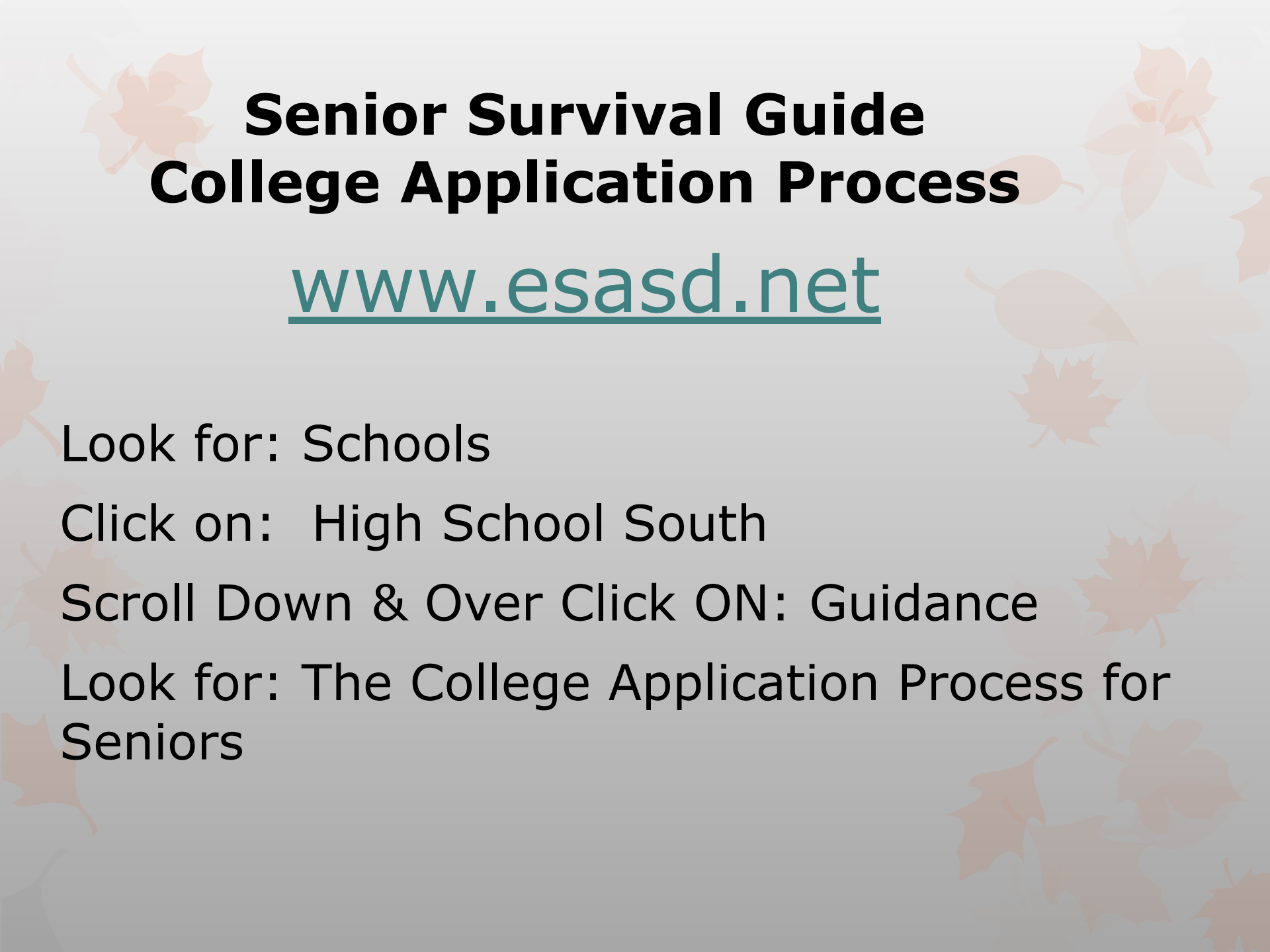




Senior Survival Guide

College Application Process

www.esasd.net

Look for: Schools

Click on: High School South

Scroll Down & Over Click ON: Guidance

Look for: The College Application Process for Seniors

What should be done by now?

