If you are not ready, you can apply regular decision. A strong application submitted later can be preferable to a rushed application submitted early
- Financial aid matters
 - If you are considering ED, make sure to be thoughtful about affordability
- Always check the college's specific rules
 - College have different deadlines, requirements, restrictions, and policies

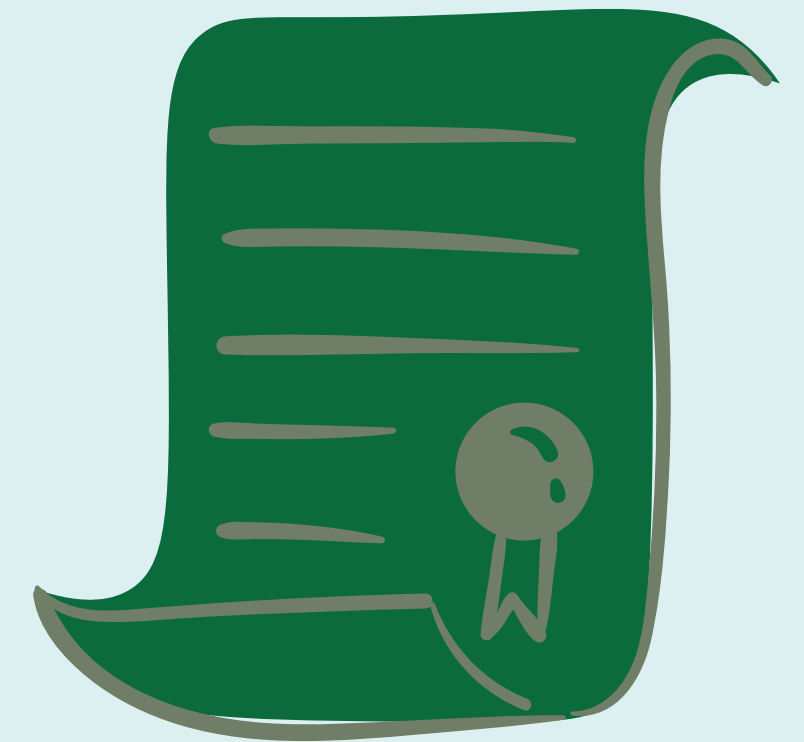
FEES TO CONSIDER



- College application fees vary, but generally it costs from \$50 to \$80 to apply to each college
- Fees are nonrefundable
- Many colleges offer application fee waivers to students who can't afford to pay. Talk to your School Counselor if you may need a fee waiver
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-fee-waivers>

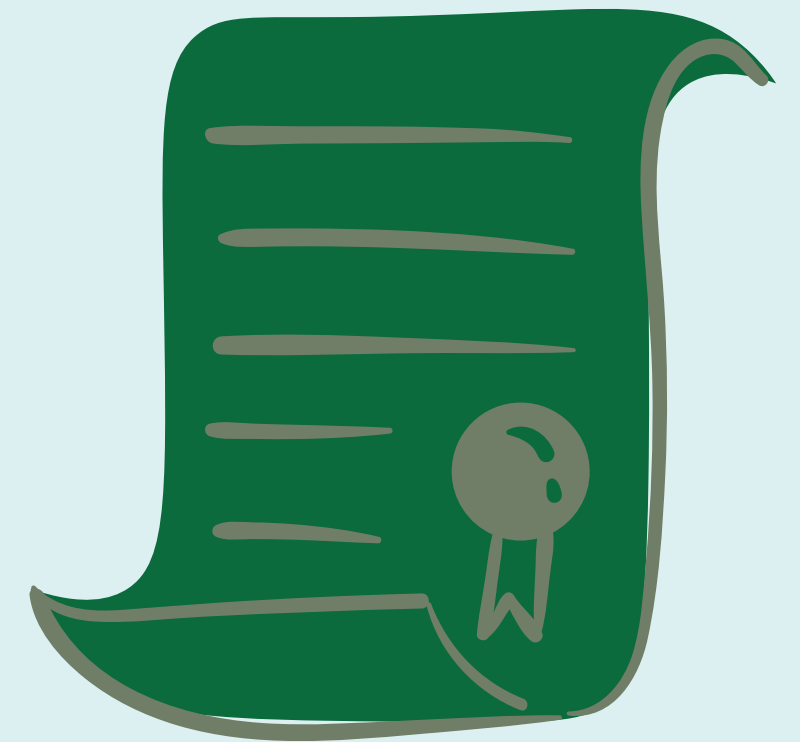
TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

