

Junior College Kickoff 2022

Presentation by the MLHS Counseling Office

Post-MLHS Options

- Gap Year
- Employment
- Military Service
- Technical Schools
- College → Tonight's Focus



You Will Get There

- There are more than 4,000 colleges in the U.S.
- Only ~100 colleges offer admission to less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of applicants
- Average acceptance rate at four-year schools has consistently been around 60/65%
- Your job is to gather information to find a good fit - academic, social, and financial
- Lots of resources at MLHS: your School Counselor, College & Career Counselor, and Naviance

Tonight's Agenda

- Naviance overview
- Researching colleges
- Outlining the application process
- Standardized testing
- Recommendations
- Financial aid & scholarships
- Tips & resources



- ✓ Provide a roadmap for the next year & help families gain a better understanding of what to expect

NAVIANCE

Naviance Tools

- Complete a college search
- Compare colleges
- View scattergrams
- See acceptance history
- Develop a prospective & final college list
- Track deadlines
- View upcoming college visits
- Request letters of recommendation
- Link to Common Application
- Take career inventories
- Complete surveys

Researching Colleges

- Naviance SuperMatch: search schools by location, cost, size, and more to find your best fit
- [Princeton Review](#)
- [College Board's Big Future](#)
- Individual College Websites: sign up for tours & information sessions, virtual tours, webinars, and student panels
- College Fairs: first MLHS fair on 4/7!

Colleges I'm Thinking About

- To add colleges to this list, click the “heart” button
- This is a good way to keep track of schools you're interested in
 - Lets your counselor know what colleges you are considering
 - Students, parents, and counselors can add colleges to this list
- Will eventually move schools to “Colleges I'm Applying To”



Bucknell University 
Lewisburg, PA
bucknell.edu

Add to Colleges I'm Thinking About

Factors to Consider

- Majors offered
- Location
- Setting: urban, suburban, rural
- Type of school: public, private, religiously affiliated, single sex vs. coed
- Size of school
- Activities (Greek life, athletics)
- Curriculum (core curriculum vs. open curriculum)
- Class size
- Are courses taught by TAs or professors?



Looking Beyond...

- Rutgers University–New Brunswick
- Pennsylvania State University–Main Campus
- Northeastern University
- Villanova University
- University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
- Boston University
- University of Delaware
- Boston College
- The College of New Jersey
- Lehigh University
- Cornell University
- University of Pennsylvania
- New York University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- University of Virginia
- Syracuse University
- Fordham University
- University of Maryland–College Park
- Tulane University of Louisiana
- Bucknell University

Creating a Balanced List

LIKELY

(2-3)

TARGET

(3-5)

REACH

(3)

Focus on the FIT

“We encourage you to look beyond the rankings, name-recognition and ‘prestige’ of a college. Selectivity is not the only marker of a ‘good’ school. A ‘good’ school will be different for every student: think about who you are and the kind of environment where you will thrive. It’s about finding the best fit!”

-Lincoln-Sudbury Regional HS Guidance Office

THE APPLICATION

How to Apply

- Apply through the Common Application (www.commonapp.org) whenever possible
- Coalition Application
- Institutional Specific Application



Application Components

- Student and Demographic Data
- Academic Information
- Extracurricular Activities
- Test Scores (AP, SAT, ACT, etc.)
- Essay(s)
 - Supplements
- Electronic Signature
- Payment (if required)



Completed Application

- Application submitted online by student
- SAT or ACT scores requested by student, to be sent from testing agency (if submitting scores)
- School package sent from Counseling Office which includes:
 - School Profile
 - Secondary School Report Form
 - Counselor Recommendation
 - Transcript
- Teacher Recommendations

Factors in the Review Process

- ****Grades****
- Strength of curriculum (rigor of courses you're taking)
- Test scores (if submitted)
- Essay
- Recommendations
- Extracurricular Activities
- Interview (if offered)
- Demonstrated Interest
- Major
- Fit
- Institutional Priorities

