



Senior Parent Night

Guiding your child in planning for their future!

BHS Counseling Department
2026 - 2027

Please Sign In!



Our Purpose & Promise

We understand what an exciting and challenging time this is for you and your child as you navigate the senior application process.

The seniors have done a great job thus far in planning for their future. Whether it be applying to college, trade school, the military, planning for the workforce, etc. - there are so many options!

Tonight we will review some of the process of applying to college, but also answer some of your lingering questions, so you can best help your child with the process of planning for after high school!

We can do this, together! - Your BHS Counselors

Counselor Support & Role

Your child should be in communication with their counselor with ideas for their post secondary plans. If they have not already done so, please encourage them to reach out to their counselor to set up a meeting!

Your child's school counselor will be sending EACH college they are applying to a copy of the:

- Counselor & teacher letters of recommendation (2 teachers)
- Transcript
- School Report Form
- Bergenfield High School Profile

Student Responsibilities

What Should Be Completed ...

- ❖ Scoir
 - List of colleges under “Applying” column
 - Teacher recommendation requests and Brag Sheets
 - Resume including Personal Statement
- ❖ Common App
 - All fields on common app tab completed with the exception of Writing
 - List of all colleges applying to on Scoir must match colleges on Common app
 - Recommenders and FERPA section completed for each school
- ❖ SAT, ACT, and AP Scores **SENT DIRECTLY via COLLEGEBOARD**
- ❖ Dual Enrollment transcripts should be requested directly from the college

What is Being Worked on Currently...

- ❖ College Essay (in English class)
- ❖ Updating resume (on Scoir)
- ❖ Completing College Specific questions and supplemental essays as required in the Common App website
- ❖ Ask teachers for recommendations ASAP and make request on Scoir
- ❖ Complete Teacher and Counselor Brag Sheet
- ❖ Creating profiles on National Scholarship websites as desired
- ❖ Meeting with counselors

What's NEXT...

Once applications are submitted:

- Indicate on Scoir under APPLIED column
- An email from each individual College or University will be sent to the student's personal email.
- Please **create student portal** to keep track of your application status and any financial aid information or scholarships
- At the end of the year, add acceptances into Scoir and select 'Enrolling' for where you plan to attend after high school.

What Is Test Optional?

When a school says that they are test optional, it is YOUR choice whether or not to send your standardized test score to a college.

If you are applying for a specific career program such as STEM, medical, honors; deciding to send or withhold your scores is a strategic process.

If your child is unsure whether to submit their test scores, contact the admissions department of the school.

****Please keep in mind that some scholarships or merit-based awards may still require standardized test scores.**

Federal Student Aid

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

Federal Aid

- Available beginning is now OPEN!
- Please log into the following website for application studentaid.gov
- Student must have Social Security to qualify for Federal Aid
- Parents do not have to have a Social Security, but an ITIN number will help
- You can access the presentation on <http://Bergenfield.org>

Bergenfield.org  Bergenfield High School  Support Services  School Counseling  Financial Aid

Upcoming FAFSA night

Wednesday, October 7th	7:00 pm	FAFSA Completion Night English/Spanish
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NJ Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

HESAA –Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

- State of New Jersey Financial Aid
 - Please log into the following website for application hesaa.org
 - Undocumented students can apply if they have been in NJ for more than 3 years and will graduate with a NJ Diploma

***REMEMBER:**

- Colleges may have their own separate financial aid application
- Financial aid deadlines may be different than application deadlines

Scholarship Options

Many colleges offer **merit and need-based scholarships**:

- **Merit** scholarships are awarded based upon being a solid academic student by the college.
- **Need-Based** scholarship is based upon financial need from the college in addition to what a student may receive from the state.
- **LOCAL scholarships are offered by Bergenfield businesses, organizations, and individuals. Donors have their own process which will be explained in more detail beginning in March.**

National Scholarships:

- Fastweb.com
- www.goingmerry.com
- Bigfuture.collegeboard.org
- www.cappex.com
- www.scholarships.com
- [www.scholarshipmonkey.co
m](http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com)
- www.careeronestop.org

NJ Stars Program Information

What's **NJ Stars**?

You can read full information about it [here](#). But, the basics are that seniors who are in the **top 15%** of their class at the end of their junior year or end of senior year qualify.

Through the program, you can attend community college for **free** for the first two years.

Then, if you keep up certain grades, you can be eligible for NJ Stars II, where you can also go to a number of in-state 4 year colleges for your next two years, also for **free**.

Your counselor will send you an email if you have qualified.

Additional Programs for Aid

CSS PROFILE (College Scholarship Service Profile)

- Determines institutional aid
- Available Dec 1st
- [Student.collegeboard.org/profile](https://student.collegeboard.org/profile)

QuestBridge

- connects high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds with a thriving community and transformative education (deadline October 1, 2026, ask your counselor)

EOF (The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF))

- The New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program provides financial assistance and support services to students from educationally and economically disadvantaged backgrounds who attend participating New Jersey colleges and universities
- This includes a separate EOF application and you must mark that you are applying under EOF on your main college application

Visiting Colleges



- ❖ In person - Register on individual College/University Websites
- ❖ School trips - 6 Trips planned for the fall/Sign up required/space is limited
- ❖ Lunch Rep Visits - Register via Visits/Deadlines on Scoir
- ❖ Open Houses - Most Colleges Offer, see College Website

2026 College Visits



- ❖ College of St Elizabeth - 9/28/26
- ❖ Hunter College - 9/30/26
- ❖ Fordham University - 10/6/26
- ❖ Drexel University - TBA

*Trade school visits will be in the spring

Same Day Admissions

A select number of schools will be participating on site at BHS for same day admissions. Students will be given detailed instructions on how to view admissions requirements and sign up if they qualify.



Trade Schools

If a trade/vocational program is the right fit for you, visit their websites and request information.

Field trips to trade/vocational schools take place in the Spring. Last year we visited the following:

Bergen County Technical Schools Adult Ed	Lincoln Technical Institute
Aviation Institute	Eastwick College (multiple campuses)
Universal Technical Institute	

Counselor Contact Information

Your school counselors are here for you!

Mr. Cajes:	gcajes@bergenfield.org	(Alvarado → Zhang)
Mrs. Cruz:	mecruz@bergenfield.org	(Acero, A → Young)
Ms. LaPorta:	llaporta@bergenfield.org	(Abalos → Dunn)
Mrs. Massey:	dlmassey@bergenfield.org	(Fernandez Morillo → Nwankwo)
Mrs. Yoskowitz:	myoskowitz@bergenfield.org	(Padilla → Wachausen)

Questions?



**Please Scan the QR
Code to Give Us
Feedback!**