- View your unofficial transcript on Skyward (under the "Portfolio" tab and make sure everything looks as it should. If you notice anything that is incorrect, please reach out to the School Registrar
- Visit the SHS Home page and click "Request my Transcript"
<https://skyline.isd411.org/student-life/counseling/transcripts>
- Create a Parchment.com account and be sure to "update" your account
- Choose where to send transcripts
- All schools on the Common Application should be sent to "The Common Application" instead of each individual school.
 - For counselors to complete the secondary school report on Common App, your transcript must already be uploaded by Parchment
 - Once that is complete, your counselor will review it, approve it, and complete their section
 - Not requesting your transcript delays the application process



TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

- For schools that are not on The Common App, choose to send your transcript directly to the school to which you are applying
- You must request transcripts separately from programs such as Dual Credit and Running Start to transfer credits through their school's office of the Registrar
- *The first 5 transcripts are free – each additional transcript may incur additional cost depending on method of receipt*



LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



- Some (not all) colleges require one or more letters of recommendation. In this situation our advice would be to consider who in the school knows you the very best. This is often teachers, club advisers, coaches, administrators and even school counselors. It is very important to understand what your application requires of you and to not send materials that are not needed
- If a counselor letter is required, submit the digital Counselor Recommendation Request Form at least three full weeks prior to your first college deadline that requires a letter of recommendation
- If you are applying to a school/scholarship that requires one or more letters from teachers/advisers/coaches/admin please read the following:
 - To request a letter – your first choice may not be able to write your recommendation, so you need to ask, and then have a back-up plan in mind in case your first choice of is not available
- Our advice on which teachers to ask – ideally, it would be a core subject teacher from your time at SHS or the college if you attend Running Start. Students often ask junior year instructors as they already know you well and have been able to observe your college readiness

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



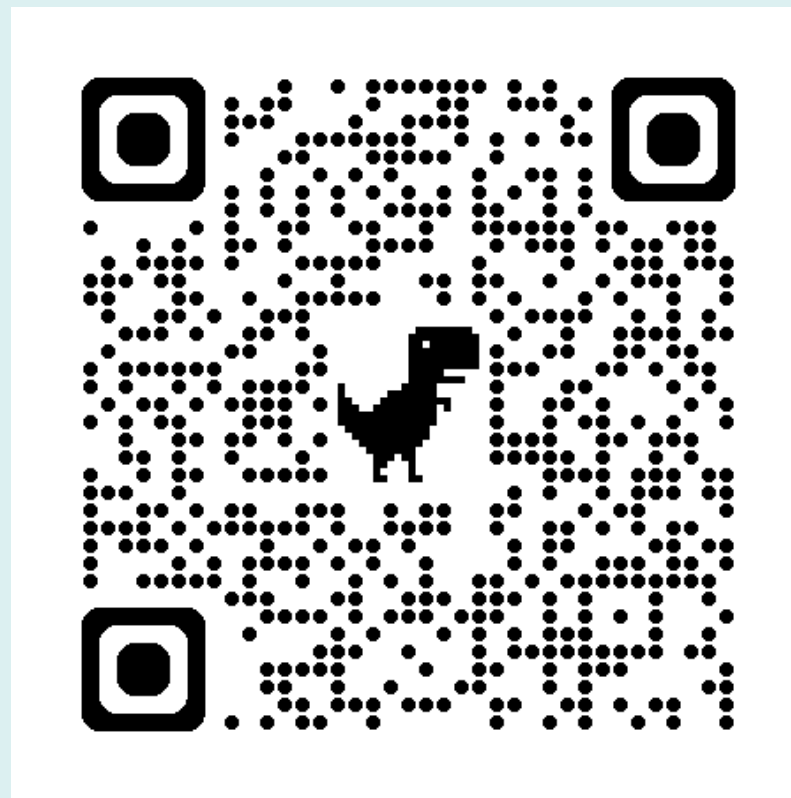
- Ask early – give staff at least 3 weeks ahead of your first due date
- Invite this staff member as a recommender to your online application by submitting their ISD email address in your application. Be sure to double check they received your notice and if they need anything additional from you to complete this for you
- Remember – Letters are confidential, and generally submitted directly online. Students will not receive a copy of the recommendation. In the very rare case where a hard copy of a recommendation must be mailed in, you will need to provide a pre-addressed envelope with sufficient postage for direct submission to your recommender for their use
- Due to the high number of recommendation requests, it is critical that you follow these instructions closely. Doing so will allow adequate time to process your requests. This helps staff ensure timely, quality recommendations
- Make sure to say thank you!

