Senior Conference

-Post- CHS-
Planning

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A Review of College Content

Considering Fit...

The most important factor when looking at schools is considering if they are the right "fit".

What does that mean?

A College that is a good "Fit"= A college that matches a student across several dimensions: intellectual, social, geographical, professional, and financial, to name a few.

---Consider the fact that you are not only going to be there to take classes, for most students it will become their home for at least 10 months of the year!

Dimensions of Fit:

Academic & Testing Admission Fit	Social & Academic Fit	Financial Fit
Determined by the College	Determined by the Student	Determined by the Family
Do your scores and grades fit the school profile?	Does the school have your major? Interests? Social Life?	Be aware of sticker price vs. actual cost

Building a Healthy List

When you begin to select schools, it is important to manage admission expectations by building a healthy list that includes a range of likely, target, and reach schools. About 2-4 schools in each category are appropriate.

What is a target school?

A school where you meet most of the application criteria. You fall within the acceptable range of standardized test scores, GPA, extracurricular activities and other requirements. It is advisable to have about 3-4 schools in this category on your list.

What is a likely school?

These are schools where your chances are highly likely or certain for admission. Your standardized test scores are on the high end of what they accept, and you generally meet or exceed their requirements. Sometimes referred to as "safety" schools. It is advisable to have at least 1-2 schools in this category on your list.
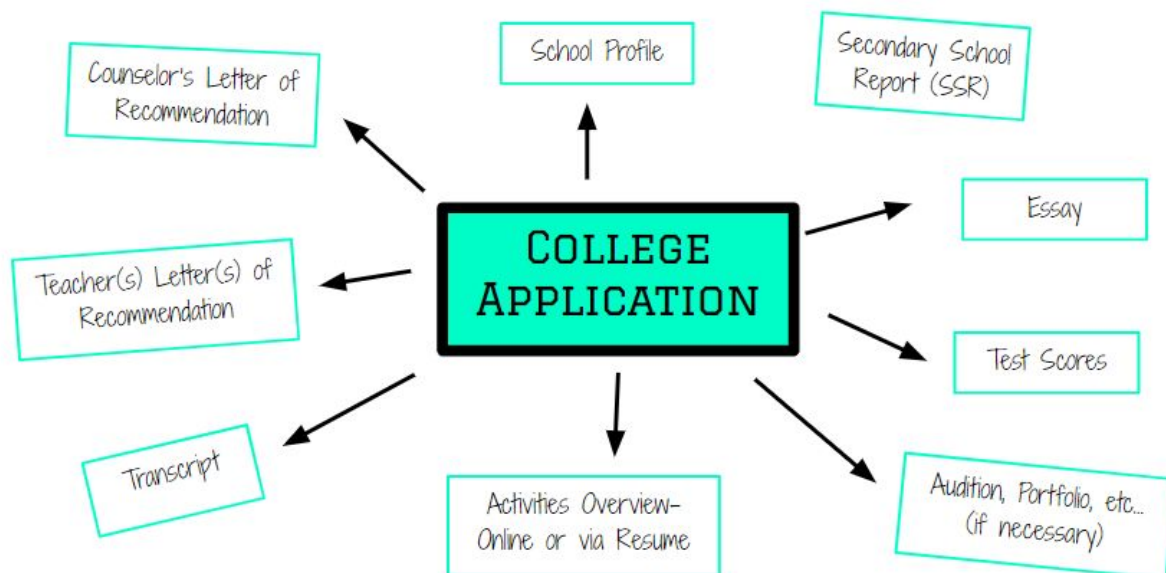
What is a reach school?

A school where you apply knowing that you are on the low end or do not meet some requirements. This may be worthwhile if you have other attributes, experiences or qualities that will allow you to stand out. It is advisable to have about 1-2 schools in this category on your list.

The Anatomy of an Application Package

While this is a comprehensive list, what schools consider varies by <u>each school and each year</u>. Other factors outside of those listed above are also considered in the review process.

