

# Greenwich High School

## Junior College Kickoff

Personalizing the College Process

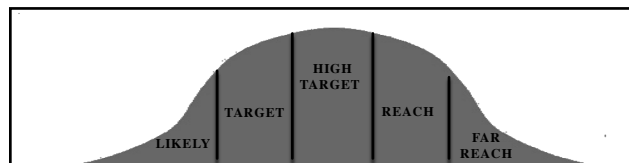
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## The College Search Process

- Figure out who you are and then look for colleges that interest you
  - The most selective college may not always be the best fit
  - Family discussions
  - Frequent contact with counselor
  - Gather information from colleges and current students
  - Visit college campuses
  - Keep an open mind
  - Recognize admissions standards and campus culture varies year to year
  - Use good judgment when listening to the opinions of others
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## Making Your College List

- Make sure every school on your list is a “first choice” school
- Know why you are applying to each school
- Be realistic about the academic requirements for admission
- Think outside the box



## Some Factors to Consider

- Location
  - Size of school
  - Level of academic rigor
  - Areas of interest/major
  - Campus surroundings
  - Social life
  - Financial Aid / Merit Scholarships
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## Visiting Campus

- Call Admissions Office ahead of time
- Do your “homework”
- Ask good questions of students, professors and admissions representatives
- Check out the dining hall
- Sit in on a class
- Hang out in town
- Take notes
- Write thank-you notes
- Listen to your gut



## What is Considered in the Application Process?

### ▪ Academic Factors

- Transcript:
  - Course selection and level of rigor
  - Course grades
  - Three-year GPA
- First quarter senior grades (Often required, but not automatically sent)
- Mid-Year senior grades (Automatically sent)
- SAT/ACT scores (If required)
- Subject Tests (If required)

## What is Considered in the Application Process?

### ▪ Personal Factors

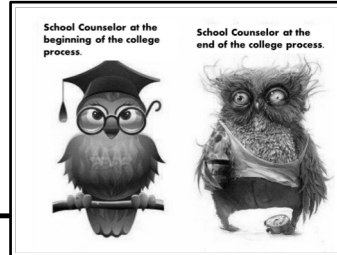
- College essay
- Recommendations
- Demographics
- Demonstrated interest
- Extracurricular activities
- Interview
- Legacy
- Supplements
- Special talents (athletics, art, music, theater)

## What is Expected of Students:

- Take ownership of college process
  - Complete and submit applications, forms, essays, etc.
- Provide teachers with recommendation forms several weeks in advance of application deadline
- Proofread your college essays and have them reviewed by counselor and then an English teacher
- Meet ALL deadlines
- Arrange to have official test scores sent directly to college

## What students should not do:

- Change your college list after meeting with your school counselor. (Fall of Senior year)
- Hand in Transcript request sheets without informing your school counselor.
- Tell your teachers you need their letter of recommendation by the end of the week (and you hadn't asked for one before hand).
- Apply to only Reach and Far Reach schools.
- Tell your school counselor you are applying somewhere and never send the application.



## What is expected of parents:

- Support and encourage your child, offering advice and guidance where appropriate
  - Be aware of your own preferences or biases regarding college choices
  - Be open to new ideas and suggestions on colleges to consider
  - Support an ethical approach to the admissions process
  - Your children are expected to complete their own applications
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## What is expected of counselors:

- Offer students suggestions and guidance about colleges based on the information they provide and preferences they express
  - Help students create a balanced and realistic list of colleges they would be happy to attend
  - Write a counselor recommendation
  - Meet all deadlines (as long as students have met counselor/guidance office deadlines)
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## Financing Your Education

- Family discussions about the role of finances in college selection
  - Use online tools for EFC and Cost of Attendance
  - Need-based financial aid- families can begin applying in October 2018.
  - Merit-based aid awarded by individual colleges and outside organizations.
  - Greenwich Scholarship Association
  - Greenwich Student Loan Fund
  - Financial Aid Workshops at GHS
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## College and Career Center

- Mrs. Lochridge– College and Career Counselor
  - Individual student appointments available after initial college planning meeting with counselor
- College representative visits at GHS
- Junior & Senior year workshops on the application process, college essays, college visits and interviews
- Annual College Book
- SAT, AP, ACT prep books
- College guide books & information
- Summer programs & Gap year information
- College and Career Update

## Naviance

A comprehensive tool that can be used to help students and parents through college and career planning.

- Take surveys to determine career interests
- Conduct a college search and compare colleges
- Track deadlines and submission of documents
- Schedule visits with college representatives at GHS
- Search for scholarships
- Teachers upload formal recommendations
- Receive communications from Guidance Department
- Complete parent & student components of senior packet

The screenshot shows the 'familyconnection' website for the University of Delaware. It includes sections for 'APPLICATION DEADLINE' (January 15), 'APPLICATION FEE' (\$75), and 'ACCEPTANCE RATE' (68%). Below these are 'APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS' categorized by Freshman, Transfer, and International students. A table lists 'APPLICATION FACTORS' such as Curriculum Rigor, Character/Personal Qualities, and Extracurricular Activities, categorized as Very Important, Important, Considered, or Not Considered. The bottom section shows 'APPLICATION INFORMATION' with a 'Deadlines' tab set to January 15.



## Common Application

- As of today, we expect the 2019-20 application to be live on August 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.
  - Do NOT invite counselor or teachers writing letters on the Common Application. This could jeopardize your application being sent!
  - **ESSAY**
    - 650 word limit (**WORD LIMIT ENFORCED**)
    - Text-entry only - no uploads of Microsoft Word documents
    - Essay prompts announced in March
    - Supplemental essays primarily focus on demonstrated interest & fit
    - Other forms of applications: direct to institution, Coalition Application
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## Components of the Junior Folder

- Senior Brag Sheet (Self-Evaluation)
  - Activity Sheet or Resume
  - Parent Brag Sheet
  - Informal Comments (At least one of each, limited to **2 teachers**)
    - Teacher
    - Non-Teacher
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## Next Steps

- Schedule Junior College Conference
  - Review contents of Junior Folder
  - Consider timing for campus visits
  - Develop a standardized testing plan
  - Consider who you want to ask to write a letter of recommendation
  - Keep your grades up and begin thinking about next year's course selection
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## Q & A

The GHS School Counselors  
look forward to working with  
you on the college research and  
application process!

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