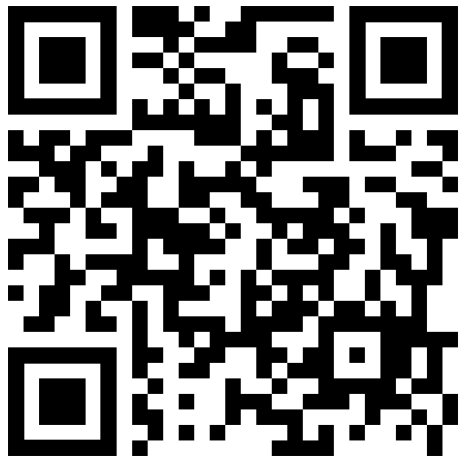


Cleveland Heights High School

Senior Post Secondary Planning Presentation

September

2026



Please Sign In!

[Playlist](#)

CHHS School Counseling Team

Tandra Menefee (A -D)

Taylor Burdine (E-K)

Charlene Searcy (L-R)

Michael Murray (S-Z)

Tiesha McEwen: College
& Career Counselor





Assistant Principal
Class of 2027 (12th Grade)
Taylor Smith

College Now Advisors

- Ms. Woodson - *GEAR UP*
Advisor
jwoodson@collegenowgc.org
- Ms. Jordan - *Program Manager*
ajordan@collegenowgc.org



Pathways to Graduation

01. **Complete required course credits**
02. **Demonstrating Competency**
03. **Demonstrating Readiness**

1. Complete required course credits

Complete 20 course credits in the following:

- ☐ 4 credits of English
- ☐ 4 credits of Math
- ☐ 3 credits of Science
- ☐ 3 credits of Social Studies
- ☐ .5 credits of Physical Education or 2 PE waivers
- ☐ .5 credits of Health Education
- ☐ .5 Financial Literacy
- ☐ 5 credits of Electives
 - ☐ 1 of which needs to be a full Fine Art credit or Middle School Art Waiver

Students should have earned 15 credits +

Senior Status?

2. Demonstrating Competency

Take end-of-course exams and earn a passing score on the Algebra I(684) and English II(684) state exams.

3. Demonstrating Readiness

Earn two of 12 “diploma seal” options to demonstrate academic, technical and professional readiness for careers, college, the military or self-sustaining professions.

Are you on track for Graduation?

Monitor your grades/ Review Transcript

- Review your semester grades to ensure you earned credit for each of your classes.

Credits

- Need to earn 5 credits each school year to stay on track.
- 15 credits= 12th grade
- 20 credits= Graduate

Testing/Diploma Seals

- At this point, you should have earned at least one diploma seal
- Review Algebra 1 and English 2 scores
 - 684 or higher to be eligible for graduation

Check in with your counselor to ensure you are on track for graduation.



What You Were Expected to Complete Over the Summer

- ☐ Explored your options – College, trade programs, military, jobs, or a gap year.
- ☐ Reflected on your interests & goals – Considered what you enjoyed and what mattered most to you.
- ☐ Researched schools or programs – Looked at majors, programs, location, size, and costs.
- ☐ Visited campuses or programs – Participated in in-person or virtual tours and attended information sessions.
- ☐ Started applications – Began college, trade program, or certification applications, even if you were undecided.
- ☐ Built your resume – Included work, volunteer experiences, clubs, sports, leadership, and other activities.
- ☐ Gained experience – Participated in summer jobs, internships, volunteering, or job shadowing.
- ☐ Planned your finances – Researched scholarships, grants, FAFSA, and other financial aid opportunities.
- ☐ Stayed organized – Tracked deadlines, contacts, required documents, and application materials.
- ☐ Created a short list – Identified 3–6 potential colleges, programs, or career paths to explore further.

Senior Year: Where You Should Be Now

- ☐ Have a general post-secondary plan
- ☐ Have a list of 3–6 colleges, programs, career paths, or other options
- ☐ Be actively working on or completing applications
- ☐ Have an updated resume
- ☐ Know important application and program deadlines
- ☐ Research scholarships, grants, and financial aid opportunities
- ☐ Prepare for and complete FAFSA when available
- ☐ Continue visiting or exploring colleges and programs
- ☐ Check school email regularly for important information and opportunities
- ☐ Stay organized and keep track of applications, deadlines, and required documents
- ☐ Gain additional experience through jobs, internships, volunteering, or job shadowing
- ☐ Have a Plan A, Plan B, and Plan C

Post Secondary Options

Four Year College/University

Provides bachelor's degrees, focusing on academic, detailed studies in various fields.