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION VS. COUNSELOR SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT



- Common App Secondary School Report: A required Common App form completed by your school counselor
- This is NOT the same as a traditional letter of recommendation
- Traditional Letter of Recommendation: A separate letter written by a counselor, teacher, or other recommender, often on school letterhead
- Check each college's requirements: Not every college requires or accepts a separate counselor letter
- Don't request a letter unless the college specifically asks for one
- If Common App only lists "Counselor Secondary School Report," you just need to invite your counselor through Common App and complete the required student information

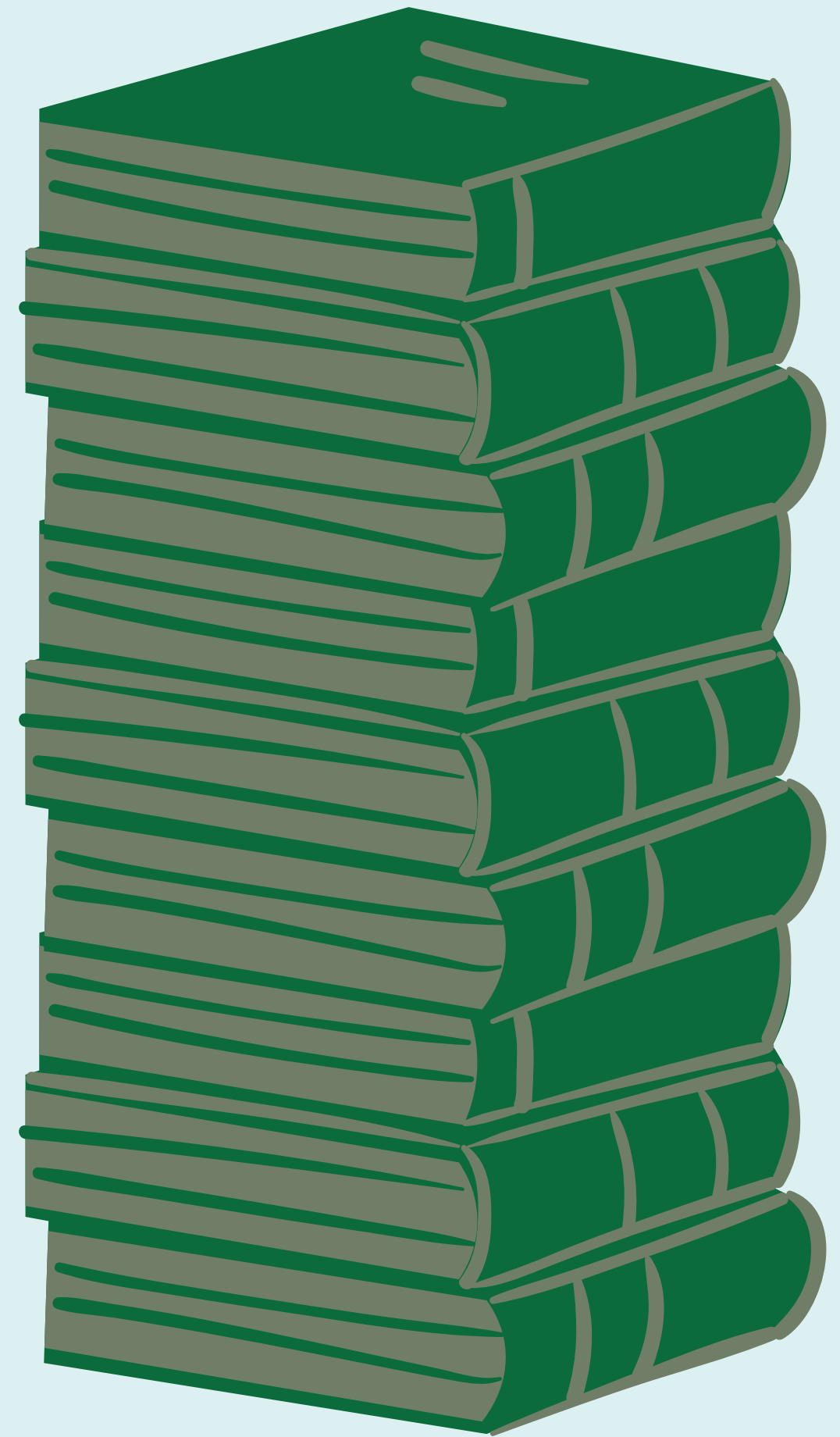
SCHOOL COUNSELOR LETTER OF REC REQUESTS



- All letter of recommendation requests will be done digitally
- <https://skyline.isd411.org/student-life/counseling/post-high-school-planning>
- Please select your specific counselor's form

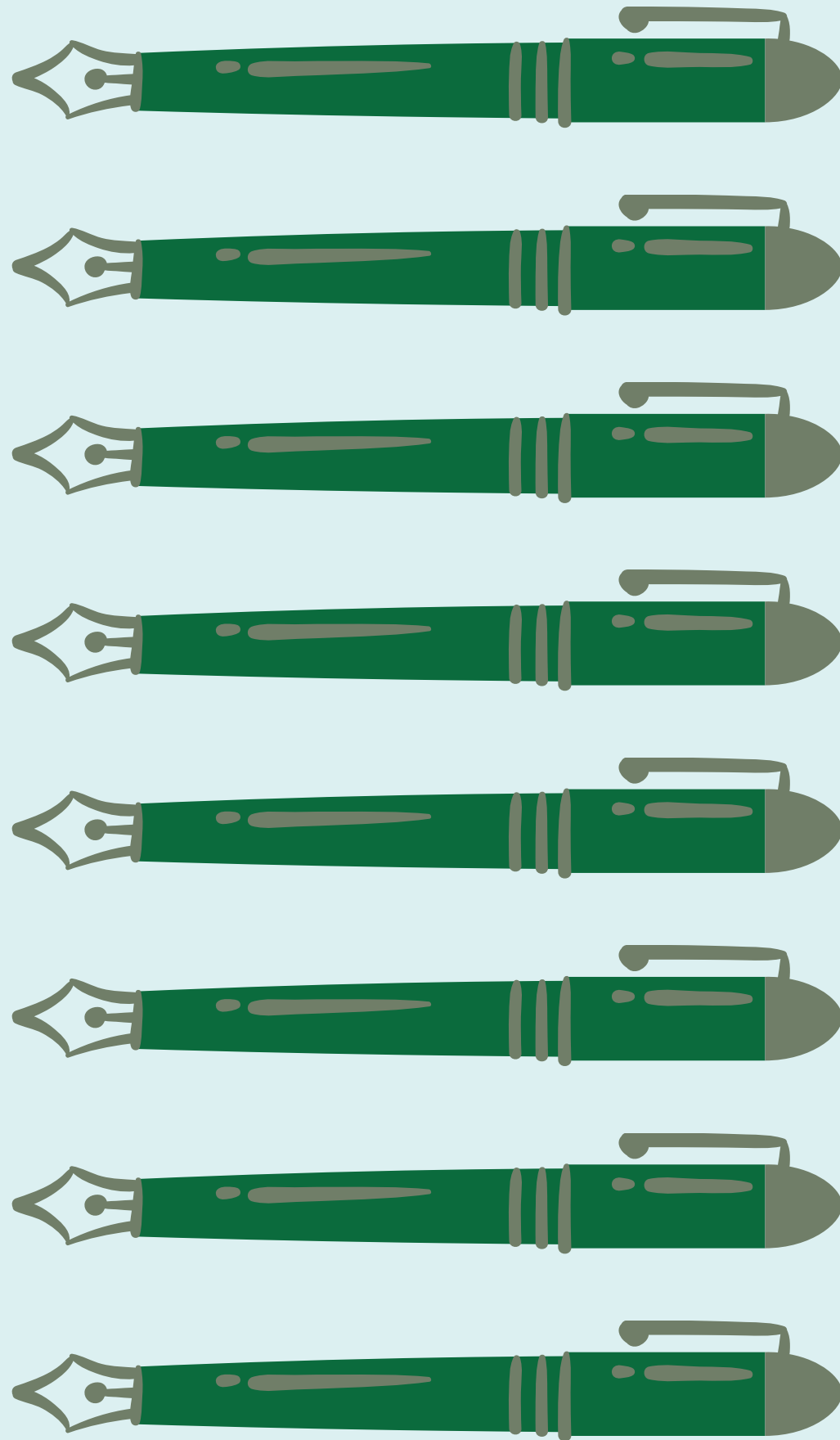
SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT

