

# JUNIOR CONFERENCE

## Navigating Your Plans After High School

**The Hopatcong High School Guidance Office:**

**Mrs. Iannuzzi (A-B & S - Z)**

**Ms. Stein (C-Fa & Mo - R)**

**Mr. Valentine (Fr- Mi)**

# Which Pathway is the Best for You?

- ❖ Trade/Technical School
- ❖ Military
- ❖ Two Year College
- ❖ Four Year College
- ❖ Employment
  - Plan in advance!

# ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

Prepare for admissions tests (SAT/ACT)

Register & begin taking SAT/ACT

Go on your SCOIR account & update all pertinent information

Write your college essay & review with your English teacher

Submit college applications & move the colleges to the "Applied" column in SCOIR

Research & apply for scholarships. Continue checking the HHS Guidance website for scholarship postings

Use search engines to research schools you would like to apply to and add them to the "My Colleges" column in SCOIR

Ask a minimum of **2 teachers** & your counselor for letters of recommendation

Research & verify the college's admissions requirements

Notify your school counselor that you have submitted your application

Attend open houses & schedule campus visits

Organize your list of safe, target & reach schools & put their deadlines in your calendar

File your [FAFSA](#) & attend HHS Financial Aid Night & FAFSA Completion Night

Choose the school you'll be attending and submit your deposit

Junior Year

Summer

Fall of Senior Year

Winter of Senior Year

Spring of Senior Year

# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Recommendation letters are needed for college applications and scholarships
- ❖ Plan to ask at least 2 teachers (1 should be an academic teacher) for a letter of recommendation
- ❖ Provide at least TWO WEEKS notice when requesting letters of recommendation

# COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Steps for requesting counselor recommendation:
  - Provide at least TWO WEEKS notice before recommendation letters are needed
  - Complete and submit the [2025-2026 Senior Profile & Activities Form](#)
    - This Google Form can also be found in the Guidance Google Classroom

# COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION

## ❖ Information to keep in mind as you fill out the Senior Profile & Activities Form

- Interests: (sports, arts, social, technology)
- Values: (justice, respect, loyalty)
- Priorities: (health, money, compassion)
- What would a teacher or employer say about you?
  - Ex: cooperates well in class, works well with others in small groups, asks appropriate questions as needed
- Future Goals: (Chef, medical doctor, social worker, nurse, chemist)

# TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Provide at least **TWO WEEKS** notice before recommendation letters are needed
  - Ask a minimum of TWO teachers in person
  - Complete the [2025-2026 Request for Teacher Recommendation Letters Form](#) for each teacher you requested
    - This Google Form can also be found in the Guidance Google Classroom
  - Request letter in SCOIR (see directions in next slide)

# TEACHER RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ Steps for requesting letters through SCOIR:
  - Go to the HHS website
  - Sign into [SCOIR](#) with your personal email address
  - Go to “My Colleges”
  - Click on Application Documents
  - Click on Request a Recommendation
  - Search for your teacher and select the teacher’s name
  - Type a short message
  - Click Send



# SCOIR PROFILE

- ❖ Log into [SCOIR](#)
  - Complete your SCOIR profile by filling in the personal data information. This can be helpful for resume building and recommendation letters
  - Personal Details: Be sure your personal email address is listed
  - Personal Bio
  - Activities and Achievements
  - College Preferences

# FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

- ❖ Check sites to apply for financial aid & scholarships:
  - [FAFSA](#)
  - [HESAA](#)
  - [HHS Scholarships](#)
  - [Fastweb](#)
  - [Going Merry](#)
  - [RaiseMe](#)
- ❖ The HHS Guidance Department will be distributing scholarships for local organizations in the Spring of your senior year

# FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- ❖ Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible once it opens your senior year
- ❖ Stay tuned for the following HHS events that will occur early next year:
  - Financial Aid Night
  - FAFSA Completion Night
- ❖ Financial Aid can include:
  - Grants (aid that does not have to be repaid)
  - Loans (must be repaid, with interest depending on the loan)
- ❖ Work Study (working while in school)

# Federal Loan Explanation

- ❖ All student federal loans are payable six months after a student stops attending school for any reason
- ❖ Types of loans:
  - Subsidized:
    - Interest begins to accrue six months after a student stops attending school for any reason
  - Unsubsidized:
    - Interest begins to accrue immediately upon securing loan

# College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile

- ❖ CSS is required by some colleges and universities in order to be considered for institutional aid
- ❖ This is a supplement to FAFSA (not a replacement)
- ❖ Click here for access to the [CSS Profile](#)

# Trade/Technical School

- ❖ Examples of trade careers:
  - Electrician
  - HVAC
  - Automotive
  - Welding
  - Carpentry
- ❖ Visit school campus(es) of interest
- ❖ Meet with school representatives

# Military

- ❖ See Mrs. Padula in the HHS Guidance Office to explore different branches of the military
- ❖ Meet with a military recruiter
- ❖ Take The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test
- ❖ Practice:
  - [ASVAB Career Exploration Program](#)
  - [March to Success](#)

# Employment

- ❖ **Talk with your school counselor about employment opportunities in your area**
  - Are you currently employed?
    - If so, where?
  - What are your future career plans?
  - Do you need a specific certification or skill set for that career?