Technical/ Vocational Apprenticeships & Trades

Hands on training for specific trades (ie. health care IT, HVAC.

Apprenticeships combines on the job training with instruction.

Two Year Community College

Workforce/ Employment

Joining the workforce immediately to gain and receive on the job training.

Military Services

Offers training, career opportunities, and educational benefits (GI BILL) through various branches Army, Navy, Marines, Air force or Coast Guard.



Pathway to College

College Planning List: Before you Apply

Familiarize yourself with Naviance

Review scores from SAT School Day

Have colleges you are thinking of applying to listed in Naviance.

Request college information (via phone, email or postcard)

Visit College Campuses

Attended a College Fair

Apply Early! Review Deadlines



How to Apply to Colleges



There are two ways for students to apply to colleges:

1. The Common Application process
2. Directly to institution via the college (s) website



College Application Deadlines: Know the Difference

Early Action (EA)

Apply early and receive an admissions decision early.

Non-binding —you can apply to other schools and are not required to attend if accepted.

Common Application Deadline: Oct. 15 – Nov. 15

Early Decision (ED)

Apply early and receive an early decision.

Binding —if accepted, you generally agree to attend that college and withdraw other applications.

Common Application Deadline: Nov. 1 – Nov. 15

Regular Admission (RD)

Apply by the school's regular deadline and receive a decision later in the admissions cycle. Non-binding.

Common Application Deadline: Jan. 1 – Feb. 1

Decision Timeline:
December/January

Decision Timeline:
December

Decision Timeline:
March/April

✦ Remember: These are common ranges, not universal deadlines. Every college sets its own dates, and some programs have different deadlines.

CHHS Senior Steps to Applying to College

How to apply to college(s) via the Common Application

Step 1: Create an Account

1. Go to the Common Application website: commonapp.org.
2. Click on **Create an account**.
3. Select your user type:
 - o **First-year student:** For students applying to college for the first time.
4. Fill out the required information (name, email, password, etc.), and verify your email.
 - o You can use your school email or personal email
 - o Be sure to write down your login information. Counselors **DO NOT** have access to this information.

Email: _____

Password: _____

Step 2: Add Colleges

1. Once logged in, go to the **"College Search"** tab.
2. Search for colleges by name, state, or other criteria.
3. Click the **"+"** sign to add colleges to your application list.
4. You can add as many colleges as you want. Be sure to check the application requirements for each.

Step 3: Complete the Profile Section

1. Go to the **"Common App"** tab.
2. Begin filling out your personal information in the **Profile** section. This includes:
 - o Personal details (name, birthdate, etc.)
 - o Contact information
 - o Demographics
 - o Family information
 - o Language proficiency
 - o Citizenship status
3. Save your information as you complete each section.

