

# The College Application Process

Guidance Department  
North Hagerstown High School

# Where Do I Start?

- Bridges Choices Planner- [www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com)
- College Board Website- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Resources such as:
  - College Search Tool
  - Scholarship Finder
  - Major and Career Search and Information
  - Career Inventories
  - Create your own profile and save information



# Do your Research!!

- Use Bridges, College Board and/or books in the Counseling Center
- Meet with your Counselor
- Meet with Mrs. Kreykenbohm-Barnhart or Ms. Davis
- Have a list of Safety, Target, and Reach Schools (5)
- Visit a college campus
- Check Retention Rates
- Collect Applications- Do they use:
  - Individual School Applications
  - Common Application
- Accounts
  - Create email address for college applications
  - BE CONSISTENT with your name



# Entrance Exams



- ACT- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - Tests English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Skills
- SAT- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - Tests Verbal, Mathematics, and Writing Skills
- SAT Subject Tests (SAT II's)- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
  - Test on a specific subject
- Waivers
  - Free and Reduced lunch, Public Assistance, Public Housing, Foster Home
  - Receive 1 a year for SAT and ACT
  - If used, college application waiver can be provided- are currently being emailed to students
- ASVAB- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
  - Offered at North High, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2015
  - Sign up in the Guidance office by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2015

# SAT CHANGE: OLD vs NEW



	Current SAT	New SAT (2016)
Scoring	600 - 2400	400 - 1600 Subscore and Cross-test Scores available
Timing	3 Hours 45 Minutes	3 Hours (+50 minute optional essay)
Sections	Critical Reading: 200-800 Writing: 200-800 Math: 200-800 Essay (included in Writing score)	<a href="#">Evidence-Based Reading and Writing</a> : 200-800 <a href="#">Math</a> : 200-800 <a href="#">Optional Essay</a> (separately scored)
Guessing Penalty	1/4 guessing penalty	no guessing penalty
Format	Available in print	Available in print or on computer

Last Administration of OLD SAT: January 2016

First Administration of NEW SAT: March 2016

# Test Score Submission

- Testing Agency vs. North High
  - What does the college want?
  - Receive **4** free submissions to school when you REGISTER for a test
  - When requesting previous test scores
    - Call testing center/go online ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))
    - Pay fee- \$11.00 per send
- Super Scoring and Test Optional Schools
  - Check schools policy on score reporting

# Common Application

- Online- [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- One application for over 450 schools
  - Check list [www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/Members.aspx](http://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/Members.aspx)
- Complete First Year Application Packet
  - [www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/DownloadForms.aspx](http://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/DownloadForms.aspx)
- Make sure to spell counselors name **CORRECTLY**
  - Seniors- Mrs. Karen Folk
  - Juniors- Ms. Kathleen Eck



# Pay Attention to Deadlines



- **Early Action**
  - Apply early and receive a decision early. Not binding.
- **Early Decision**
  - Apply early and if accepted, you must attend institution. Binding!
- **Regular Admissions**
  - All applications are due on a certain date, and all applicants are notified on a certain date
- **Rolling Admissions**
  - Applications are evaluated and processed as they are received
- **Honors and Special Talents Programs** (Art, Music, Theater, Dance)
  - Might have separate deadline dates



# Letters of Recommendation

- Ask EARLY!
- Fill out Senior Brag Sheet and provide copies
- Allow two weeks or ten work days for individual to write your letter
- Electronic Invitation:
  - When using the Common App or other online applications, your teacher will receive an email asking them to completed a letter for you.
  - Make sure you go to your teacher and personally ask them to write you a letter.



# Transcript Requests

- Required whenever a transcript needs to be released
  - Every college or scholarship that needs a copy
- Parent Signature required if student is under 18 years old
- Transcripts are sent with High School Profile, student's current class schedule and grades.
- Forms in guidance office



# Counselor Forms



- Required?
  - If using a school specific application- check to see if there is a required form
  - Common Application has a required form
- Local Schools with Counselor Forms
  - Towson
  - Frostburg
  - UMBC
  - Bridgewater
  - Salisbury
  - Common App. Schools
- Mid-Year Reports
  - Request counselor to send them using Mid-Year request form in guidance

# AP/IB Exams & ESSENCE

- Advanced Placement
  - Check with institution to see what scores are accepted
  - AP Exam may not count for specific class
- IB Exams
  - Check with your institution
  - Mostly awarded for HL exams
  - SL exams not usually awarded
- ESSENCE
  - Check with your institution
  - Ask HCC to send transcripts to your institution using the student online account portal

