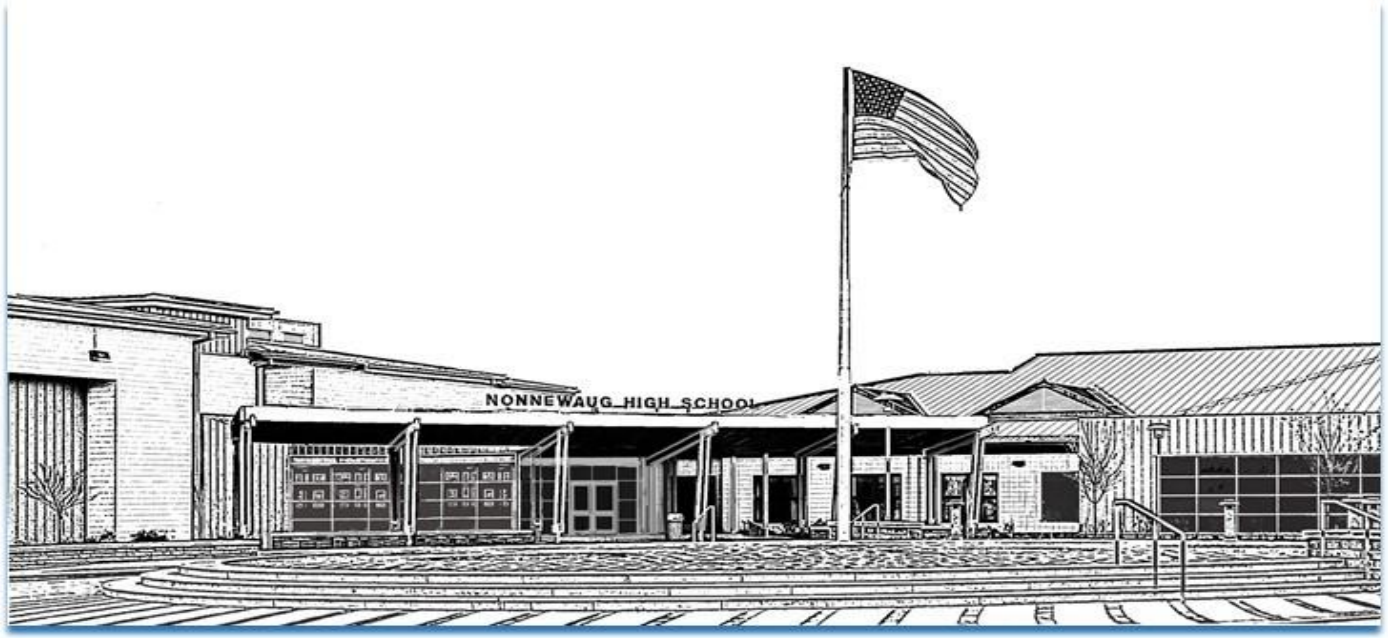
Nonnewaug High School

Senior College Night



The College Process…Upcoming Events

- Individual Senior Appointments
- Individualized family appointments available
- CCRC College Rep Visits
- October 16th PSAT day
- Virtual Financial Aid Night- Oct 22nd at 6:00
- Financial Aid application assistance
- **Follow us on Instagram @nonnewaug_CCRC**

College: What Are *You* Looking For?

Setting & Location

Urban, suburban, or rural environment; distance from home and geographic region.

Major

Availability of specific academic programs, departments, and study options.

Size

Student population scale, average class sizes, and student-to-faculty ratio.

Selectivity

Admission requirements, acceptance rates, and average GPA/test scores.

Cost

Tuition, fees, housing costs, financial aid opportunities, and scholarships.

The Best Way to Decide

Visit, visit, visit...

What Are Colleges Looking For?

Academic Record

Grades, GPA, and the overall strength and rigor of your high school program.

College Essay

Your personal statement and supplemental essays that showcase your unique voice.

Recommendations

Supporting letters from teachers and counselors describing your character and drive.

Activities & Sports

Extracurricular involvement, community service, sports, and work experience.

Demonstrated Interest

Your engagement with the college through campus visits and outreach.

Test Scores

SAT or ACT scores, keeping in mind test-optional policies.