Application	Colleges review the application to evaluate your academic and personal profile. Each school has different application requirements- it is important to adhere to the specifications of each one.
Transcript	The courses you select and the grades you receive are an important part of the college admission process.
Standardized Tests	The SAT or ACT are required by most colleges. The emphasis a college places on these tests varies greatly. More and more schools are <u>not</u> requiring them for admission. A few colleges, *the most competitive ones*, require or recommend specific Subject Tests.
Letters of Recommendation	Colleges use these as evidence of your potential, character, and academic effort. A small number of schools will **not use** these in their process.
Essay	Most colleges will require an essay. They use the essay to learn about you and also to sample your ability to express your thoughts in writing.
Out of Classroom Activities	Colleges seek students who demonstrate a commitment to activities outside the classroom. Community service, student gov., athletics, after-school jobs, performing arts, etc… are viewed positively
School Profile/Secondary School Report	Information and context about the high school(s) the student has been studying in the past few years. This is submitted by the school and the student's school counselor.
If applicable… **-Interview, Audition or Portfolio**	Based on programs you are applying for and the school's requirements you may be able to or required to interview, audition or submit a portfolio. *Generally if you are applying to an Arts program*

The Anatomy of an Application Package

What is the Common App?

Non-Profit college access organization that helps students apply to college. Designed to make applying to college faster and easier.

2 main parts you fill out:

1- Set of common questions
2- Set of each college's own questions

The Common App and Naviance connect to each other to increase the effectiveness of this process. Each student goes through a process called "Matching" during school with the Counseling Department.

Common App at a glance

- Almost 900 colleges and universities use Common App
- 204 public colleges and universities
- 62 international universities in 18 countries
- 12 HBCUs
- More than 325 without app fee
- Nearly 250 test optional/flexible

This is the application recommended by the Counseling Department
It continues to be the application that helps streamline the process best for students
Students should only use other applications if the college requires it.

In the Common App this year (2020-2021) there will be a section that allows you an opportunity to discuss any circumstances related to COVID-19

What is the Coalition App?

The Coalition is a group of about 140 colleges and universities that have been approved as schools that graduate students with low-to-no debt, while either meeting students' full demonstrated financial need, offering low-cost in-state tuition, or providing responsible financial aid packages.

Similar to the Common App, students can use the Coalition application to apply to all 140-plus member schools.

At this point in time, the University of Washington is the only school that requires the Coalition Application. That being said it is highly recommended that students use the Common Application to apply given its user friendliness and the partnership between Naviance & Common App.

Application Dictionary

Admission Plan- the schedule and method by which colleges and universities accept and review application, and notify applicants of their decisions. Examples: Early Decision, Early Action and Regular Decision

Application Fee- The fee a college charges you to apply to their institution. The amount varies from one college to the next. Some students qualify for fee waivers

CBO- Community Based Organization- a not-for-profit college access organization that offers free advisint for students

CEEB Code- A unique identification number assigned to high schools and colleges by the College Board. CHS CEEB is 310224

College Specific Questions- iOn the Common Application--Questions that colleges ask in addition to the information collected in the Common App tab of the application. This includes the start term and admission plan you'd like to apply for.

Common App ID (CAID)- A unique 8 digit numeric identifier that colleges use to match your materials with your application. You can find your unique CAID in the top right corner of your account.

Common App- Name of online application system used by students to apply to member colleges and universities across the country and around the world
CSS Profile- The CSS Profile is required by many private colleges and universities to determine your eligibility for non-government financial aid, which includes grants, loans, and scholarships from a college. This is run through the College Board

Essay- The "personal essay" or "personal statement" on apps give you the chance to tell your story and to show off your writing skills. Not every college requires an essay, and some are specific to a school. On the common app you can see which schools do and do not require them in your account

Evaluation- A writing prompt that your teachers and non-academic recommenders can use to elaborate on what they think colleges should know about you

FAFSA- The FREE Application for Federal Student Aid is used to determine eligibility for federal, state and college- sponsored financial aid. This includes grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.

Fee Waivers- A request to the college to remove the application fee. You go through this process via your School Counselor, check with them to see if you qualify.

FERPA- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that protects your education records.
Final Report- A form submitted by your high school counselor that typically summarizes your academic performance from freshman year to the end of your senior year. The Final Report is the last thing your counselor will submit.