# Scholarships & Financial Aid

- FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
  - [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)
  - Can not submit until AFTER January 1st
- WCPS Scholarship Newsletter
  - <http://www.yourfuturestartsnowwcps.com/scholarship-list.html>
- Check the Counseling Center Scholarship Cabinet
- Community Foundation Website
  - <http://washingtoncountyscholarships.org/>
- Fast Web- Great website to search scholarships
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Loans vs. Grants
- DEADLINES, DEADLINES, and more DEADLINES



# CSS Profile

- Non-federal student funds
- Depends on the institution if needed
- Available starting Oct. 1
- Cost about \$26 for initial application, \$16 for additional schools
  - [www.profileonline.collegeboard.com](http://www.profileonline.collegeboard.com)





# Student Athletes

- To play a Division I or II sport, a student must sign up with the NCAA clearinghouse
- Sign up after your Junior Year
  - [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
- Requires: Transcript request, Sign-up online, and Pay fee (waiver if SAT waiver used)
- Varsity coach is your best resource
  - If college coaches are requiring films, let your coach know early
- College Athlete Presentation:
  - Clearspring High School. Wednesday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

# Junior Year Timeline

- August/September
  - Check on High School Graduation Requirements
  - Start creating a College List
  - Check on College Admissions Requirements
  - Take challenging classes and keep your grades up!!
- October/November
  - Take the PSAT
  - Attend the College Fair at Hagerstown Community College
  - Attend the Financial Aid workshop
- December/January
  - Receive your PSAT results from your counselor
  - Register for the January SAT if you meet the eligibility requirements for a National Merit Scholarship
  - Review PSAT results with your parents





# Junior Year Timeline

- February/March
  - Register for a spring SAT/ACT based on the best fit for you
  - Sign up for Advanced Placement Tests in the Counseling Center
  - Schedule for your Senior Year with your counselor
- April/May/June
  - Check with the Counseling Center for the Spring visitation schedule of College Representatives
  - Schedule college visitations
  - Take Advanced Placement/IB tests in May
  - Practice for and take the Spring SAT/ACT's
- Summer
  - Review your SAT/ACT results and prepare for Senior year of high school
  - Research Colleges, narrow down your list that you want to apply to, research applications and deadlines
  - Start working on college applications

# Senior Year Timeline



- August/September
  - Plan to take challenging classes. Senior year grades count!!!
  - Register for the SAT/ACT, and/or the SAT Subject tests
  - Check with the Counseling Center for the Fall visitation schedule of College Representatives
  - Ask appropriate teachers if they would write recommendations for you (Don't forget to write thank you letters when they accept)
  - Meet with your counselor to compile your final list of colleges
  - Be aware of DEADLINES!
  
- October/November/December
  - Take any necessary tests: SAT/ACT/SAT Subject tests
  - Complete and submit ALL applications.
  - Attend the College Fair at HCC in October
  - Attend the Financial Aid night at North

# Senior Year Timeline



- January
  - Prepare and send the FAFSA. An estimated income tax statement (can be corrected later) can be used. The sooner you apply for financial aid, the better your chances of receiving aid
- February/March/April
  - Be sure that any mid year reports have gone out to the colleges to which you've applied and colleges have all documents required
  - Complete any Financial Aid forms colleges might require
  - Register for any Advanced Placement tests
  - Review acceptances and financial aid offers you receive. Visit campuses before making your final decision. Consider taking an overnight visit.
- May
  - Take Advanced Placement/IB Tests
  - Finalize college decision, send in tuition and housing deposit, and inform counseling center
- June
  - Graduate!! Congratulations and best of luck!!

# Hagerstown Community College

- Application Process:
  - Fill out FREE application and submit
  - Take Accuplacer Placement test
  - Fill out Financial Aid
  - Schedule classes
- Placement Test
  - English and Math
  - Walk-in
  - Must have Student ID number and Photo ID
  - Used for placement in freshman courses



# Dates to Remember

- Washington County College Fair
  - October 14, 2015
  - 6-8pm at the Athletic, Recreation, and Community Center at Hagerstown Community College
- Financial Aid Night-
  - December 8<sup>th</sup> 2015
  - 7pm, NHHS Auditorium

