



# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

BTHS School Counseling

# When to apply?

- Scholarships
  - NOW and continue throughout college
- College/University/Vocational School
  - By October 31 of senior year
  - Can start as early as summer between 11/12 grade year
  - You are applying with the cumulative GPA from the end of junior year and ACT and SAT test scores obtained by August of senior year

# What to think about when searching for a college

- What is the graduation rate?
- What is the cost?
- What is the percentage of students who come back after freshmen year?
- Does the college offer my major?
  
- Compare and research colleges
  - <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

# Applying to College

- Begin the search process now
  - Make a list of colleges or other postsecondary opportunities that are interesting to you
  - The colleges that you are interested in can fall into one of the following categories:
    - Match (your academic credentials fall well within the school's range for average freshmen)
    - Reach (your academic credentials a little fall below the school's range for the average freshmen)
    - Safety (your academic credentials fall above the school's range for the average freshmen)
  - Request information about each college
  - If possible, visit colleges that you are interested in

# Get Organized

- Keep a folder/file/binder with everything that is needed to apply for multiple scholarships and colleges.
  - Application deadlines
  - ACT/SAT/ scores
  - High school transcript (request from Parchment)
  - Letters of recommendation (because you may be able to use one for multiple applications)
  - Resume of activities, community service, and leadership roles
  - Essays (because you may be able to use one essay for multiple applications)
  - High school code – 100-809
  - Parents level of education, occupation, income
- Get an appropriate e-mail address
  - [JohnSmith01@gmail.com](mailto:JohnSmith01@gmail.com) (YES)
  - [BigDaddy01@gmail.com](mailto:BigDaddy01@gmail.com) (NO)

# College Application Fees

- College application fees vary but could be between \$35-\$50, depending on college
- There is never a fee associated with scholarships
- SAT, ACT, or NACAC college application fee waivers can be used to waive college application fees
  - If you took the ACT or SAT with a fee waiver, see your counselor about obtaining college application fee waivers.
- If using fee waivers, contact each college to determine how they would like the fee waivers submitted. Every college has a different process.

# ACT and SAT Score Reports

- ACT
  - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice
  - If you didn't send scores when you registered for the test, then this will cost money
- SAT
  - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice
  - If you didn't send scores when you registered for the test, then this will cost money

# High School Transcript

- Official record of academic performance and testing history
  - Different than a credit detail report that a counselor can print for you
- Request transcript via Parchment -  
<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/9276/account>
- Check with the college or scholarship organization to determine how they want to receive the transcript
  - Electronically
  - US Mail
- Transcripts **MUST** be kept in sealed envelope, otherwise they are invalid



# Letter of Recommendation

- Check to see if letter of recommendation is required
- Ask an adult (but not a relative) that knows you really well
- Give them a resume or brag sheet of your achievements to help them
- Ask well in advance of the deadline
- Give instructions to writer about how to submit the letter of recommendation
  - Directly to you?
  - Uploaded electronically?
  - Sent directly to college or scholarship organization?
- Send a thank you note!

# College Admissions and Scholarship Essay

- Check to see if an essay is required
- Check to determine the essay prompt or question
- Draft initial essay
- Proofread for spelling and grammar
- Ask two people to read your essay
- Revise your essay
- Proofread your revision
- Ask two people to read your final draft
- Proofread again
- Upload essay to electronic application

# Scholarship Tips

- Start searching for scholarships early and continue searching throughout college.
- Get organized.
- Make a list of deadlines and don't miss them.
- Apply to EVERY scholarship for which you are eligible.
- Essays can be reused and tailored for each new application.
- Review your social media accounts and remove inappropriate material.
- Make sure you have an appropriate e-mail address.

# Where do I find scholarships?

- Google Search (but NEVER pay for scholarships)
  - <http://www.fastweb.com/>
  - <http://www.finaid.org/scholarships/>
  - <https://www-bths.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/scholarships/>
  - [www.raise.me](http://www.raise.me)
- College Board
  - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- Parents' Employers
- Church and Civic Organizations
- Unions
  - <https://www.unionplus.org/college-education-financing/union-plus-scholarship>
- University/College Website
  - Check the scholarship web page at the colleges you would like to attend.
  - Check the webpage of the department of your intended major.