



# COLLEGE APPLICATION 101

## Class of 2026

# Class of 2026 Volunteers for 2025 All Night Party

Fun for you! Fun for kids!

Sunday 6/1/2025: Junior Parent & Guardian Sneak Peek/Tear Down  
MIDNIGHT - 2AM Scan Code and Sign Up! (Need 80+ people to help)

Sunday 6/17/2026: Class of 2026 All Night Party

9PM - 2AM! **Save the Date! Tickets go on sale in the Fall!**

- 50+ years of keeping our kids safe and giving them one last memory as a class.
- The ONLY party after graduation! Held at BHHS on graduation day from 9pm-2am.
- Seeking Junior parent(s)/guardians to lead the event planning for next year!! Watch for monthly meetings beginning in September 2025.
- **Shhhhhh...**the event details are a secret for your kids, but there will be a live show, tons of games and activities, food, and great prizes!
- **Junior parents/guardians attend the Sneak Peek and help with tear down / clean-up! Next year's Junior class will help you! Sign up using the QR code above. Share with a friend!**
- **Questions? Contact the 2025 ANP organizers at [bhhsanp2025@gmail.com](mailto:bhhsanp2025@gmail.com).**
- **Watch the BHHS PTO Facebook page for Class of 2026 meeting information.**



SCAN ME

# College 101 Presentation



Class of 2026

# BHHS Counselor Assignments

Brian Fitzgerald: A-C

Jim Fogle: D-G

Laura Hollyer/Scott Merchant: H-K

Shayna Klein: L-O

Melanie Brooks: P-Si

Tony Midea: Sj-Z

# Counseling Office Supports & Resources

- College Visits
- AP Test Registration (Mrs. Frantz)
- Scholarship Information
- Summer Enrichment Opportunities
- Educational Development Planning
- College Night
- Financial Aid Resources
- College Bootcamp

# Junior Year in Review

This year, students:

- Completed college search activities on Xello:
  - Personality Assessments
  - Skills Assessments
  - College Searches/students received a [Postsecondary Planning Guide](#)
- Researched and learned about colleges of interest and started to think about developing a college list. Students were introduced to resources such as College Board Big Future and Niche. Students received and Worked on a resume or activities list
- Focused on academics
- Got involved (or continued involvement) in activities: clubs, organizations, sports, theater/music, art, employment, community service and more

In June, you will receive a letter home regarding your graduation status as well as a final transcript, review this carefully!

# What is the difference between a 2 year College and a 4 year College?

## 2 Year

- Students can earn an Associate's Degree or transfer to a 4 year college
  - Cost less than a 4 year college.
  - Offer vocational degrees & technical degrees
  - Students can earn their general ed. credits (60) then transfer to a 4 year college.
  - Admit all students but placement tests determine level of coursework.

## 4 Year

- A 4 year college is a place where students can earn a Bachelor of Art or Science degree .
  - 4 year colleges cost more than a 2 year colleges.
  - No need to transfer
  - Colleges range from less to more to very selective.
  - Require certain courses, grades & GPA to be admitted
  - Many professional degrees offered.

# Application Platforms: The Common Application vs. University-Specific Applications

## Common Application:

- Same application is accepted by 1,000+ colleges
- Common Application has a mobile app as well
- There are supplemental requirements for some colleges

## College/University-specific Applications:

- Accessed directly through each school's website and only used for that specific school
- Some colleges offer the choice to use the CA or a school-specific application



# Sending Transcripts through Parchment

**\*All students must create a Parchment account\***

Parchment is used to send transcripts to various colleges and organizations

Use this link to create a [Parchment Account](#) or use the QR code. Scroll down to “Start Here - Enter Your Email Address”

Requesting a transcript through Parchment is quick and easy.

Parchment can also be used to send your transcript for a scholarship or summer program



# Creating a Common Application Account

- Students can create a Common Application account at anytime via the [Common App Website](#), click on “Create an account”
  - We suggest using a personal email address
  - Common App rollover feature: if you start now, only complete the Common App tab
- In addition to completing a college application, you will use the Common App to:
  - Send your transcript
  - Request a counselor recommendation letter
  - Request a teacher recommendation letter
  - Others: Coach, Employer, advisor, etc. (not required)



## APPLY

My Common Application

My colleges

## EXPLORE

College search

Financial aid

Settings

Sign out

 Penelope Peters  
CAID 1234567

## Dashboard

Application Requirements

Sort by: College name ▾

**North Carolina A&T State University**  
[Add your term or admission plan](#)  
Application – in progress  
[Show more details ▾](#)

**South Carolina State University**  
[Add your term or admission plan](#)  
Application – in progress  
[Show more details ▾](#)

**University of Iowa**  
[Add your term or admission plan](#)  
Application – in progress  
[Show more details ▾](#)

**University of Rhode Island**  
[Add your term or admission plan](#)  
Application – in progress  
[Show more details ▾](#)

**Whittier College**  
[Add your term or admission plan](#)  
[Direct admissions offer](#)  
Application – in progress  
[Show more details ▾](#)

## Help &amp; support

## Search FAQs

Search takes you to the student solution center.

