

JUNIOR CONFERENCE SUMMARY SHEET

HS Address: Earl L. Vandermeulen High School
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HS Code # 334-585

Choosing a College

College Searches – Naviance

- This site will help you see where you fall in terms of GPA and SAT/ACT scores compared to past ELVHS candidates.
- Use search feature to narrow down your choices – use the criteria of what makes a college a good fit for you (location, major, size, clubs/sports, cost, etc.)

Look at Several Levels of Colleges

- Reach
- Target/Match
- Safety (apply to at least 1 academic/financial safety school)

College Visitations

- Visit colleges you are interested in (best time is while classes are in session)
- Individual colleges come to ELVHS to visit – check on our webpage and in Naviance
- Fall and Spring college fairs
- Ask questions and fill out information request cards during visits and/or college fairs.

Before Applying to Colleges

Standardized tests - Register well in advance of the deadline dates (Spring of Junior Year and possibly Fall of Senior Year)

SAT: www.collegeboard.org

ACT: www.actstudent.org

SAT Subject Test: www.collegeboard.org - if the college you are considering requires them

Teacher Recommendations – 2

- Ask teachers in advance for recommendations, starting now in your junior year.
- Core subject teachers (English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science or LOTE)
- Fill out teacher recommendation request form and give one to each teacher.
- In fall of senior year, add requested teachers to Naviance.

Counselor Recommendation

- Complete senior questionnaire (complete before handing in your 1st pink sheet (transcript request)
Be descriptive; don't write one word responses to the questions.
- Ask your parent/guardian to complete the "Brag Sheet"

Activity Sheet/Resume/Social Media Platform

- Activities inside and outside of school from 9th grade including anticipated activities in 12th grade
- Up to 10 activities can be listed on the Common Application
- Naviance resume builder
- ZeeMee www.zeemee.com - is a platform to share who you are with college admissions reps in 26 second videos

Essay(s)

- Have a few people read it for content and grammar - PROOF READ
- 2020-2021 Common Application essay prompts (are available) – choose one - up to 650 words

Transcript

- GPA calculated through junior year – finish the junior year strong!
- Colleges look very carefully at senior year classes – 1st and 2nd Quarter grades are listed on transcript
- Any college classes/ACE/Beacon/Early College Program can be listed on transcript in comments section *once an unofficial transcript of the courses has been provided to your counselor.*

Applying to Colleges

What Application to use -

- Common application** – www.commonapplication.org. 800 colleges use this. Make sure you do the supplemental questions for the specific colleges if required.
- SUNY application** – www.SUNY.edu
- CUNY application**- www.cuny.edu
- Coalition for Access and Affordability application** – www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- College Specific** – online at the individual college website

How to Apply -

- Early Decision I or II – binding agreement. Only use if you know absolutely this college is for you.
- Early Action – apply early, hear decision earlier.
- Rolling – apply when ready generally hear decision in 4 to 6 weeks.
- Use Thanksgiving as the marker for getting in all applications for regular decision.

Sending Transcripts

- Fill out a transcript request form (**Pink Sheet**) for each college to which you apply
- Request 1st Quarter Grades – fill out one 1st quarter grade request form (**Blue Sheet**) listing all the colleges to which you wish to send your 1st Quarter grades.
- Mid-year grades are sent automatically

Deadlines

- These are firm dates. Colleges do not give extensions.
- Make sure that everything (2 teacher recommendations, parent brag sheet and senior questionnaire) is on file in the counseling office before you hand in first application Pink Sheet (transcript request form).
- Hand in the Pink Sheet (transcript request form) at least two (2) weeks prior to deadline or by November 30 for a January 1 deadline.

Financial Aid

- FAFSA** form to be filled out starting October 1, 2020 online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- The FAFSA form can link with your/your parent's 2019 tax return
- Your parents will need some additional information to fill out the form
 - Records of last year's untaxed income (i.e. child support or social services)
 - Bank account balances, lists of stocks and bonds, and the estimated value of real estate and mortgage balance

CSS Profile: Some colleges need this form as well – check to see if it is required

Scholarships - make sure to check the deadline date before filling out the application

- Naviance, Guidance Monthly Newsletter, and Local Scholarships.
- www.raise.me and www.fastweb.com

NCAA Clearinghouse – If you are an athlete and plan to play Division I or II sports in college, you need to register online at www.eligibilitycenter.org. In the Fall send SAT/ACT scores to clearinghouse. Submit pink sheet once registered so we can submit your transcript to the Clearinghouse.

THIS CAN BE A STRESSFUL TIME. THE BEST ADVICE IS DO NOT PROCRASTINATE, STAY ORGANIZED AND DEVOTE THE NECESSARY TIME IN RESEARCHING THE COLLEGES THAT ARE THE BEST FIT FOR YOU.