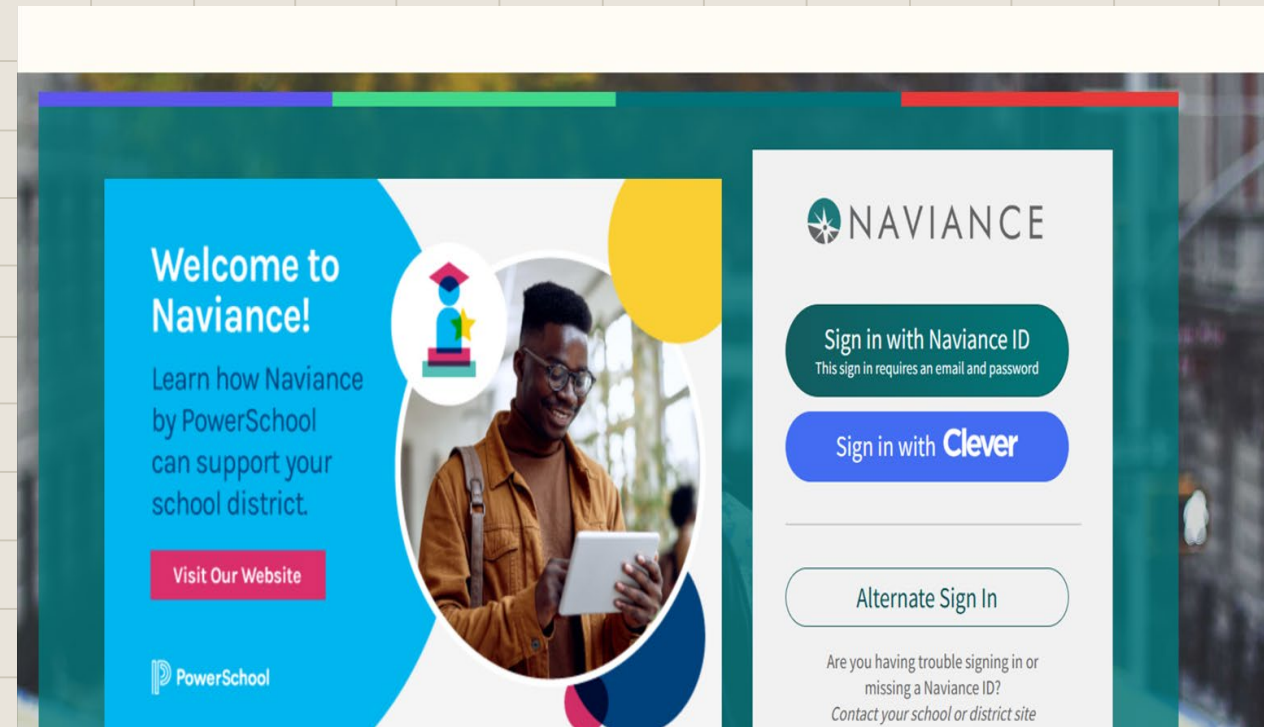
Review CHHS Senior Steps to Applying to College

CHHS Senior Steps to
Applying to College

Naviance

A platform used by Cleveland Heights High school to help you make decisions about courses, colleges and careers.

Utilize the College Search feature in Naviance



Naviance: How to Enter Colleges/Request a Transc

In Naviance click on “Colleges.”

Then click on “Colleges I’m Applying To.”

Under “Colleges I’m Applying To” click “Add to this list.”

Check “Decision Type”(Regular, Early, Rolling).

Click “Request Transcript.”

Click on “Look Up,” add the colleges where you have applied.

All official transcripts are sent by the student’s school counselor via Naviance

Student Athletes: NCAA

All students looking to compete in Division I or Division II athletics in college must register with the NCAA.

Register at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3>

Contact Mr. Murray with any questions or concerns regarding the registration process.



Mrs. Tiesha McEwen

Heights High School College and Career Counselor

Room 105

216-320-3065

t_mcewen@chuh.org

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Financial aid to pay for college is available from a variety of sources. Student aid includes grants, scholarships, work -study jobs, and loans.

Scholarships

- You can begin your scholarship search
- Review scholarships offered directly from colleges and universities.
- Common Websites for Scholarship Search
- Raise Me
- College Board
- Fast Web
- BigFuture
- Scholarship360.org

We encourage you to apply for two or more scholarships, twice a week. Research local organizations or well known franchise businesses i.e. Dental organizations, Starbucks, McDonalds ,etc.



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

FAFSA applications typically launch October 1 of each year.