- A Secondary School Report is a section of the application that is completed by your School Counselor and typically includes the following items:
 - School profile
 - Class size
 - GPA (unweighted only)
 - There is no ranking in Issaquah School District
 - Senior year schedule
 - Level of course rigor
 - Level of involvement in leadership, volunteer service, etc.
- Please note that mid-year and final reports are also completed when required



ESSAYS / PERSONAL STATEMENTS

- Find out if you need to write one as not all colleges require it
- Share a story/event that illustrates personal growth
- Be aware of supplemental essay prompts in your application
- Think of it as a personal interview on paper
- Go through the editing process...It is important
- If you're having trouble getting started, record yourself talking about the question and then listen back to it and type what you hear. Now you have a starting place!



TEST SCORES / CONSIDERATIONS

- It is very possible that you do not have to submit standardized test scores as part of the admission process as most if not all colleges have waived this requirement. Please see the admission's website of your college choices for more information and see if they are test blind, test optional or are offering their own assessment option
- SAT & ACT scores can only be ordered from their websites and submitted to your colleges if needed. Skyline cannot do this for you as we do not collect this data
- IB Scores cannot be predicted. Please check your application carefully to make sure and not check it as a requirement. Do not check the box in Common App for this. There are few exceptions such as for colleges outside the US. Please contact your IB Program Coordinator in this case.



FINANCIAL AID AND FAFSA

- Whether you pay as you go, take out a loan, receive scholarships or grants or participate in work study, funding your college education takes planning.
- All students must fill out the FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid to qualify for the four types of aid: grants, loans (both parent and student loans), work study positions, and need-based scholarships.
- Students should complete the FAFSA regardless of whether or not they think they will need it....just in case.
- Think you can't afford a private school? Remember that the amount of financial aid given to families will change depending on the price of the school. Parents are encouraged to fill out the form regardless of their income level and apply as soon after the form opens as possible to take advantage of state and federal funds given on a first come first serve basis.
- Additionally, some schools require the FAFSA on file prior to awarding some need-based scholarships.
- Applying for the FAFSA is always free. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>



FINANCIAL AID AND FAFSA



- Financial aid is money to help pay for school and there are several types. Grants and Scholarships will reduce your overall college costs, while loans and work study are ways to help pay for your college expenses.
- Grants
 - Grants are gift aid based solely on financial need.
- Scholarships
 - Scholarships are gift aid, based on financial need and/or merit, and don't need to be paid back. Students of any age can apply to and qualify for college scholarships – it is never too early to begin your college search!
- Loans
 - The U.S. Department of Education offers federal low-interest loans to eligible students and parents to help cover the cost of college or career school.
- Although federal student loans usually have more benefits, loans are also available from private sources, such as a bank or financial institution, or from other organizations.
- Work Study
 - Federal Work-Study jobs help students earn money to pay for college or career school. Students will work part-time on or off campus while enrolled.

SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH TOOLS



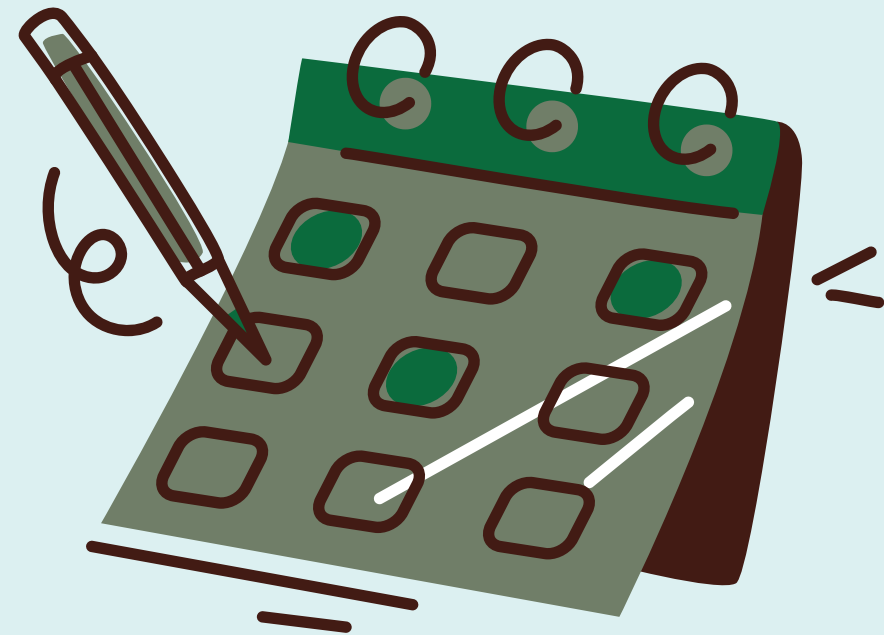
- These are popular scholarship search tools students use:
- [BigFuture Scholarship Search](#) Requires sign-in; also requires you to add details to your profile before receiving any helpful scholarship matches
- [Washboard.org](#) For Washington State students; requires setting up a profile to see matches
- [Niche.com](#) Search lists of scholarships by choosing a category or get matched to college scholarships for which you are eligible
- [ScholarshipOwl.com](#) is an innovative platform designed to dramatically speed up your scholarship application time. We'll match you with the award opportunities that best match your personality, grades, lifestyle, and more
- [CareerOneStop.org](#) (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor) lists scholarships available for students pursuing vocational, associate, undergraduate and graduate degrees
- Also, the ISD High School College & Career Centers advertise scholarships we learn about from local community members and businesses.

COLLEGE VISITS

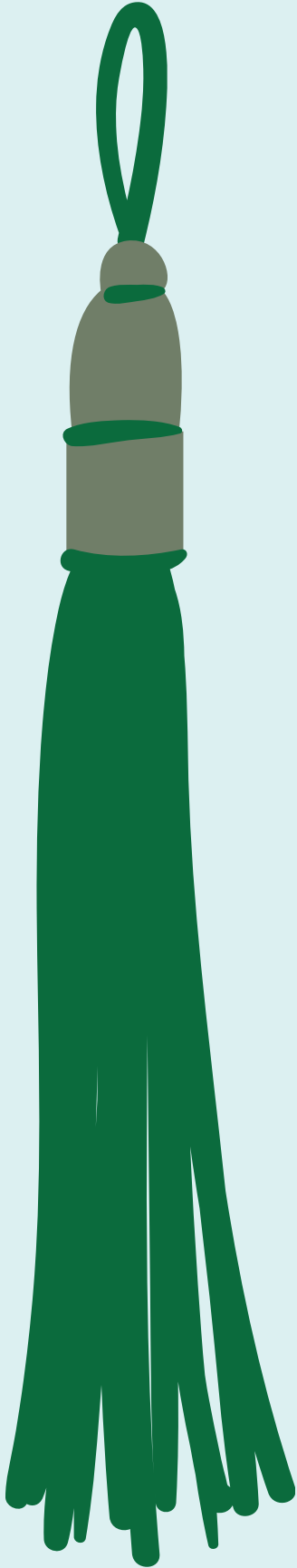
- College Visits at the High School provide a personal touch that may not be available on a school's website
- Students learn about school admission processes, deadlines, campus life, housing, majors available, scholarships and more.
- This is a valuable opportunity to ask questions and in many cases, personally meet the “first reader” of a college application.
- The vast majority of the college visits are from September through December in the Skyline College and Career Center.
 - There will be approximately 35 colleges conducting virtual information sessions on Wednesdays, before school, and at lunch. Also, there will be some during Flex Time on some Fridays. Check the Skyline College and Career website regularly for any calendar updates.