Financial Aid- Funding in the form of grants and loans to help pay for education-related expenses including tuition, room and board, textbooks and supplies for college

First Year- You are a First Year applicant if you will be completing High School this academic year or if you have never enrolled at a college or university.

GPA- Grade Point Average-- The academic performance measurement calculated based on your grades. All high schools calculate GPA differently. On the Common App you can self report this information, and your school counselor will submit your official transcript to confirm the GPA.

Matriculation- The formal process of entering a college or of becoming eligible to enter college by completing certain academic requirements

Mid-Year Report- Submitted by your counselor, this form usually summarizes your academic performance through the middle of your final year of high school

Other Recommender- A type of recommender that is not from your school (coach, employer etc…) You should check with the schools you are applying to if they accept these.

Portfolio- A supplemental form used to showcase your special talents in one or more subjects. Certain colleges will require a portfolio to complete your application

Rolling Admission- A decision plan that lets students submit an application at any time throughout the year. Colleges review the applications as they receive them and make decisions as soon as possible.
School Report- A form submitted by your high school counselor to provide basic information about your academic performance.

Transcript- Documentation to prove which courses you've taken and the grades you received for those courses. Your counselor will be required to provide an official transcript on your behalf.

Writing Supplement- Not required by every college, these are additional writing prompts asked as part of the college specific questions. A common question is "Why do you want to attend ____ College"

College Funding

Types of Aid:

Grants	Scholarships	Loans	Work Study
Do not need to be paid back	Do not need to be paid back	Need to be paid back	Paid, part-time work
Based on financial need, when need is high, grant aid tends to be high *Grants can come from:* -federal -state - institution (need & merit)	Can be based on need, but more commonly merit based *Scholarships can come from:* -Institution -Private (community organizations, companies, national scholarships etc…)	<u>Federal Loans</u> -borrowed from government Stafford Loans: <u>-Subsidized</u>- Based on demonstrated need. US Dept. of Ed pays interest on the loans while in school <u>-Unsubsidized</u>- Not based on demonstrated need. Students pay interest <u>Parent PLUS Loans</u>- For parents borrow to help pay for students <u>Private Loans-</u> Not federal based- most often from banks	- Usually on campus -Earnings go directly to student-do <u>not</u> come off tuition -Being awarded work study does not guarantee a job, and jobs are not guaranteed year to year

Key Terms:

➔ <u>-COA- Cost of Attendance</u>
Total amount it will cost a student to attend a particular school for one year. Includes: Tuition and fees, housing, food, books, supplies, transportation, etc..
The college subtracts your EFC from the COA to calculate your need for financial aid. The higher the COA, the more aid you will be eligible for.

➔ <u>-EFC- Expected Family Contribution</u>
Number that determines students eligibility for <u>federal</u> aid. Financial aid staff subtract the EFC from students' cost of attendance (COA) to determine their need for federal funding. *Low EFC= More financial aid a student is eligible to receive*

Financial Need= COA-EFC

➔ <u>-Sticker Price:</u> The total yearly cost of a college education is called its sticker price. This price includes the total cost of yearly tuition, books, room and board, and any fees the campus might charge.

➔ <u>-Net Price:</u> **What you will actually pay to attend.** The net price you pay for a particular college is specific to you because it's based on your personal circumstances and the college's financial aid policies. The financial aid report starts with this sticker price, and then subtracts a student's financial need, scholarships, grants, and other forms of aid from the total, leaving the net price.

➔ <u>-SAR- Student Aid Report</u>
Document you receive once completing the FAFSA. Will provide basic info about student's eligibility for federal financial aid

➔ <u>Prior-Prior Year</u>
Way of reporting tax information for the FAFSA. Student's report tax information from a prior-prior tax year (PPY) allowing tax information from two years ago.

College Funding To-Do

College Funding To-Do	
❏ Fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid)	Opens October 1- it is recommended to fill this out as soon as possible
❏ Fill out the CSS Profile	This is only for schools that require it, generally private schools

❏ Keep cost in mind during the entire process	It is important to be clear about cost throughout the whole process, that way there is no major disappointments come May.
❏ Meet with financial staff at the college if necessary	The Financial office is separate from Admission- best to speak directly to the experts!