# Sussex County Community College

- ❖ Prepare to take the [Accuplacer](#) or other assessments for select majors
  - Accuplacer test requirement may be waived for specific majors or if you score:
    - 450 on SAT Critical Reading
    - 500 on SAT Math
- ❖ Talk with your school counselor to see if you qualify for the New Jersey Stars Program (top 15% of your class)
- ❖ Complete the [free online application](#)
  - Students do not need to apply if already completed or are currently earning college credit for a concurrent course
- ❖ A member from SCCC will be coming to our school in the winter for an Instant Decision Day

# County College of Morris

- ❖ Prepare to take the [Accuplacer](#) or other assessments for select majors
  - Accuplacer test requirement may be waived for specific majors or if you score:
    - 590 on SAT Critical Reading
    - 560 on SAT Math
- ❖ There may be an application fee, because HHS students reside in Sussex County
- ❖ CCM's cost per credit will likely be higher than SCCC's cost per credit
- ❖ The Chargeback Program: your major can qualify, if it is not offered at SCCC
- ❖ Complete the [online application](#)
- ❖ A member from CCM will be coming to our school in the winter for an Instant Decision Day

# College Search

- ❖ Log onto: [SCOIR](#)
  - Click “Discover” , which will bring you to college search
- ❖ Start selecting filters, such as:
  - Focuses/majors, school size, distance & setting
- ❖ Create your own list of colleges by adding them to the “Following” column in SCOIR, regardless of which search engine you use
- ❖ Other college search engines:
  - [Collegeboard](#)
  - [College Data](#)
  - [Niche](#)
  - [Peterson's](#)

# Preparing for Applying to College

- ❖ Visit each homepage of the specific colleges from your college search
  - Research academics, tuition costs, activities and campus life
- ❖ Register for a college tour and other upcoming on-campus events
- ❖ If you have any questions, communicate directly with students on campus, department chairs and the admissions office
- ❖ By early fall you should have prepared the following list with their application deadlines:
  - 1-2 safe schools
  - 2-3 target schools
  - 1-2 reach schools

# FOUR YEAR COLLEGE CHECKLIST

- Add College(s) to the “My Colleges” list in [SCOIR](#)
- Request Counselor Recommendation
- Request Teacher Recommendations (2-3 preferred)
- Register for SAT/ACT, if required
- Complete application(s) including essay, if required
- Submit finalized application by the deadline

# FOUR YEAR COLLEGE CHECKLIST

## AFTER SUBMITTING COLLEGE APPLICATION:

- ❑ Add the college(s) to the “Applied” column in SCOIR and then your school counselor will be notified via email to forward your transcript, letters of rec., etc. to the college(s)
  - Some schools, such as Rutgers University, require that students self report grades, instead of sending a transcript
- ❑ Notify your school counselor in person or by email that you have submitted your application(s)
- ❑ Complete the [FAFSA](#)
- ❑ Complete [CSS Profile](#), if required

# FOUR YEAR COLLEGE APP. CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ Does the school require:
  - Auditions?
  - Portfolio?
  - Interview with admissions counselor?
  - Other documents/information?
- ❖ All colleges have a Net Price Calculator to estimate cost of attendance
- ❖ There are multiple ways to apply to college, such as:
  - Apply to multiple colleges using one application by using one of the following:
    - [Common App](#)
    - [Coalition App](#)
  - Apply directly on the specific college website

# APPLICATION DEADLINES

- ❖ Check the school's deadline for accepting applications:
  - Early Action (EA):
    - Application is due at an earlier date than regular decision (such as October or November)
  - Early Decision (ED):
    - This option is a binding contract. Students may only apply to one school ED. If accepted, students must withdraw all other applications
  - Regular Decision:
    - Application is due at a later date (such as January or February)
  - Rolling Admissions:
    - The Admissions committee will review the application upon receipt



# SAT & ACT TESTS

- ❖ Register to take the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#)
- ❖ Practice:
  - [Khan Academy](#)
  - [Kaplan Test Prep](#)
  - [ACT Study Guide](#)
- ❖ Students who receive free or reduced lunch may be eligible for a fee waiver → contact school counselor for more information
- ❖ Check testing dates and registration deadlines to avoid late fees
- ❖ Some schools are SAT/ACT optional → review college application requirements

# COLLEGE ESSAY

- ❖ Make yourself stand out from other applicants!
- ❖ Suggested essay prompts for college and/or scholarship applications:
  - [Essay Prompts](#)
- ❖ **PROOFREAD** the essay before submitting it to a college or organization

# Transcript

- ❖ The transcript is your high school academic record
- ❖ Final grades from each year are used to calculate your **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)** and your **CLASS RANK**
- ❖ 6th semester (end of junior year) GPA and class rank are what colleges will receive when you apply your senior year
- ❖ Senior year grades and coursework are still considered and very important... no senioritis!
- ❖ Share school requests with your counselor such as:
  - Mid-year grades
  - Alerts that a document is missing

# National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)

- ❖ Students should register with the [NCAA Clearinghouse](#) if they plan to play a sport for a college that is Division I or Division II
- ❖ Let your school counselor know that you registered
- ❖ Review the academic requirements for Division I and II schools with your school counselor

# QUESTIONS?

- ◆ Contact your school counselor with any questions:
  - Mrs. Iannuzzi: [miannuzzi@hopatcongschools.org](mailto:miannuzzi@hopatcongschools.org); 973-770-8864
  - Ms. Stein: [mstein@hopatcongschools.org](mailto:mstein@hopatcongschools.org); 973-770-8863
  - Mr. Valentine: [jvalentine@hopatcongschools.org](mailto:jvalentine@hopatcongschools.org); 973-770-8865