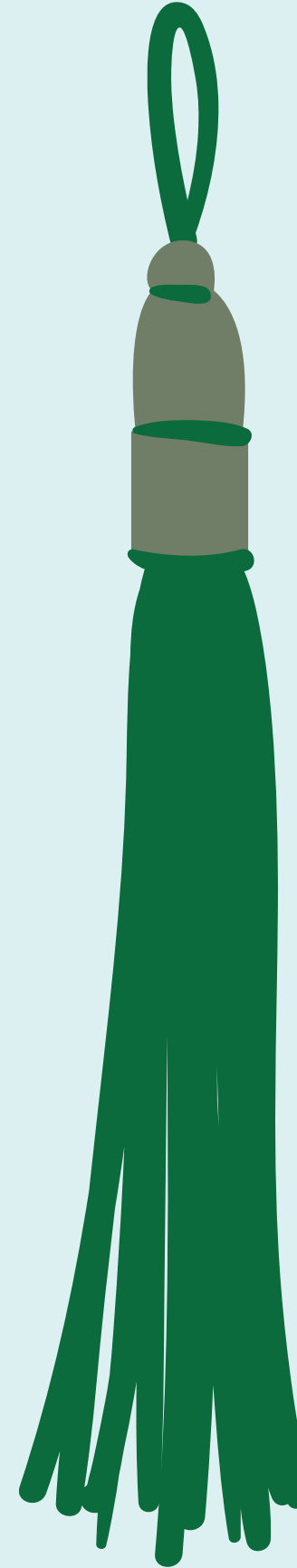
SKYLINE HS TIMELINE REMINDERS



- Senior Information Presentation (Today)
- October 1st FAFSA opens
- Oct – June College Application Deadlines (varies)
- SHS College and Career Center college visits