Materials needed to fill out an application:

❏ **High School Info** *(see page later in this packet)*

❏ **Unofficial copy of your High School Transcript**

You'll be asked to list the courses you're taking this academic year. Some colleges ask applicants to *self report* their full academic record in the Courses & Grades section. (which is where having your transcript comes in handy)

❏ **A copy of your test scores and dates**

You have the option to enter scores for standardized exams like the ACT and SAT that you have taken and/or plan to take. Remember! For most colleges you will still need to send official score reports.

❏ **Citizenship Information & State of Residence Info**

For Financial Aid Federal and State wise

❏ **Parent Information**

You'll be asked to share basic information about one of more parents. Questions include: occupation, job title, and education level. If your parent(s) attended college you will need to answer: name of college(s) attended, college location, degree(s) earned, year(s) degree earned.
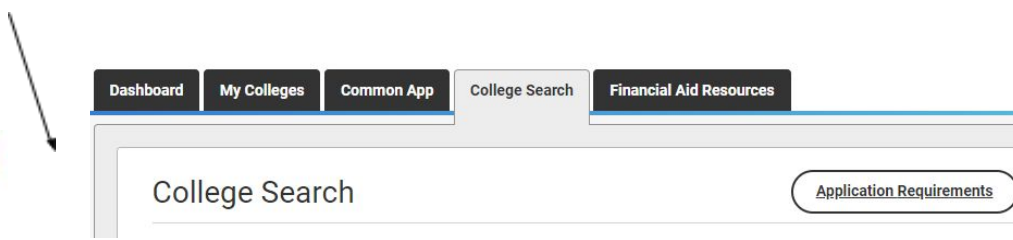
❏ **A list of academic honors**

If you feel there are any honors, awards or recognitions that you have gotten over the past few years feel free to include them here. This is not a required section! You can include up to 5 academic honors you received during high school. You'll need to include the honor's title, when you received it, and the level of recognition you received. Examples- department award, honor roll, national honor society.

❏ **A list of your activities**

You have the option to enter up to 10 activities you participated in during high school. These activities might include family responsibilities, jobs, volunteer work, clubs, sports, hobbies and more. For each activity you will list: years of participation, hours per week and weeks per year spent on the activity *(an estimate is ok!)*, position and brief description.

NEW **The Common App has a document that lists all the requirements of each school. This will be helpful to differentiate what each of the schools you are applying to want from you!**

HOW DO I FIND IT? You can find it in your common account by clicking on the Application Requirements button in the college search tab

SCHOOL INFO NEEDED FOR APPLICATION

CEEB Code: 310224

Date of Entry: September 2017

Boarding School: No

Graduation Date: June 2021
For students who may graduate early, take time or, or take a gap year you will need to briefly explain this. If that does not apply to you, check- "No interruption to report"

Counselor Information: Fill in your assigned School Counselors Info *(see below)*

Job Title: School Counselor

Counseling Office Number: Phone: (973) 457-2533

Joseph Barbato	Counselor	x2019	jbarbato@chatham-nj.org
Alexis Irene	Counselor	x2065	airene@chatham-nj.org
Lisa Kool-Behr	Counselor	x2022	lkool-behr@chatham-nj.org
Mark Maka	Counselor	x2060	mmaka@chatham-nj.org
Andrea Murphy	Counselor	x2020	amurphy@chatham-nj.org
Sean Newcombe	Counselor	x2021	snewcombe@chatham-nj.org
Elizabeth Tully-Cano	Counselor	X2023	etully-cano@chatham-nj.org

Other School: For Students who transferred into CHS from another high school indicate the school and dates you attended, prior to coming to CHS

Colleges & Universities: This section is for coursework taken through a college or university. ***AP courses do not count here***

Graduating Class Size: 362

Class Rank Reporting: None

GPA Scale: 4   GPA Weighting: Weighted

School Schedule & Transcript Reporting: Semester

Application Steps

Step 1: Create Common Application Account

- www.commonapp.org
  - Write down your log-in info and keep in a safe place! (Suggested: notes section in your phone)
- Everyone will create an account, regardless of if you are using CA to apply
  Use the email you use for Naviance

