

College Application Guide

JUNIORS

Fall

- Take the PSAT in October.
- Start thinking about your interests, abilities, and possible college majors.
- Attend College Fairs, meet with college representatives who visit the high school.
- Get involved in school and community activities if you haven't already done so. Activities, clubs, sports, volunteer work, etc. are all very important when applying to college and for scholarships.

Spring

- Take the SAT and/or ACT and SAT Subject Tests if necessary.
- Attend College Fairs, meet with college representatives who visit the high school.
- Juniors will have the opportunity to use a computer program at school to explore interests, careers, college majors, and search for colleges. Students can also visit websites at home to research careers and colleges.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss post-graduate plans and your courses for your senior year. Take challenging courses even if you don't need them for high school graduation.

Summer

- Request college applications, catalogs, and information about specific programs. Research colleges online.
- Visit college campuses and attend Open Houses for more information, to take a tour of the campus, and to meet with admissions representatives.

SENIORS

Fall

- A senior interview will be held in Sept./Oct. – meet with your counselor to review graduation requirements, post-graduate plans, and the college application process.
- Narrow your list of colleges. Call or send for applications and start filling them out. Some applications are available in the guidance office (State University of NY, City University of NY, and SUNY Orange).
- Continue to attend College Fairs and meet with college representatives.
- Attend Financial Aid Night at the high school with your parents.
- Visit college campuses and attend Open Houses if you haven't already done so.
- Take or retake the SAT or ACT.
- Ask teachers, counselor, coaches, or others for letters of recommendation. Give them at least a few weeks advance notice.
- Write application essays if required.
- Submit your college applications to your counselor to be reviewed and mailed in. Request copies of your transcript to be sent to colleges. Allow at least a week to have this completed.

- If applying Early Action or Early Decision – Applications must be in usually by early November. Let your counselor know right away if you are applying to a college through Early Action or Early Decision so that all deadlines can be met.
- Continue participating in activities in and out of school.
- See your counselor at any time if you have questions or need assistance.

Winter

- Apply for financial aid – fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1st. It is preferred to fill it out online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) but paper copies will be available in the guidance office if needed. Some colleges require the CSS Profile form, which is also available in guidance or at www.collegeboard.com.
- Males 18 years of age or older must register with Selective Service to be eligible for financial aid.
- Find out what scholarships are available at the college you're applying to. Request or download scholarship application forms – pay attention to deadlines.
- Research additional scholarships (see website list).
- Senior athletes – fill out NCAA eligibility forms, available online at www.ncaa.org.
- Take placement exams if required by the college.
- Keep your grades up. Colleges will be looking at your senior courses and grades.

Spring

- Apply for local scholarships. Information will be available from your counselor and on the district website (middletowncityschools.org) Pay attention to deadlines.
- Decide which college fits your needs based on acceptance letters received and the financial aid packages offered. Notify your selected college of your decision to attend and notify other schools of your decision not to attend.
- Check deadlines for housing and tuition deposits due dates.
- Notify your counselor of your final college decision. Final transcripts will be sent to that college at the end of the school year.

Websites for career/college planning:

www.collegeboard.com

www.hesc.org (NY Mentor)

www.petersons.com

www.collegeview.com

www.collegenet.com

Websites for financial aid/scholarship information:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeplanning.nelnet.net