## Need help?

Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question.

Answers to most questions can...

[Read full answer](#)[All help topics](#)



## My Common Application



^ Profile

Personal Information



Address



Contact Details



Demographics

Language

Geography and Nationality

Common App Fee Waiver

v Family

v Education

v Testing

v Activities

v Writing

v Courses &amp; Grades

1 college(s) require



## Personal Information

Preview

In progress

Legal first/given name \*

Penelope

Would you like to share a different first name that people call you?

☐ Yes☐ No

Clear answer

Middle name

Last/family/surname \*

Peters

Suffix

Do you have any materials under a former legal name? \*

☐ Yes☐ No

Clear answer

Date of birth \*

## Help &amp; support

Search FAQs



Search takes you to the student solution center

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Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can...

[Read full answer](#)[All help topics](#)

## 4 Year Colleges: Factors Considered for Admission

Academic Achievement	Academic Potential
Rigor & Context	Diversity
Personal Attributes	Geographic Balance
Curriculum and Trend	First Generation/Low-Income
Intellectual Curiosity	Athlete/ Artist
Services & Leadership	Adversity

# Teacher Letters of Recommendation

Look at what is required by the colleges you are applying to. If you need a recommendation letter, initiate a conversation with one or two academic teachers (depending on how many letters are required) who would write a positive letter of recommendation for you.

How do you decide which teacher(s) to ask?



## Counselor Letters of Recommendation

If a college requires a letter of recommendation from your counselor, you must complete the Student Questionnaire and have a family member complete the Parent/Guardian Questionnaire (check the college/universities website)

[Student Questionnaire](#)

[Parent/Guardian Questionnaire](#)

# The College Essay/Personal Statement: MYTHS

- The essay should sound sophisticated
- Students need an impressive topic
- Admission officers do not read them
- Colleges do not know if students get too much help
- There's a secret formula

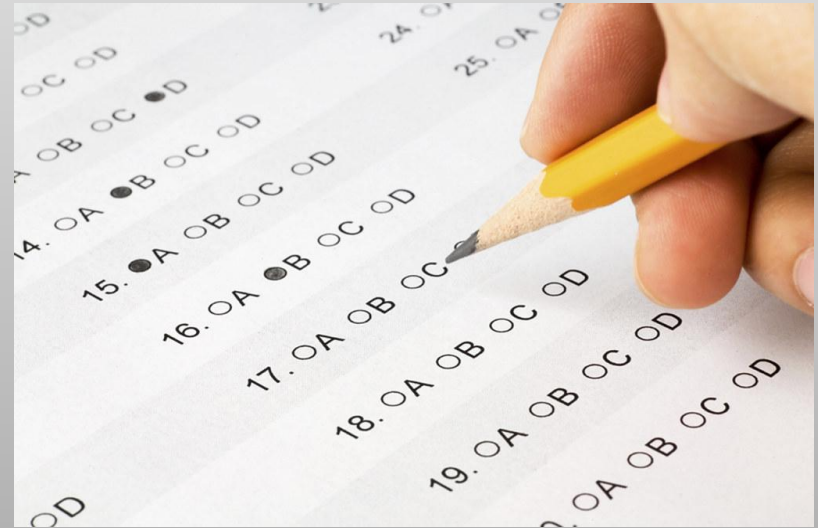


# The College Essay/Personal Statement: TIPS

- Understand the prompt
- Brainstorm ideas
- Focus on a theme
- Speak from the heart/use your voice
- Think about “what do I want people to know about me”
- Have a peer/adult read your work
- Don't use AI!

# What Does it Mean to Apply “Test Optional”?

- Not all colleges will require students to submit an ACT/SAT score to complete an application
- It is your responsibility to monitor application requirements
- One resource that lists test optional schools is [fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org)  
[Fair Test Website](https://www.fairtest.org)



\*We highly advise you ALWAYS double check this on the colleges' websites

# Which Admissions Deadline Should I Select?



## DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

### STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS* YOU?

Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Action (EA)	Early Decision (ED)	Restrictive Early Action (REA)
<b>DEFINITION:</b>  Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.	<b>DEFINITION:</b>  Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.	<b>DEFINITION:</b>  Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.	<b>DEFINITION:</b>  Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.	<b>DEFINITION:</b>  Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.
<b>COMMITMENT:</b>  NON-BINDING	<b>COMMITMENT:</b>  NON-BINDING	<b>COMMITMENT:</b>  NON-BINDING	<b>COMMITMENT:</b>  BINDING	<b>COMMITMENT:</b>  NON-BINDING
Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.			Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.	