Step 2: Enter Basic Information in Common Application

This allows you to generate the FERPA Waiver Form that is needed to move forward (step 3)

Section that needs to be filled out before Step 3:
Under Common App Tab-
- Education Tab
        -Only current or most recent secondary school section
-You can fill in the rest of the common app sections at your leisure

Under College Search-
-Add at least one college to your "My Colleges" section

Step 3: Complete Waiver Forms

Form 1: Recommenders & FERPA
- **Online**, access through Common Application.
- My Colleges Tab, left side, "Recommenders & FERPA"
- Follow prompted steps

Form 2: CHS Release Form
- **Google Form- to be filled out by PARENT OR GUARDIAN**
- Your Parent/Guardian must submit this to your counselor. Documents will not be submitted by CHS until this is turned in.

Step 4: Match Common App & Naviance Accounts

IMPORTANT- Must complete steps 1,2 & 3 in order to match
- Log-in to Naviance-- Colleges-- Colleges I'm applying to

- On top of page, a pink banner will show up. Click Match Accounts.
  - Make sure you use the same email address that you used for the common app account!
  - If you have issues matching, follow the notes on the screen and/or see a counselor for assistance.

Step 5: Update College List

- In Naviance Student, Add Colleges in the "Colleges I'm applying to" section
  - This section should accurately reflect the schools you are confident about applying to
  - Make sure...
    - the deadline chosen matches the college's actual deadline
    - you accurately selected the way you are applying on the "I'll submit my application" section.

Step 6: Work on College Applications

- Create other applications that you may need to (Coalition or institutional)
- Continue to work on your applications.
- Keep in mind deadlines
- It is the student's responsibility to submit the following items to colleges:
  - Application
  - Application Fee
  - Essay
  - Activity Sheet/Resume
  - Any additional components (audition, portfolio etc...)

Before moving on, please note:

You need to allow a minimum of 1 month for teachers to process your teacher recommendation requests, and 3 weeks (15 school days) for the office to process your transcript requests

Step 7: Request Letters of Recommendation

- **Online**- Naviance *This is ONLY done through Naviance (do **not** do it through the Common App!)
- Colleges Tab-- Scroll down to the "Apply to Colleges" section-- Letters of Recommendation-- Add Request
- Once submitted, an email from Naviance will be sent to your teacher
- Follow up with a personal email to the teacher:
  - Thank them again for writing a recommendation for you. *It is a generous contribution to your college application process!*
  - Let them know your application deadlines, highlighting your earliest deadline.
- Repeat the process if you have more than one teacher writing for you

*IF YOUR school wants letters to be sent via regular mail, it is your responsibility to let your teacher and counselor know.

Step 8: Request Transcripts

- **Online**- Naviance *This is ONLY done through Naviance
- Colleges Tab-- Scroll down to the "Apply to Colleges" section-- Manage Transcripts
- Click College Application Transcript & Initial
- Choose the schools you want your transcript sent to and click done
- Allow at least 3 weeks (15 school days) for processing of request
    - *Keep in mind days in which there is no school in your 3 week planning*
- See page in this packet about transcript deadlines

Step 9: Request ACT/SAT Scores

- Make requests for test scores to be sent directly from the Collegeboard or ACT to the college.
- This is the student's responsibility to request
- Recommended to request your scores at least 2 weeks before your deadline

Step 10: Follow Up

- Stay on top of application status, test scores and forms being sent out
- Continue to keep your teachers and counselors aware of any changes with Letters of Rec. Communication is key!
- Follow up with yourself- take some time for self-care and relax! :)

Transcript Request Deadlines
2020-2021

Deadline Example	Submit your transcript request form by:
October 15	Wednesday, September 23, 2020
November 1	Monday, October 12, 2020
November 15	Friday, October 23, 2020
November 30 & December 1	Thursday, November 5, 2020
December 15	Thursday, November 19, 2020
January 1	Wednesday, December 2, 2020

January 15	Tuesday, December 15, 2020
February 1	Friday January 8, 2021

Refer to Step 8 for more detailed transcript information

-Other Options-

We acknowledge that while attending a traditional 4 year college is a common path students at CHS take, the following information is being shared for students that are interested in alternative options. If you have an interest in any of the below, please discuss with your counselor or the College & Career Counselor, Mrs. Sleight.