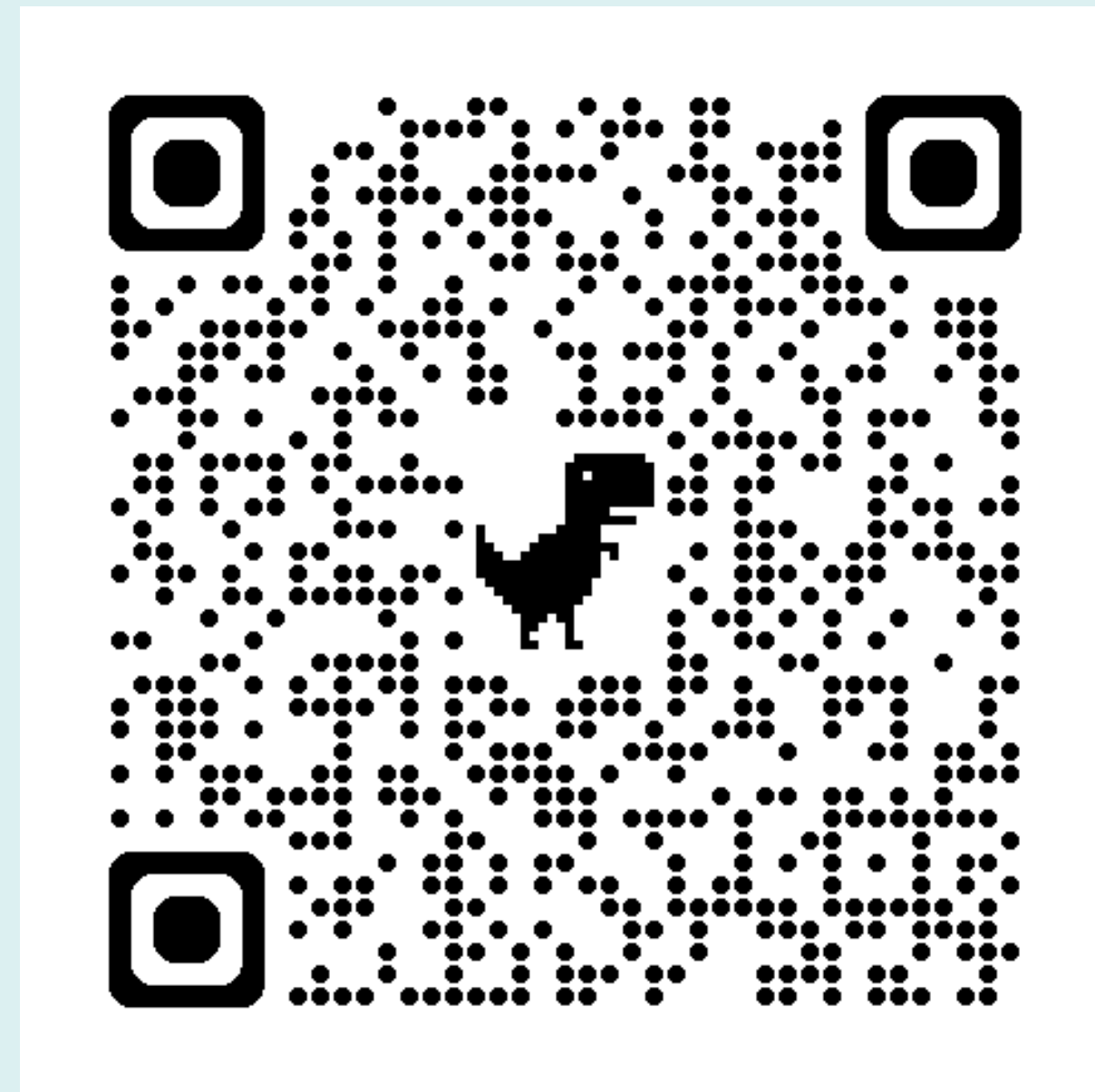
COLLEGE APPLICATION REMINDERS



- Before you begin, check your email address and make sure it is professional
- Find out your first deadline
- Complete your applications and essay
- Go to Parchment.com and request your transcripts
- Check Skyward for your cumulative GPA
- Check to see if any of your programs/colleges require letters of recommendation
- Contact your teachers about letters of recommendation
- Fill out the counselor letter of recommendation form if needed
- Go on SAT/ACT website and request your test scores to be sent if applicable
- Breathe!!!

CHECK OUT OUR INSTAGRAM!

[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/SPARTANCOUNSELING_SHS/?
UTM_SOURCE=IG_EMBED&IG_RID=AWZDT0NVST5GRMX54URM3HZ](https://www.instagram.com/spartancounseling_shs/?utm_source=ig_embed&ig_rid=AWZDT0NVST5GRMX54URM3HZ)



VISIT THE SKYLINE COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER / VIEW WEBSITE (NEXT TO COUNSELING CENTER)

[HTTPS://SKYLINE.ISD411.ORG/STUDENT-LIFE/COLLEGE-AND-CAREER-CENTER](https://skyline.isd411.org/student-life/college-and-career-center)

Contacts, Hours and Location

Mallory Jamison - Alpha A-LOR
College and Career Specialist
425-837-7898
jamisonm@issaquah.wednet.edu

Danielle Vermeulen - Alpha LOS-Z
College and Career Specialist
425-837-7869
vermeulend@issaquah.wednet.edu

Hours:
M/T/TH: 7:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Wednesdays: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Fridays: 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Location:
Room 1202, next door to Counseling.

Announcements



College And Career Center News For September 10, 2026

Sep 10 2026

The College and Career Center is ready to meet students on an individual basis to advise and assist with individual needs. We are available to students in all grades and help determine personal pathways through high school to achieve post-graduation goals. Please see the enclosed for more details about this, SchoolLinks, the new High School and Beyond program, and CTE worksite learning.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER





GOOD LUCK!



**EMAIL YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR WITH
QUESTIONS OR VISIT FOR A DROP IN
MEETING BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL/DURING
SCHOOL LUNCH**