# Things To Do Over the Summer

- Take advantage of the summer to visit colleges
- Complete Student & Parent/Guardian Questionnaire (only if a counselor letter is required by the college).
- Do some community service, participate in an internship, get a job, etc
- Create a resume or activities list. Templates: Google, Canva, etc
  - This can be a helpful resource for your teacher or counselor



# Things To Do Over the Summer

**\*\*It is not recommended to send your application to a college before school starts in the fall\*\***

- Create an application account and begin working. Only work on the Common App tab until August 1
  - Completely updated Common App opens August 1
  - Use an appropriate email address
- Follow directions carefully
  - Provide the information that is requested
- For non-Common App schools, watch for the Fall 2026 college applications to be posted to college websites (July/ August)
- Create a Parchment account (if you have not done so already)
- [SIGN UP HERE](#) to attend Summer Bootcamp

# Fall: Application Process & Tasks



- Attend mandatory senior meeting in September
- You will receive another copy of your transcript, review this carefully. Errors should be reported to the teacher
- Send ACT/SAT, if applicable
- Create your Parchment account if you have not already done so
- If you have not yet created your Common App or other college application account, do so ASAP
- Watch deadlines and do not wait until the last minute to submit
- Transcripts will NOT be sent before the senior meeting regardless of when they were requested

# After Applications are Submitted...

- RELAX AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
- Don't catch senioritis – stay healthy and do well
- Check the status of your application on each college's online portal to make sure your application is complete – **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT**
  - When in doubt, call the college directly
  - Be patient...it may take a few weeks for your application status to be updated

**\*Junior year gets you in,  
senior year keeps you in!\***



# NCAA



- If you are planning to participate in collegiate-level athletics you should have already registered on the NCAA Clearinghouse. If you have not, you must do so **before the school year ends** (transcripts are sent to NCAA in June)
- Website: [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)
- School code: 850251
- Must send ACT/SAT to Clearinghouse; use code 9999
- It is your responsibility to track and monitor NCAA requirements



# Outcomes: Admitted, Deferred, Postponed, Waitlisted?

Admitted	Deferred/Postponed	Waitlisted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Congratulations! If you plan to attend, submit your deposit and enroll</li><li>• If you know you will not attend, withdraw your application</li><li>• If you applied ED, you MUST withdraw all other applications</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The school has not made a decision yet</li><li>• They might want more information such as a transcript, updated information, letter of continued interest, etc.</li><li>• Your application has been moved to the next review cycle and you will receive a final decision in the spring</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You were admissible, but the college is out of space</li><li>• Respond to confirm if you want to accept your spot on the waitlist</li><li>• Send in your deposit to another school and get <u>EXCITED</u> about it</li><li>• Admission off a waitlist is highly unlikely</li></ul>

## College Decisions



- As soon as you have made a decision on which school you will attend, send a deposit right away
- Inform the schools whose offer you are declining that you will not be attending. This helps for admission of deferred students

# Summer/Fall 2025 Events & Opportunities

- [Sign up here](#) or use the QR code to register for College Boot Camp on August 4. Only STUDENTS can sign up, parents cannot register for their students, deadline to register is July 1
- College Night: October 7, 2025
- Financial Aid Night: September 29, 2025
- College Rep Visits – During school day
- Attend in-person or virtual campus tours
- Apply for scholarships



# Staying Informed and Connected

## EMAIL

Counselors will be doing a great deal of corresponding with students using your Bloomfield email account. You **MUST** check your Bloomfield email regularly and frequently to stay informed and updated on various items

## CANVAS PAGE

Use the resources on your Class of 2026 Canvas page for support and information. Stop and **READ** your Canvas email announcements!

# Paying for College

- Scholarships:
  - Canvas
  - Colleges' Websites
  - [Fastweb](#)
  - [Appily](#)
  - [Niche](#)
  - [Student Scholarships](#)
- BHHS Counseling Website: Financial Aid & Financial Aid Night
- FAFSA
- State of Michigan: [MiSSG](#)



# Helpful Resources

[College Board Big Future](#)

[Niche](#)

[Common App Ready](#)

[Common App Help Page](#)

[Exploring Colleges](#)

[Common App Essay Prompts](#)

[College Essay Guy Resources](#)

[Test Optional Schools & Information](#)

[Planning for College](#)

[Free Essay Writing Resources](#)

[Parent/Guardian Questionnaire](#)

[Student Questionnaire](#)

[Understanding College Application  
Deadlines](#)

Thank You For Attending!

Have a

Wonderful Summer!