- ## County/2 year College

Attending a 2-year school is a great option for students-- for some, a 4-year school is not the correct fit right out of High School. Students can take classes working towards transferring to a Bachelor degree granting institution or can graduate with an Associate's Degree or a certification and join the workforce. If you wish to get a Bachelor's degree this is commonly advertised as a 2+2 Program= 2 years at a county college, and then transfer to a different college to complete your Bachelors Degree (usually for 2 more years)

Some examples: The County College of Morris is a great local school to attend, especially for students who do not know exactly what they want to study. Rowan University partners with Burlington County to offer a residential experience at Rowan (paying the 2 year school price)- students then transfer directly to Rowan and graduate with a Rowan degree.
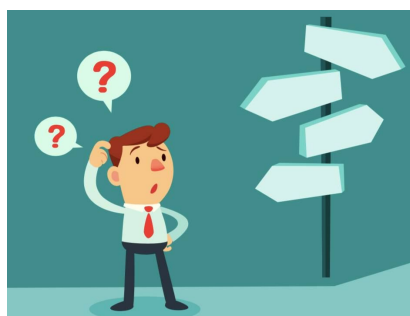
- ## Gap Year

Becoming more popular, a Gap Year is a semester or year of experiential learning, typically taken after high school and prior to career or post-secondary education, in order to deepen one's practical, professional, and personal awareness.

Why Gap Year? 2 common reasons for taking a Gap Year are: 1) Burnout from the competitiveness of High School and 2) Wanting to learn more about self

Common Gap Year Paths:

- ➔ Volunteering/Service
- ➔ Career Exploration/ Internship
- ➔ Paid Work
- ➔ International Travel
- ➔ Open Ended

- ## Vocational/ Trade School

Vocational training offers a practical alternative to traditional postsecondary degrees. Vocational education engages students through contextual learning, and training is focused on building skills specific to an occupation or career field. Examples: Hospitality, Construction, Info Tech, Health Sciences

Other Post- Secondary plans include...

- ## Joining the Military
- ## Joining the Workforce

Other Options Tasks	
❏ Explore future career plans	What path do I need to take to get there?
❏ Utilize assessments in Naviance	Career Cluster Finder, Career Interest Profiler, etc...
❏ Research Options	Gap Year, Votech, Community College etc...

❏ Consider Financial Aspects	How much will these paths cost?
❏ Begin building resume in naviance	Use Naviance tool to organize yourself

All of our counselors are happy to discuss in further detail about these topics!

Helpful Websites:

Naviance-College & Career Planning: https://student.naviance.com/chatham

College:

College Selectivity Categorization	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sMC0EJrq-uB0T3xbd2KTqWSsykwhMyjq/view?usp=sharing
CollegeBoard	http://www.collegeboard.org
NACAC College Guide	https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/gcap2018final.pdf
CollegeXpress	http://www.collegeexpress.com
College Navigator	http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/
College Data	http://www.collegedata.com

Standardized Testing:

Test Optional	http://fairtest.org/
ACT & SAT Concordance Table	https://www.chatham-nj.org/Page/16246
SAT (CollegeBoard) & ACT	https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat http://www.act.org/

Financial Aid:

US Department of Education	https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/
Financial Aid Toolkit	https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/
FAFSA	https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa
CSS Profile	https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/
Form Your Future	http://formyourfuture.org/
Financial Aid Research Sheet	https://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/shoppingsheettemplate20172018.pdf
Financial Aid Comparison	https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/compare-financial-aid-and-college-cost/
Consumer Financial Protection	https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/

Career & Major   Other Options

Big Future	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers	Gap Year	https://www.gapyearassociation.org/

Majors 101	https://collegemajors101.com/	Votech/Trade School	https://www.learnhowtobecome.org/vocational-trade-schools/
Bureau of Labor Statistics	https://www.bls.gov/	County College of Morris	https://www.ccm.edu/
O*NET	https://www.onetonline.org/	Real Work Matters	https://www.rwm.org/