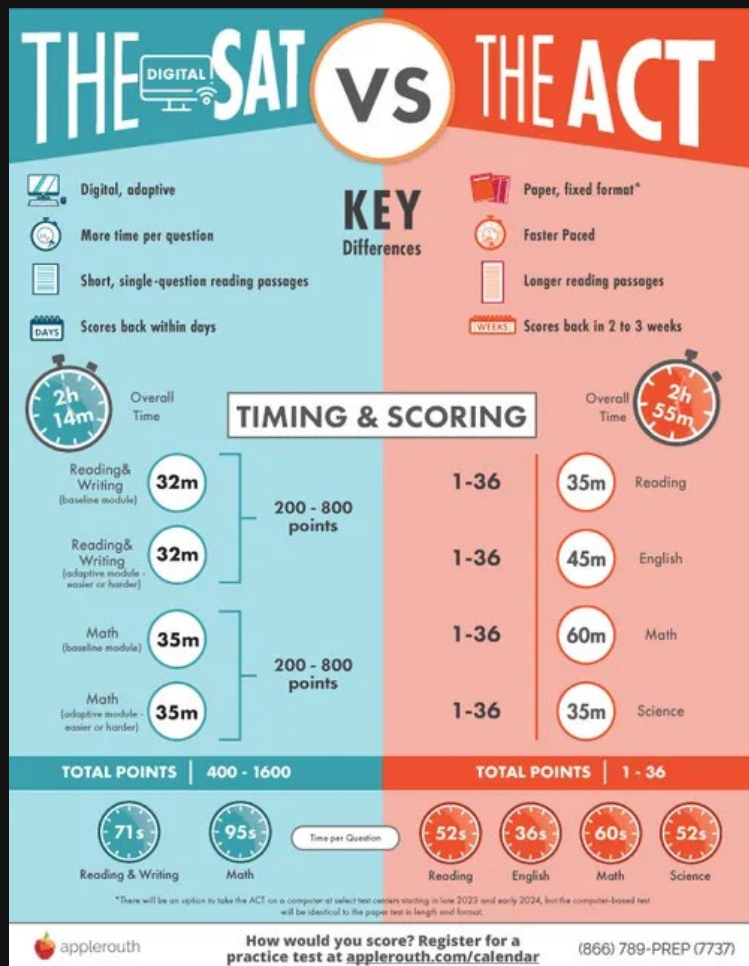
FAFSA Night **October 6, 2026 at 6pm**

27-28 SY, FAFSA will launch October 1, 2026

Apply as early as possible!

Make sure tax forms from 2025 are available.





College Entrance Exams: ACT/SAT

Both the ACT and SAT are college entrance exams that can be used for college admissions.

There is no “better” test—students should choose the test that best fits their strengths.

See Mrs. McEwen to register for either test!





Senior Post Secondary Day

September 23, 2026

During this special event, students will participate in sessions focused on one of the following pathways:

- College
- Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Military
- Workforce & Skilled Trades

These sessions will provide students with valuable information, resources, and connections to community and industry partners. Students will have the opportunity to explore career and educational pathways, ask questions, and begin developing a plan for life after graduation.

**CHOOSE YOUR
OWN ADVENTURE®**

PSAT School Day

October 7, 2026

Seniors will engage in a post-secondary activity that aligns with their future plans. This day is designed to give students hands-on experiences and personalized support as they prepare for their next steps after high school.

1. Individual College Campus Visit
2. School-Organized Campus Visit
3. College, FAFSA, Scholarship & Career Support
4. U.S. Military Opportunities
5. Individual Job Shadow Experience

September 25, 2026

Senior Activity Selection Form Due

<https://tinyurl.com/Heights27senior>

September 30, 2026

Permission Forms Due for Senior Activity Day

WHERE TO FIND US?

- GEAR UP - Rm:323
- TRIO/Educational Talent Search (ETS)- Rm: 219

Contact Us:

- Ms. Woodson - *GEAR UP Advisor*
jwoodson@collegenowgc.org
- Ms. Jordan - *Program Manager*
ajordan@collegenowgc.org