- ☐ You have selected colleges in which to apply
- ☐ You are preparing college visits for over the fall semester. Check each college's website for Open House options. Questions to ask on visits in your packet!
- ☐ Please use the Educational Field Trip form. You **MUST** give it to the Attendance Office **BEFORE** you attend!
- ☐ You have registered via your Collegeboard.org account for Fall SAT Test Dates - Oct. 3, Nov. 7
- ☐ SAT Reg. Deadline for Nov 7 test date is Oct. 23
- ☐ SAT Fee Waiver? Check with your counselor

Register for the SAT

ESHS-South SAT Dates

- ▣ **Saturday, October 3**
- ▣ **Saturday, November 7**
- ▣ **Saturday, December 5**

**Register at:
collegeboard.org**

**Check collegeboard.org
for these and other
testing location**



Don't Have a List of Colleges?

1. Go to CollegeBoard.org to do a college search
2. Use Major and Location as your primary options
3. Review your college list, visit each school's individual website (Research), and then do college visits when possible.
4. If you haven't done so already, you need to do this NOW!

SPRING

- ☐ **Contact your counselor** before leaving school for the summer if you are considering military academies or ROTC scholarships. If you want a four-year ROTC scholarship, you should begin the application process the summer before your senior year.
- ☐ **Develop a list of 15 or 20 colleges that are of interest to you.** You can find many colleges at which you'll be happy and get a great education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and then finding colleges that will meet your goals.
- ☐ **Stay open to all the possibilities—don't limit your search.** To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.
- ☐ **Take the SAT.** The test is typically offered in March, May, and June. Make sure you start preparing for the test several months in advance using the tools available at satpractice.org. And remember, if you're not happy with your scores when you get them, you might want to test again in the fall. Many students take the test a second time as seniors, and they usually do better.
- ☐ **Start to gather documents for financial aid:** Be sure to keep a copy of your tax returns handy. You'll use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on Oct. 1.

SUMMER

- ☐ **Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center** if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- ☐ **Get your FSA ID:** Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- ☐ **Find a full-time or part-time job,** or participate in a summer camp or summer college program.
- ☐ **Visit colleges.** When planning your campus visits, make sure to allow time to explore each college. While you're there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors.
- ☐ **Create a résumé**—a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- ☐ **Download applications.** Go to the website of each college's admission office and either complete the application online or request a paper application from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admission.
- ☐ **Visit some local colleges**—large, small, public, and private. A visit to a college campus can help you decide if that college is right for you. Make a plan ahead of time to get the most from your visit. Check out the campus checklist at bigfuture.org. Attend college fairs, too.
- ☐ **Scan local newspapers** to see which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award financial aid to graduating seniors. Start a file.

11th Grade...How do I get started??

Spring

- Research Colleges - Review Websites
- Make a list of possible colleges
- Take the SAT for the first time

Summer

- Visit Colleges
- Create your FSA ID
- Start College Applications/ Common App after August 1st.
- Contact Teachers for Recommendations
- Complete SAT Prep to get ready for Fall SAT

School Counseling Website

Look for: Senior Survival Guide for the College Application Process

1. Transcript Release (GOLD)

- ☐ Must have parent signature
- ☐ Complete only once (1 time)
- ☐ Turn it into guidance

2. Transcript Tracking Form

- ☐ Complete for each and every college you apply to outside of the common application.
- ☐ You can complete it as a google form from the website

Senior Survival Kit: College Just Ahead

Application Checklist: What you need

- ☐ School Code: CEEB Code: 391150
- ☐ Our county: Monroe
- ☐ Dates you took SAT's
- ☐ Dates of future SAT's (Oct 3, Nov 7 & Dec 5)
- ☐ Counselor/School Information
 - ☐ Phone extension
 - ☐ e-mail address
- ☐ School Address
- ☐ Teacher email address
- ☐ GPA: 4.0 cumulative weighted scale
- ☐ Class rank: 4.0 cumulative weighted scale

College Apps...GO on-line

- Your application is NOT complete until you pay!
 - Check your collegeboard.org account for your Application Fee Waivers...for qualifying students
- Click SUBMIT!!! You can do it! DO NOT WAIT FOR SAT SCORES AND/OR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS!!
- SAVE all college account Username and Passwords!!!!
- SAT/ACT Scores: You send them (\$15 per school unless you request the school receives your scores within 9 days of taking the SAT)
- High School Transcript: We send them when you complete:
 - Transcript Release: GOLD, one and done
 - Google Transcript Request Form: one per school unless you are applying on Common App