Testing: SAT & ACT

Test-Optional Policy

- A majority of colleges and universities have now developed test-optional policies.
- **If you choose to submit, you must send official score reports directly through your College Board or ACT account.**

Taking the SAT or ACT

- Students can take either the SAT or ACT based on personal preference.
- Register online via your student College Board or ACT account.
- Planning for multiple test dates is highly recommended.

Understanding "Superscoring"

- Most colleges will "superscore" your testing results to your advantage.
- This means they combine your highest section scores from different test dates to create the highest possible overall score.

Effective Test Preparation

- Investing 9 to 20 hours in structured test prep is proven to significantly raise scores.

Excellent Local Resources:

- Khan Academy (Comprehensive free online practice)
- NHS Support (Convenient after-school sessions)

Applications, how many?



1-2 Schools

Reach

- Academic reach
- Financial reach

2-3 Schools

Realistic

- You will probably get in
- You can probably afford

1 School

Safety

- Definitely get accepted
- Affordable
- Close to home

Counselor Support

Your counselor can help you build and refine this list to ensure a balanced approach.

Applications - Deadlines & Types

STANDARD DEADLINES

Regular Decision

Deadlines vary by college.

i.e. - January 1, February 15

NON-BINDING

Early Action

Submit early and receive an early decision without the obligation to commit immediately.

BINDING COMMITMENT

Early Decision

Apply early to your top-choice school. If accepted, you must enroll and withdraw other applications.

OPEN WINDOW

Rolling Admissions

Applications are reviewed as they are received until available spaces are filled.

Key Takeaways & Important Dates

- **Apply well in advance of due dates!!**

***CT Fee-Free Application Days**

Applications

PRIMARY PLATFORM

Common Application

One centralized application used by over 1,000 colleges and universities worldwide.

- Streamlined submission for multiple schools
- Integrates directly with Naviance
- Stores main essay & general information

DIRECT INSTITUTION

College's Website

Direct application portals hosted on individual college or university websites.

- Used for institutions not on Common App
- Direct tracking via school portal
- May have specific institutional prompts

STATE PATHWAY

CT State Community College

Dedicated portal for Connecticut State Community College system applications.

- Simplified admissions process
- Local campus & degree options
- Free application opportunities available

➔ **Direct Admissions through the Common App & Niche**

Senior Checklist

1. Research & Prep

Initial Steps & Organization

- College Visits (on campus/CCRC/virtual)
- Create College List
- Write College Essay
- Ask for Letters of Recommendation (2)
- Add recommendation requests to Naviance

2. Accounts & Forms

Linking & Counseling

- Meet with counselor / request counselor letter (if required)
- Create Common App account (use personal email)
- Link Common App and Naviance
- Create activities list / resume
- Complete Permission to Release Form & return to CCRC
- Take an additional SAT/ACT

3. Submit & Follow-Up

Applications & Financial Aid

- Apply (Student submits application)
- Request Transcripts & Letters of Rec in Naviance (Mrs. Green sends these)
- Send SAT/ACT Scores through personal account
- Create FSA ID account & complete FAFSA (opens 10/1)
- **Check college applicant portals regularly!**

Financial Aid & Scholarships

FAFSA

Universal Aid Application

Opens for completion on 10/1/26

- Uses 2024 Fed Income Tax data
- Simplified by using FAFSA ID
- Each school responds with an Award Letter

CSS Profile

For Selective Private Colleges

i.e. Fairfield, Sacred Heart, Providence

- Completed via student College Board account
- Used by select private institutions

Local Scholarships

NHS Specific Opportunities

Instructions released to NHS students after Jan 1st

NHS CCRC - Scholarships

4 Levels of Support

1. **Financial Aid Night 10/22**
2. **Individual Appointments** offered to complete FAFSA/CSS
3. **Award Letter Appeal Assistance**
4. **College Financing Presentation** (NHS School Counseling website)



Naviance

- College search tool and electronic document transfer platform
- Accessible to all NHS students
- Seniors have been provided instructions for transcript/letter of rec requests
- Provides starting place for building college list
- Information rich and provides NHS historical data
- Fully searchable function with selectable criteria (location, major, size, etc)