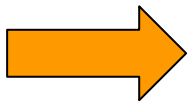
When to Apply

- Early Action
- Restrictive Early Action or Single Choice Early Action
- Early Decision I & II (binding)
- Priority
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admission



Special Programs

- Applying to colleges/universities outside of the U.S.
- Service Academies
- ROTC
- Theater, Dance, Music, Arts – may have audition and/or portfolio requirements
- Recruited Athletes – NCAA



Start the process early & let your counselor know



ARMY ROTC

SAT vs. ACT

- Colleges have no preference for one over the other
- **SAT:** Evidence-Based Reading & Writing; Math
 - Scored on a scale of 400–1600
- **ACT:** English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, Essay (Optional)
 - Scored on a scale of 1–36
- Consider taking both (or taking practice tests for both)
- Upcoming practice exams offered on February 5 & 12 through Princeton Review
- Register for exams EARLY (collegeboard.org or act.org)
- Consider taking the exam 2–3 times (not more!)
- We encourage students to try to finish testing by the start of senior year

For more information on the differences between SAT and ACT, check out:

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>; <https://blog.prepscholar.com/act-vs-sat>

Test-Optional

- Test-Optional: Neither ACT or SAT are required, but scores will be considered if submitted
 - Are your test scores reflective of your academic abilities? Are they in line with your academic performance?
 - [Fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org): More than half of all four-year schools have already stated that they will not require ACT/SAT scores for your class.
- [Test-Blind](#): Will not consider SAT or ACT scores for any applicants
 - Hampshire College, University of California system, Reed College



Recommendations

- Request before the end of the school year - in-person
- Most students request 2 teacher recommendations
 - Core academic subjects: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language
 - See individual college requirements
- Teacher Brag Sheet
- Student Brag Sheet (for Counselor letter)
- Parent Brag Sheet



Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Have a conversation about finances now
- Types of aid: Some schools offer merit-based scholarships and need-based aid, others exclusively offer need-based awards
 - Looking for merit aid? Apply to more likely schools.
- [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- [CSS Profile](#)
- Net Price Calculators
- Apply for outside scholarships - don't wait!
 - Check out the Bi-Weekly Bulletin
 - Fastweb.com

SCHOLARSHIP



What Should I Be Doing Now?

- Schedule Junior College Meeting with School Counselor
 - Parents can join by phone
 - Complete the Junior Survey on Naviance (About Me tab > Surveys From My School)
- Prepare and register for SAT/ACT exams
- Researching & visiting colleges. Adding schools to “Colleges I’m Thinking About.”
- Review the [Junior-Senior College Search & Application Timeline](#) for a month by month breakdown
 - February 2: Parent Panel
 - March 9: The Admission Game
 - April 7: College Fair
 - April 28: College Essay Presentation