COLLEGE NOW

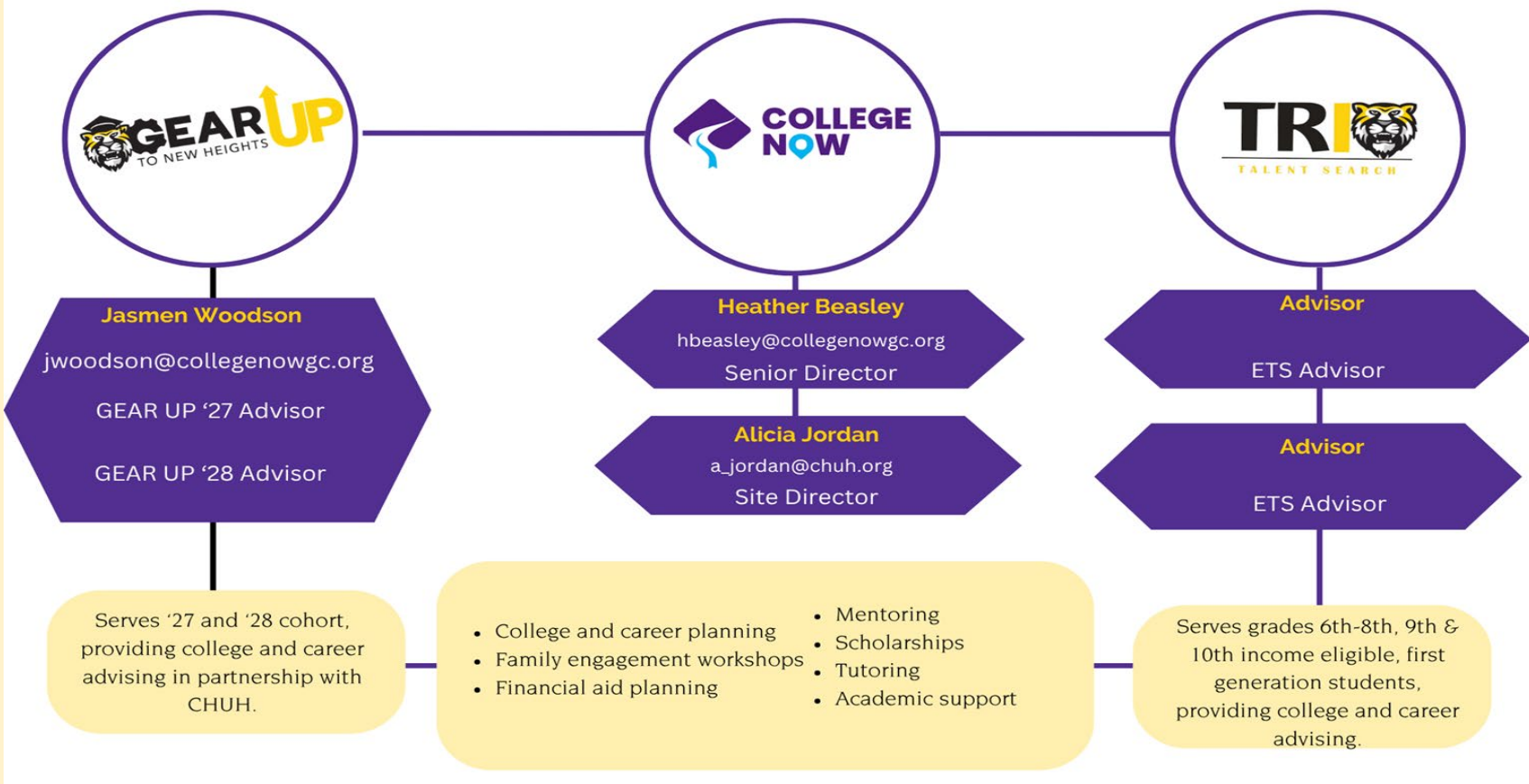
College Now is a non-profit college access organization. College Now was the first organization of its kind in the nation; and has since then become the largest in Ohio and remains one of the largest in the nation. Our mission is to increase college attainment through college access and success advising, financial aid counseling and scholarship and retention services.

College Now



COLLEGE NOW SERVICES IN CHUH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

This infographic is intended to provide a brief overview of what services each branch of College Now provides and who is responsible to deliver those services.



Mr. Smith: Senior Principal



- Cap and Gown presentation Sept 22 -During the schoolday
 - Senior Post Secondary Day-September 23rd
 - Financial Aid Night - October 6th
 - Senior Post Secondary Activity Day - October 7th
- Jobs and Trade Fair Family Informational Night - November 10th
 - Cap and Gown ordering deadline November 20th
 - Senior College Support Night-December 8th
 - Senior Cap and Gown Photos - February 3rd
 - Senior College Support Night - February 9th
- Senior Project applications available - January 15th
- Senior Project applications due - March 18th
 - Senior Project-April 29-May 17
 - Senior Finals - May 17-19
 - Prom - May 20
 - Senior Project presentations - May 24
 - Senior Picnic-May 25
- Graduation practices - May 26 and May 27
 - Graduation May 27 @ 6pm



**CONGRATULATION
CLASS OF 2027**