Essay / Letters of Recommendation

Essay / Help

- Have your English teacher review your essay
- Use of AI:
 - a) Make your essay your own voice
 - b) Only use AI as a tool to help with punctuation & grammar, not to write your essay.
- If you are struggling with your essay topic, see your guidance counselor or your English teacher
- You can re-use or revise one essay for multiple schools

Letters of Recommendation

- Ask teachers NOW!! Do not wait!!
- Provide the teacher with your resume or a list of activities, accomplishments, employment, etc...
- Rec: Teacher in area of future major and a teacher who knows you best
- Follow-up with teacher in person or via email

Additional things to consider

☐ To Waive your right or not to waive your right...you choose

- ☐ By waiving your right to access, you can not ask the college to see your file.
- ☐ By not waiving your right, you HAVE access to see all the letters of recommendation on file at the college.
- ☐ By waiving your right to access, your teachers and counselor have the freedom to write honest evaluations. When college admissions counselors read school reports or teacher evaluations and the student has not waived his/her rights, this can be an unnecessary red flag.

The Common Application

- ☐ 1,100 Member Schools
- ☐ Each College or University will have their own supplements to be completed
- ☐ Essay(s) Required
- ☐ Letters of Recommendation...two or more needed
- ☐ You will need email addresses of recommenders
- ☐ Invite Counselor and Teachers EARLY!!!
- ☐ Early Decision: Parent and Counselor MUST approve
- ☐ Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines...are real!

Common App.: Early Decision

If you are accepted under an Early Decision plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications to any other college or university in any country. If you are an Early Decision candidate and are seeking need-based financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial aid from the admitting Early Decision institution.

Common App Direct Admissions

How it works

1. Complete basic information in Common App

First, you'll answer questions about your education, family, GPA, citizenship, Common App fee waiver eligibility, and your parents' education. Participating colleges use this information to determine whether you meet their admissions criteria.

2. Receive direct admissions offers

Once you complete these questions, you could receive offers from participating colleges in as little as one week if you qualify. You'll find your offers in the direct admissions section of your Common App account, and you will also receive an email notification. Each offer is based on the individual college's admissions criteria.

Pennsylvania Public Universities

One Application for each Group. Campus can depend upon your major. Research which state school has your major of choice before applying.

PENN West University

- ☐ Edinboro
- ☐ Clarion
- ☐ California

Commonwealth University of PA

- ☐ Bloomsburg
- ☐ Lock Haven
- ☐ Mansfield

You are strongly encouraged to apply to at least One (1) Public State University for a great education at a more affordable price \$\$\$

Pennsylvania Public Universities (cont.)

These State Schools still have their own college applications or they can be found on Common App

- ☐ East Stroudsburg University
- ☐ Indiana University of PA
- ☐ West Chester University
- ☐ Shippensburg University of PA
- ☐ Millersville University of PA
- ☐ Slippery Rock University of PA
- ☐ Kutztown University of PA
- ☐ Cheyney University of PA

You are strongly encouraged to apply to at least One (1) Public State University for a great education at a more affordable price \$\$\$

DEADLINES and the Mr. Kule Rule

- Application Deadlines: October, November, December...check with the college of your choice.
- Set your own application deadline: Mr. Kule uses the Holiday rule... Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas

Additional things to consider page 5

- Those students wishing to participate in collegiate sports (Division I/II) need to apply to the NCAA Clearinghouse. Apply online at: www.eligibilitycenter.org See: Mr. Kule
- Please note that after your Official Transcript has been sent, no alterations will be made to your schedule.
- Scholarship Newsletter...on our Guidance Web Page
- Types of College Admissions
 - Early Decision-Binding Contract
 - Early Action-Not binding contract

Important Dates 2026-27

☐ September 29	Parent College App Process
☐ October 1	FAFSA Opens
☐ October 3	SAT@ HS-South
☐ October 15	Field Trip to ESU (IDD)
☐ October 19	Financial Aid Night
☐ October 23	Kings College Info Pres.
☐ November 7	SAT @ South
☐ November 19	Kings College IDD
☐ December 5	SAT @ PM West
☐ ONGOING South -	College Recruiter visits at HS Sign up in Guidance

Check your email accounts DAILY!!!

- ☐ Throughout the school year for updates from Guidance
- ☐ Colleges will communicate with you exclusively via the email provided on your application
- ☐ Join Ms. North's Guidance Forum if you haven't done so already