TIPS & RESOURCES

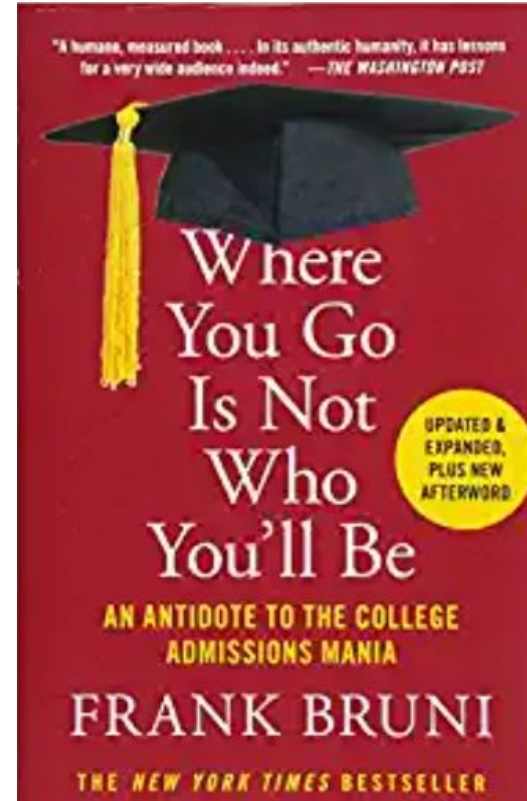
Tips & Resources

- **Start early** – the earlier you start (researching colleges, working on essays), the less stressful this process will be
- **Check your email** frequently
 - And use the same email address for all college stuff
- **Stay organized** and stay on top of deadlines
- **Work together as a family.** Identify a consistent, mutually agreed-upon time to talk about college: “if you isolate this time...you will help bolster family unity and ensure that your relationship does not unnecessarily narrow to a focus solely on college”
- **Read the Bi-Weekly Bulletin!**
- **Get advice** from last year’s class in [The Mountaineer](#)



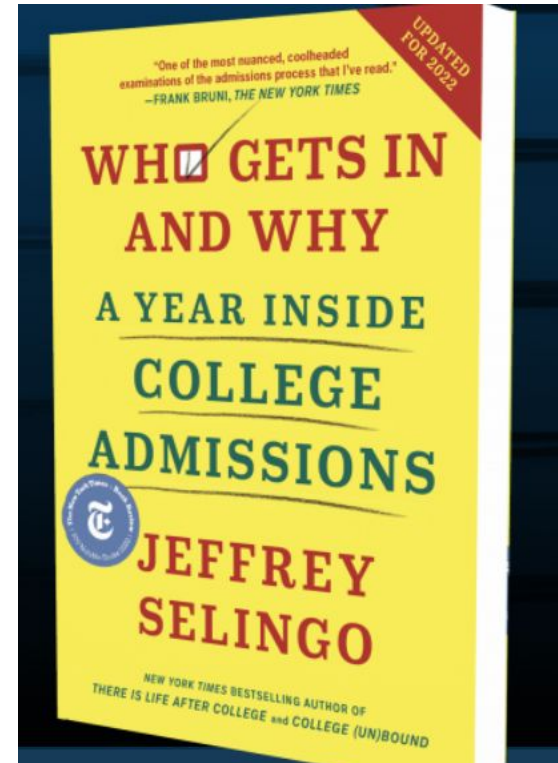
Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be, by Frank Bruni

“Bruni, a bestselling author and a columnist for the New York Times, shows that the Ivy League has no monopoly on corner offices, governors' mansions, or the most prestigious academic and scientific grants. Through statistics, surveys, and the stories of hugely successful people, he demonstrates that many kinds of colleges serve as ideal springboards. And he illuminates how to make the most of them. What matters in the end are students' efforts in and out of the classroom, not the name on their diploma.”



Who Gets In and Why, by Jeff Selingo

“While many have long believed that admissions is merit-based, rewarding the best students, *Who Gets In and Why* presents a more complicated truth, showing that ‘who gets in’ is frequently more about the college’s agenda than the applicant.”



The Truth about College Admission: A Family Guide to Getting In and Staying Together

“*The Truth about College Admission* is the easy-to-follow, comprehensive, go-to guide for families. The expert authors with inside knowledge from both the high school and university sides of the experience provide critical advice, thoughtful strategies, helpful direction, and invaluable reassurance during the long and often bewildering college admission journey... Helpful sections like ‘Try This,’ ‘Talk about This,’ and ‘Check In’ show your family how to have open and balanced conversations to keep everyone on the same page, feeling less stressed, and actually enjoying the adventure together.”

The Truth about **COLLEGE ADMISSION**

A FAMILY GUIDE
TO GETTING IN AND STAYING TOGETHER

- Finding the right school
- What the college rankings really mean
- The truth behind standardized testing
- Creating a compelling college essay
- Behind the scenes of college admission

GET ON
THE PATH TO A
Positive
COLLEGE SEARCH
AND ADMISSION
EXPERIENCE

BRENNAN BARNARD, *High School College Counseling Director*
RICK CLARK, *Undergraduate Admission Director*

QUESTIONS?
