

**WELCOME TO
COLLEGE NIGHT 2019**

What's going on now...

- Individual senior meetings to begin senior checklist/transcript review, post graduation plans

Senior Year Timeline

Beginning Now!

- Students should be reviewing college materials, websites
- Check out our website and listen to the announcements for college rep visits and college open house dates
- Register for SAT and/or ACT if they have to take or re-take. **NOTE DEADLINES!**

Senior Year Timeline

What should Seniors be doing and when?

October – November

- Begin researching colleges if they have not yet started; narrow down lists
- Create Common App account at www.commonapp.org
- Take or re-take standardized tests if necessary
- Letters of Recommendation (senior data card)
- Apply for FSA ID
- Apply for financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Visit with college reps
- Attend CCC College Fair on Thursday, October 24th
- Early Decision/Early Action Deadlines

Senior Year Timeline

December/January

- Keep eyes open for ED/EA letters
- Finalize and submit applications – if a student wants application processed prior to Christmas break, all requests must be made by **Friday, December 13th**

Senior Year Timeline

Spring 2020...

- Researching scholarships (there will be a separate “how to” session for those applying for Dollars for Scholars – date TBA)
- Watching for admission letters from colleges
- Noting payment deadlines (*housing, tuition deposits*)
- Notifying colleges if they are declining admission

Research and become an informed applicant

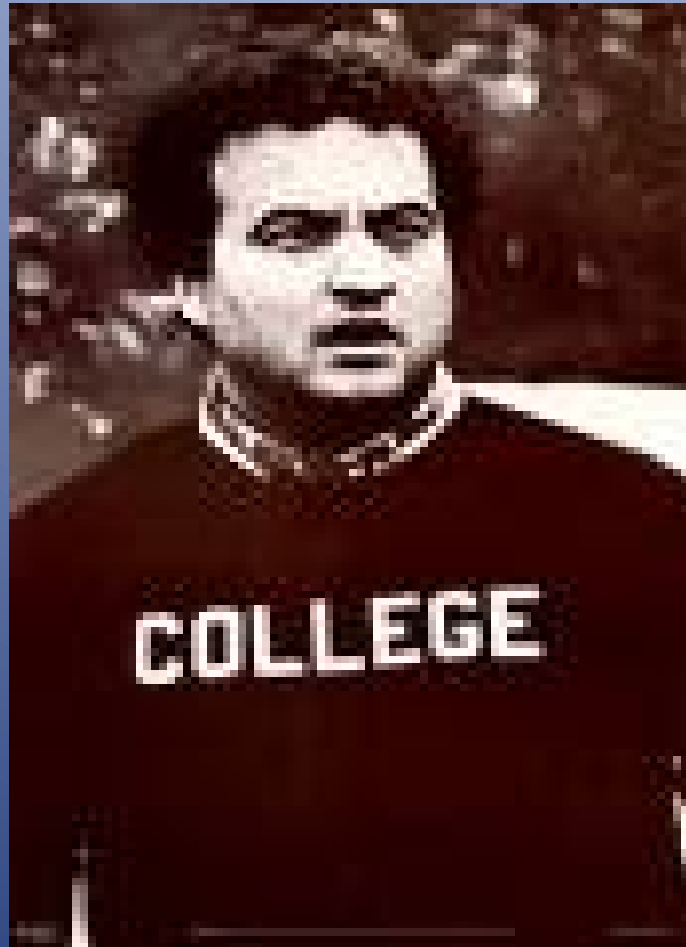
- Your child should start a college folder, including a calendar for deadlines and a checklist
- Start visiting if you have not already done so (some private colleges provide fee waivers for visiting their campus)

Where to begin?

Start with the basics...

- 2 year vs. 4 year
- Location
- Size
- Majors offered
- Sports teams, clubs, activities

So, what are colleges looking for?



Factors in the Selection Process

- **GPA**: your child's overall grade point average is the first thing that colleges look at
- **STRENGTH OF SCHEDULE**: colleges want to see students with a rigorous and appropriately challenging course load throughout high school – INCLUDING SENIOR YEAR!
- **SAT/ACT SCORES**: colleges typically provide a range of where they like potential students to fall – *most* college “super score”
- **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**: well-rounded students who can balance academics and extra curriculars are very appealing to admission committees – GET INVOLVED!
- **RECOMMENDATIONS**: colleges depend on teachers and counselors to provide further insight as to the student's work ethic, potential for success, etc.

What if my child's grades are not very high?

- Average or low grades do not mean that college is out of the question!
- Colleges look at a lot more than just grades
- If your child's grades are not high enough to go to their 1st choice college, they have options – for example, attend a local community college for a year, work hard and earn good grades, then transfer to a 4 year school

Time to Apply!

College Terms to Know

- **Regular Decision:** Due date given on application – be sure to pay attention to deadlines and application fees
- **Early Decision:** an application process by which you commit to enrolling in a certain college if you are admitted. Also known as a “*binding agreement*”, this means that you can apply to other colleges, but only 1 can be marked as Early Decision. If admitted, you must withdraw your applications from all other colleges.
- **Early Action:** an application process by which you apply and receive a decision much earlier than the Regular Decision date. Unlike ED, EA is “*non-binding*”; this means that if you are accepted by a college under the EA plan, you have no obligation to enroll.
- **Rolling Admissions:** Colleges and universities evaluate applications as they arrive, and decisions are mailed shortly thereafter; no application deadlines, however spots are given first come, first served

Know what application forms to use:

- The Common Application: www.commonapp.org
 - ✓ Online application system; student's information is entered once and can be sent to multiple colleges
 - ✓ Requests for recommendations and transcripts are completed online (teachers/counselors are emailed)
 - ✓ Nearly 900 colleges accept the Common App
 - ✓ A college using this system *may* also require completion of a supplemental form specific to that college

How do SAT/ACT scores get reported to the colleges?

- Test scores *are* listed on student transcripts, however some colleges want the scores sent directly from the testing agency
- Contact the College Board directly at www.collegeboard.org to get SAT Reasoning Test and Subject Test scores sent
- To have ACT scores sent, go to www.actstudent.org

Applying to Community Colleges (2 year schools):

- While there tends to be more leniency, it is still important to APPLY EARLY!
- Currently, there is NO application fee to apply to:
 - CCC (www.cayuga-cc.edu) and
 - OCC (www.sunyocc.edu)
- ACCUPLACER (placement test)

Application Requirements:

- Transcript - official, sent from our office or uploaded from Common App website
- SAT/ACT scores - are included on transcript, but many colleges prefer they be submitted electronically from the testing agencies
- Letters of Recommendation - colleges typically request 2 – 3
- College Essays
- Activity Sheet or Resume

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Student's must assume responsibility for this process (listen to announcements, check in with us)
- A scholarship packet will be available in the Counseling Office. Encourage your child to pick one up and begin reading through it. MOST have online applications, however some paper applications are available in our office.
- Once your child is accepted to a college, he/she is considered for certain scholarships should eligibility requirements be met
- Please be aware of scholarship scams! If you are unsure if something is legitimate, please contact us

Some final thoughts...

- Communicate with your child – set limits at the beginning that are important to you (cost, distance, etc.)
- Press your child to get straight answers from admission and financial aid offices
- Keep everything in perspective
- Include us in your plans, we want to know where your child decides to attend 😊

Contact Information

Mrs. Lauren Lostumbo, Last Names A – K
llostumb@hannibalcsd.org

Ms. Brooke Fingland, Last Names L – Z
bfinglan@hannibalcsd.org

Mrs. Amy Young, Secretary

Counseling Office # 564-8130, ext 4