

Kickoff to College

Carolyn Blair, Jacelyn Cole & Katy-Jane Johnson
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CHS Senior Counseling Philosophy

- Student's assigned counselor will be their "Go To" person for everything-class schedules, social/emotional and college
- Senior counselors work together to ensure all students needs are met
 - Students can see any see counselor for questions or essay review during App Lab
- We truly take a team approach with seniors!

The college search

The first step in the college process is figuring out what your academic, social and emotional fit looks like.

Factors to consider when choosing a school:

1. **Location**
2. **Academic programs**
3. **Size**
4. **Campus life**
5. **Total cost**

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- It's very important that parents discuss their priorities with their child early in the search process
 - College is a family decision and the needs of both students and parents must be considered when making the final decision

College admissions committees review:

Colleges have their own criteria when reviewing applications.

Factors they consider are:

- Grades / overall GPA
- Strength of high school course selections (including senior year)
- Essay
- Recommendation letters
- Demonstrated interest
- Accomplishments / activities
- Discipline record
- ACT or SAT scores

Admissions Tests

ACT

Consists of 4 tests (English, math, reading, science. Optional writing).
Highest composite score is 36

SAT

Consists of 2 sections (evidence based reading & writing and math). Total score is between 400 and 1600

Some colleges will continue to be “test optional / test flexible / test blind”.
Sending scores will be on a case - by case basis

Your student has taken the **PSAT** (practice SAT) & **practice ACT**

Juniors will take a school-sponsored **SAT** on April 2nd

Sign up for any additional ACT / SAT will be done by student / parent on ACT.org or CollegeBoard.org. Will be taken on a Saturday

Definitions

Test optional

Lets students decide whether or not to submit test scores with their application. These colleges use a 'holistic' review using essays, recommendations, possible portfolios, etc. (if admitted, some colleges may require placement exams)

Test flexible

Lets students submit other test scores such as AP tests in place of SAT or ACT

Test blind

College / university will not consider test scores, even if submitted (University of California system is test- blind)

How to create a college list

We're here to help! Attend an individual family planning meeting with the college counselors. These meeting will begin FEB 10th!

Consider schools that fall into three categories

- **REACH:** Admission is less likely
- **TARGET:** Student's credentials competitive and they are qualified for admission. Might have a 50/50 chance of admission
- **LIKELY:** Credentials are very competitive and student should be admitted. Important for students to find 'likely' schools where they truly believe they can be happy and productive

Deciding when to apply to college

→ **Early Decision**

- ◆ **Binding**: parents, student and counselor signs a contract agreeing that the student will enroll if admitted, regardless of financial package that is presented
- ◆ For students who are fully committed to enrolling and will withdraw all other applications
- ◆ November 1st deadline, mid-December decisions

→ **Early Action**

- ◆ Apply early, receive a decision early
- ◆ Early to mid-November (November 1st and 15th)
- ◆ Decisions are released around mid-December
- ◆ **Non binding**

→ **Restrictive Early Action**

- ◆ **Non binding**
- ◆ Few schools offer, can only apply to state schools
- ◆ Common deadline is November 1

Deciding when to apply to college

→ Regular Decision

- ◆ Non binding
- ◆ Applications are due January 1 to mid February
- ◆ Should receive a decision mid March to mid April
- ◆ Include 1st semester senior year grades

→ Rolling Decision

- ◆ Applications are evaluated as they are received
- ◆ Will continue to evaluate apps until all spots are filled



→ **MaiaLearning** is how students communicate with counselor and request supporting documents, not how students apply

<https://www.maialearning.com/v3/manage-student/account/my-students>

Junior year “To Do’s”

- ❑ Keep working hard on your grades!
- ❑ Review your transcript / graduation requirements with your senior counselor and register for classes in PowerSchool
- ❑ College visits - if traveling already, stop by a college! Helpful to get a feel for various types of college campuses
- ❑ Students (not parents) can attend college rep visits in the CHS counseling office if teacher approved

Junior year “To-Do’s”

- ❑ If necessary, an open discussion about your finances and how they will affect the college search and decision making process
 - ❑ Net Price Calculator & merit scholarship information on college’s website
- ❑ Start thinking about teacher rec letter options
- ❑ Attend the 4 School College Fair on Sunday, April 13th from 2:00 to 4:00 at The Center of Clayton
- ❑ Create a personal email address with parent and student access
- ❑ Complete “brag sheets”. Helpful when writing a college recommendation for your student!

Additional Spring Presentations

Creating An Application Plan: will be a more detailed explanation of when it is appropriate to apply ED, EA, REA, etc

Fine / Performing Arts Applicants: a deep dive into the college application requirements for these specialized programs

Dates TBD

Additional College Search websites

- **BigFuture:** Allows you to search by a variety of factors such as majors, size and location. Also allows you to compare and contrast different schools. A great resource for important admissions deadlines
- **PrincetonReview.com:** Provides a basic search by school but also has a unique list and rankings
- **Cappex.com:** Can do everything from research schools, apply for scholarships and do activities to help you figure out what schools / careers would be best for you. Students create a Cappex profile so you get more personalized results
- **USNews.com:** US News and World Report. Best known for its various list of college rankings

Websites you should know:

→ **MaiaLearning.com**

- ◆ Students and parents use to navigate college search process
- ◆ Sign in with Clayton google info
- ◆ Official transcripts and teacher recommendations are requested here

→ **Common App:**

- ◆ A single online college application form used by over 900 colleges and universities. Instead of filling out the same general information multiple times (address, GPA, extracurriculars, etc) you only have to do it once

→ **Coalition:**

- ◆ A single online college application form used by more than 150 colleges and universities. Only have to fill out the same general information once

→ **FAFSA (studentaid.gov):**

- ◆ Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- ◆ Opens on October 1st of every year and has to be completed each year
- ◆ Completing will determine your SAI - Student Aid Index (formerly EFC, expected family contribution) that determines the amount of need-based aid you qualify for
- ◆ Financial Aid 101 presentation in fall of senior year

→ **CSS Profile**

- ◆ An online application required by some colleges to award financial aid from sources outside of the federal government
- ◆ Used in addition to the FAFSA, not instead of

We look forward to your next steps!

Families can schedule a college planning meeting with us - link to our sign up calendars will come via email

All meetings will be in person unless requested otherwise

You will meet with:

Jacelyn Cole: *last names A-L*

Katy-Jane Johnson: *last names M-Z*

Carolyn Blair: *All*

Thank you!