College Application 101 for Families

Presented by BSD School Counselors
Application Process Overview

Prepare

Research and Build your list

Apply – the components of the application
Prepare (9th, 10th, 11th)

- Course Selection – appropriate college prep rigor
- GPA – prioritize and balance your time
- Activities - in areas of passion and Interest
- Essay - draft in Junior English
- Take practice ACT and PSAT in schools
- Visit with College Reps
- Attend college fairs
- Talk as a family about priorities, goals and finances
Prepare – Questions to ask for Course Selection

- How many AP Classes should I take?
- How important are grades compared to taking a rigorous class load?
- What are college admission officers looking for?
- Are all AP classes created equal?
**Prepare – College & Career Center**

Our **College & Career Specialists** work closely with the School Counselors at the four comprehensive high schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Exploration</th>
<th>Career Exploration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o Meet with students to discuss post high school options</td>
<td>o Career counseling to assist students in identifying future careers and potential areas of study in college</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Answer questions about college application process</td>
<td>o Assist students to find and apply to vocational programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Assist with Naviance</td>
<td>o Resume, Cover Letter and Interview guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Help with the WANIC career classes</td>
<td>o Job search and job boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Arrange for all of the college representative visits to the high school</td>
<td>o Local volunteer opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Help students with looking for scholarships and financial aid</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Prepare - PSAT/Practice ACT

9th Grade – PSAT 8/9 Results mid December online; paper report in January

10th Grade – Practice ACT

11th Grade - PSAT

- Students are given their test booklets along with their score reports.
- They can log in to the testing websites and review practice questions aimed at their weak areas of the test.
Prepare - College Admission Testing

We recommend all students take both the SAT and the ACT in the spring of 11th grade

Students can retest in the fall of 12th grade if needed

Review the results of the PSAT and Practice ACT that the students took on Super Wednesday in October

SAT Subject Tests are required and/or optional at some highly selective colleges
Prepare - Campus Visits

- Never too soon to visit local, regional or national colleges
- Take an official campus tour
- Speak with an admission counselor
- Ask about financial aid opportunities
- Sit in on a class of interest
- Read the student newspaper
- Talk to students and faculty
- Participate in overnight stays and attend college preview days
Research - What college is right for me?

How do you pick your friends?

- Spending time together (visit)
- Learning about each other & the interests you share (research)
- Overlooking small things that might bug you (i.e. the weather...the fact that the laundry facilities are in the basement & that the whole campus isn’t wireless)
- Looking forward in the same direction - having the same goals (having a major that is interesting)
- Substance (the right fit) vs. reputation & status (what is popular or following the crowd)
Research – Naviance
Super Match Search Tool

Pick different criteria based on personal fit
Build Your College List

- 3 tiers of colleges:
  - Reach (below 25% acceptance rate)
  - Moderate or Target (between 25-75%)
  - Likely (above 75%; you know you are getting in)
  - Based on student profile and college profile: GPA, course rigor, test scores

- Research using Naviance
  - Super Match
  - College Match

- Attend college fairs and school college representative visits
Research – Finding your Best Fit

Your best fit should have ...

- Learning environment that supports how you learn
- Level of rigor that meets your level
- Consider campus and living arrangements
- Program/major to meet your academic needs and goals
- Research retention and graduation rates

Apply to 4-6 schools. Don’t make it a contest!
Apply – Components of a College Application

- Essay
- Strength of Curriculum
- Extracurricular Activities
- Grades in College Prep
- Grades in All Courses
- Admissions Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
- Teacher Recommendation
- Counselor Recommendation
- Student’s Demonstrated Interest
- AP/IB Test Scores
- Interview
- Class Rank (our district does not rank students)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Year</th>
<th>August-October</th>
<th>November-January</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Guidance and Senior Blitz</td>
<td>Early decision and early action applications due (Nov 1-15)</td>
<td>Colleges notify students of decision (Dec-April)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Retake SAT/ACT tests if needed</td>
<td>Regular applications due</td>
<td>Decision Day (May 1) Tuition and housing deposits due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Attend Super Wednesday for essay help</td>
<td>Apply for scholarships</td>
<td>Apply for scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finalize college applications</td>
<td></td>
<td>Have fun and enjoy your last days of high school (make memories)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FAFSA/WASFA October 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
High School Transcripts

- Includes a list of all classes taken, grades and cumulative GPA
- All classes taken or attempted must show on the transcript
- Some classes can be pulled up from middle school onto the high school transcript (i.e. Algebra, Biology, World Language)
- Language credit can be earned through competency-based testing – however some colleges require that students have courses on transcript
Tips for Families

- Take your children to visit local colleges
- Talk to them about how you picked your college and career
- Assist them to determine the “best fit” college (not by “brand name”)
- Have conversations about how to pay for college
- Encourage your student to:
  - Take advantage of all the tools on Naviance
  - Get involved in clubs, sports and activities
  - Community service is a great way to build their confidence, find out about possible career opportunities, to give back to the community and to build their resume
  - Attend the college representative visits at their school
Logging on to Naviance

- Go to: https://bsd405.org/about/initiatives/college/naviance/
  - Choose your student’s high school

- **Students log on with Clever.** You will need to coordinate with your child to view their Naviance account.

- **Naviance:** A web-based software tool that allows you to:
  - Take Interest Inventories and Personality Assessments
  - Explore Careers
  - Research Colleges and majors
  - Research Scholarships
  - Create a resume
  - Request Letters of Rec and Transcripts
Super Match Search Tool

Scattergrams

Application process

$ & Scholarships
Naviance
Super Match
Search Tool
Results
Naviance Scattergrams
Naviance Scattergrams
### Scholarships and Financial Aid

The following are scholarships or financial awards that may be relevant for you. Click the name of a scholarship to view more information. You may also add the scholarship for which you are submitting applications and then click "Add to My Applications".

#### Available Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Maximum Award</th>
<th>Merit Based</th>
<th>Need Based</th>
<th>Essay Req</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;9g for the 9th&quot; Scholarships</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>1M Words or Less Scholarship</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>$18,000 Annual B111 BankCard Services</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>$10000</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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<tr>
<td>$180,000 Annual NFHS/NFHS $180 of Rights Essay Scholarship Contest</td>
<td>7/1</td>
<td>$54,300</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>$21,111 Merit Award</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>$2400</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000 Sea Air Foundation Ambassador Program</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>$10000</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>$2,000 Facebook</td>
<td>1/31</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Scholarship and Financial Aid from Airport to You®</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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<td>AAF Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdullah &amp; Emran Scholarship Program</td>
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<td>$1000</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACE Technology Scholarships</td>
<td>9/10</td>
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<td>Multiple</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACE Scholar's Program</td>
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<td>$2000</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Act No Scholarships</td>
<td>1/10</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>ActievSOr</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2000</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAA</td>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>$800</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFA Total Awareness College Scholarship</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFA National HS</td>
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<td>$6400</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFA &amp; AFA Minority/Ethnic/Non-Endowed Scholarship</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you for Coming!

Questions?