

For Juniors, Parents & Guardians:

College Information Night



LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 2019





This evening's handouts



STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT - Senior Snapshot

A Framework for Thinking about College Applications

The process of applying to college can be daunting. Before getting into the specifics of how to submit college applications, we want to stress several things.

This process is individualized. You and your family might approach it with different goals or constraints than those you need to meet.

you need to consider your options and the application process.



STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT - Junior Handbook

Beginning the College Process

Senior year is a time when you are often worried about whether you are prepared for what comes next. If you are feeling this way, you are not alone.

As a junior, you have reached the time to begin thinking about college. You may have the impression that you are in for a stressful time – frantically adding activities to your schedule in order to look better on paper, taking and retaking standardized tests to eke out a few more points in your score.

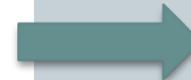
As best you can, try to avoid that pressure. Your high school years can be as important as any in your life. Use this time to explore areas that interest you. Begin to think more closely about which classes engage you most in school. Outside of class, think about what you enjoy most, whether it is an after-school job, a particular hobby, a club, a sport or another activity. These are all equally valid ways to spend your time. Be true to yourself and then when the time comes to apply to college, telling your story will be easy.

This packet is written for you, our junior students, but we encourage you to share it with your parent/guardian. Below you will find timelines, descriptions of the application process and a list of resources. We suggest you read through the packet carefully now and also save it to review as the year goes on. As you move through junior year and have questions or concerns, please stop in our office to speak with your counselor. We are here to help!

TIMELINE FOR JUNIOR YEAR



- Read at home
- Puts the college process in context



- Skim now, read at home
- No need to take detailed notes tonight
- Blank page to write your questions



This evening's program



As a big group, we'll cover:

- ◇ a timeline for juniors
- ◇ building a college list and looking for a good “fit”
- ◇ types of admission & deadlines
- ◇ components of an application
- ◇ financial aid
- ◇ resources –SCATE program, counselors, Naviance, etc.
- ◇ next steps & future programs to note

... and then move into small groups for Q&A



Timeline for Juniors



FALL & WINTER:

- Think about the type of college or university that appeals to you – urban vs. rural, large vs. small, etc.
- Plan how and when you will visit some colleges over the next 12 months
- Consider when to take the standardized tests needed for college applications
- Become more familiar with Naviance

SPRING:

- Research colleges: rep visits; tours; college fairs; college websites
- Meet with your counselor and perhaps the college counselor
- Think about and ask teachers for letters of recommendation
- Take standardized tests
- Make a long list of colleges you like
- Plan to make good use of summer!

A College List – A Good “Fit”



- Research a variety of campuses and institutions – online, through visits, college fairs etc. LMSD’s was October 21.
- Think about your interests and preferences – what you might study, activities you might want to join, the type of environment you like, proximity to home, cost, etc.
- Compile a list of colleges, anywhere from 8-15 that seem like a good fit for you
- Look at colleges’ acceptance statistics to see how likely you are to be admitted, and ensure you have a balance of reach, realistic and comfort colleges
- Aim to have a final list of 6-10 colleges by senior year



Types of Admission



Non-Restrictive

- Rolling Admission
- Regular Decision
- Early Action (EA)

Restrictive

- Restrictive Early Action (REA)
= only early application
- Early Decision (ED)
- Early Decision II
= must attend if admitted

Deadlines

- *None (apply early!)*
- *Usually Jan. 1 or 15*
- *Usually Nov. 1 or 15*
- *Usually Nov. 1*
- *Usually Nov. 1 or 15*
- *Usually Jan. 15, Feb. 1 or 15*

Break Out Sessions



- At this time we will break into small groups for more information on the process
- Auditorium-Mr. Allen/Mrs. Kail/Mrs. Bowlby
- Room 119-Mr. Anderson
- Room 121-Mrs. Rosen
- Room 123-Mrs. Gesacion
- Room 124-Mrs. Vallieres



Application Components



All students will use Naviance Student

Student.naviance.com/harriton or /lowermerion

- Central clearinghouse for processing applications, transcripts, more

Many colleges use The Common Application-over 850!

Penn State, Pitt, Rutgers, UC and others use self-reported and over 140 colleges use The Coalition Application

- *Transcript-level of courses*
- *Activities-commitment*
- *Standardized tests – ACT, SAT, Subject Tests, test optional*
- *Essays*
- *Interview*
- *Art, music, athletics*
- *Demonstrated interest*



Application Components



Testing:

- Consider both the ACT and SAT
- Take tests *early enough* so that you have time to retake if needed but *late enough* so that you can do your best
- Assess whether Subject Tests will be needed-fewer colleges are requiring them-check websites

Letters of recommendations:

- Usually 2 letters are needed
- Ask a junior teacher who knows you well and can speak to your strengths
- Sign the FERPA waiver-important!



Application Components



Counselor

Submits counselor recommendation; provides high school profile; advises student as needed

Registrar

Submits transcripts and grade reports

College Board or ACT

Submits test scores

STUDENT

Sets up list of colleges in Naviance; requests transcripts and grade reports; requests letters of recommendation; requests test scores.

Teachers

Mail or upload letter of recommendation





Financial Aid



- Research eligibility and costs through the **Net Price Calculator**
- Apply using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid aka **FAFSA** form –available in October, usually due in early winter; may also use another form entitled the CSS Profile from The College Board
- **Financial Aid Package** - typically a combination of resources, called need-based financial assistance:
 - Federal or state grants which do not need to be repaid
 - Federal or state loans and the repayment terms vary
 - Work-study-either Federal or Institutional which is a job with a stated amount of income and hours per week/year

Other financial resources include:

- Academic, athletic or other college-awarded scholarships
- Scholarships from private sources such as LMTSF
- Loans from private sources



Next Steps



Small group discussions tonight can include

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 – Building a List | 2 – ACT, SAT, Testing | 3 – Courses/Transcript |
| 4 – Athletics or Arts | 5 – Application Process | 6 – Other questions |

Review handouts at home (*see Resources*)

Upcoming Programs:

Coffee & Conversation (informal Q&A)

College Admission Select-A-Session

Interpreting & using PSAT Scores

Special Interests Select A Session

College Planning for Students Who Learn Differently