10th and 11th Grade College & Career Prep Meeting

College Application Timeline | College Testing Info | Naviance

Info | Important Dates/Websites | Q & A w/ Student Panel
**OBJECTIVE**

To make the college search and application process as smooth as possible, and thus minimize senior year stress.

**In a Perfect World.....**
100% of college applications would be completed before the first day of school senior year

**The Reality......**
50% - 75% of college applications are completed
ADMISSIONS FACTORS

WHAT MATTERS??
Admissions Test Scores
Grades in Core Courses
Demonstrated Interest
Teacher Recommendations

WHAT MATTERS??
Strength of Curriculum
AP/IB Test Scores
Personal Essay / Writing Sample
Counselor Recommendation

WHAT MATTERS??
Class Rank
Personal Interview
Extracurricular Activities
### TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Considerable Importance</th>
<th>Moderate Importance</th>
<th>Limited Importance</th>
<th>No Importance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades in All Courses</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grades in College Prep Courses</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strength of Curriculum</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay or Writing Sample</td>
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<td>16.7</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>25.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselor Recommendation</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>14.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student’s Demonstrated Interest</td>
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<td>15.5</td>
<td>21.4</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>28.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Recommendation</td>
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<td>7.1</td>
<td>46.4</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Rank</td>
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<td>27.9</td>
<td>36.0</td>
<td>26.7</td>
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<td>Extracurricular Activities</td>
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<td>40.8</td>
<td>20.7</td>
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<td>Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)</td>
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<td>28.9</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>38.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
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<td>7.2</td>
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<td>59.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview</td>
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<td>53.0</td>
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<td>Work</td>
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<td>17.8</td>
<td>41.4</td>
<td>39.1</td>
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<td>SAT II Scores</td>
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<td>State Graduation Exam Scores</td>
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<td>8.3</td>
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APPLICATION TIMELINE

FALL - SPRING
JUNIOR YEAR

Continue researching *Collages I’m Thinking About*

Identify *Colleges I’m Applying To* and create an organizational system w/deadlines

Begin completing college applications (including The Common App)
on or about August 1

SPRING - SUMMER
JUNIOR, PRE-SENIOR YEAR

Take SAT, ACT, or both. (Several prep course options are available)

Naviance *Super Match College Search* to identify 5-10 *Collages I’m Thinking About*

Complete *College/Scholarship Recommendation Self Evaluation*

Sign up for college visits

Begin completing college applications (including The Common App)on or about August 1

Continue college visits

Identify *Colleges I’m Applying To* and create an organizational system w/deadlines
APPLICATION TIMELINE

FALL SENIOR YEAR

Take SAT/ACT again if unhappy with scores

Continue college visits if necessary

Ask teachers for recommendations (1st few weeks of school or sooner)

Submit Transcript Request form and list of “Colleges I’m Applying to”

Finalize and submit college applications (before Early Action deadlines)
# The SAT vs. The ACT

## Key Differences
- **SAT**
  - Fewer Geometry Questions
  - More Time per Question
  - No-calculator Math Section
- **ACT**
  - Lots of Geometry
  - Faster Paced
  - Tough Science Section

## Timing & Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>SAT Time</th>
<th>ACT Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>65m</td>
<td>35m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>35m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math (No Calculator)</td>
<td>25m</td>
<td>45m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math (Calculator)</td>
<td>55m</td>
<td>60m</td>
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</table>

### Total Points
- **SAT**: 400 - 1600
- **ACT**: 1 - 36

### Time per Question
- **SAT**: 75s, 48s, 83s
- **ACT**: 53s, 36s, 60s
Continued.....

Accuplacer

- Tests knowledge of HS content: Arithmetic, College-Level Math, Elementary Algebra (75), Reading Comprehension (79), and Sentence Skills (90)
  - Multiple choice
  - Determines course placement, NOT admission
  - Untimed

- Students should take at least one test before the end of junior year.
- Fee waivers are available - see Mrs. Leaman in the Career Center
- Prep classes offered at Einstein – there are also free online tools
TEST RESOURCES

CollegeBoard.org (SAT)

Act.org (ACT)

PrincetonReview.com

Petersons.com

KhanAcademy.org
WHAT IS NAVIANCE?

- A program designed to help students and parents with the college and career search process.
- [https://student.naviance.com/einstein](https://student.naviance.com/einstein) (Student Naviance log-in)

- User name and password = Student ID #

- Parents – Contact your students counselor to have your account activated
FACTORS IN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

WHAT MATTERS??
Location
Major
Accreditation by major
Size
Cost

WHAT MATTERS??
Graduation rate
Activities/sports
Diversity
Campus Life
Disability Services

WHAT MATTERS??
Facilities
Housing
Retention rate
Alumni job placement
HOW MANY COLLEGES SHOULD I APPLY TO?

There is no magic number, however 5-9 schools are usually enough. This number should be a combination of reach (3), match (3), safe (2), and in-state (1) schools.

**REACH SCHOOL**
A college you have a chance of getting into, but your test scores and/or high school grades are lower than the scores on the school's profile.

**SAFE SCHOOL**
A college you will *almost certainly* get into because your test scores and/or high school grades are well above the average when looking at the school's profile.

**MATCH SCHOOL**
A college you are *pretty likely* to get into because your test scores and/or high school grades fall right into the middle range when looking at the schools profile.

**IN-STATE SCHOOL**
A college located in Maryland where students receive in-state tuition, and financial aide opportunities.
HELPFUL WEBSITES

- HTTPS://STUDENT.NAVIANCE.COM/EINSTEIN (STUDENT NAVIANCE LOG-IN)
- COLLEGEBOARD.COM
- ACTSTUDENT.ORG
- COMMONAPP.ORG
- FINAID.ORG
- FASTWEB.COM
To do ..... 

Prepare for and take SAT and/or ACT
Answer 8 questions in the Self Evaluation Survey on Naviance
Conduct Super Math College Search and add 5-10 Collages I'm Thinking About in Naviance
Attend MCPS College Fair (April 1-2, 2019)
College Visits

Prior to the End of Junior Year
To Do

Continue researching colleges and get organized
Continue to visit colleges / schedule campus tours
Begin college applications (including commonapp.org) which typically opens August 1st
Write personal essays for applications

Summer Between Junior/Senior Year
IMPORTANT DATES

- **SPRING BREAK .... APRIL 17-22, 2019**
- **COLLEGE FAIR ..... APRIL 1-2, 2019**
- **SAT/ACT TEST DATES .... SEE HANDOUT**
HOLIDAY ORNAMENT

$5 Each
Proceeds benefit the Class of 2019
On Sale on Main street during December
Questions? Gregory_J_Varner@mcpsmd.org, or room 216
INSIGHT FROM ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS

- # of applications and quality of pool has increased.
- Student profile dictated by applicant pool.
- Institutional needs have changed.

APPLICATIONS

OTHER

- Over-focused on athlete recruitment.
- Heightened anxiety.
- Use the admissions counselor for help. Don’t be afraid to ask.