

HHS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

JUNIOR COLLEGE PLANNING

Welcome to Junior Year! The Harborfields High School Guidance Department has prepared this handbook to help guide you through the college selection and application process. It will provide you with step-by-step assistance through the college search, a laborious task, to which many students simply do not allocate sufficient time and thought.

THE TOP 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

1. **Start looking early.** Begin the college search in your junior year. There's a lot to learn and you're going to be very busy as a senior.
2. **Take responsibility.** Take the initiative; don't wait for your parents or school counselor to get on your case. **YOU** are the one who is going to college. **YOU** should be making the appointments to visit colleges, requesting information and completing college applications.
3. **Don't procrastinate.** Try to keep on top of things. Ask for teacher recommendations EARLY. Give yourself plenty of time to write, edit, and rewrite your essay(s). Plan to have things done ahead of time. If there's a problem (you get mono, your recommendation gets lost in the mail, the dog eats your application, whatever), you'll still have plenty of time to take care of things.
4. **Educate yourself.** Research the colleges in which you are interested and learn about some new ones. Get an idea of what's out there. The best decision you can make is an educated one! Your **Naviance Student** account is an excellent tool.
5. **Visit colleges.** After reading up on schools and meeting with college representatives, make sure you tour the campuses and, if possible, have an interview. An overnight visit when classes are in session is helpful in determining a college's "personality" and whether it's a good match for you. If it is not possible to visit the colleges, go to the college website for a virtual tour.
6. **Talk with the students.** Students will give you the inside scoop on the food, dorms, social life, accessibility of the faculty, etc. Eavesdrop on them in the student union if you have to.
7. **Know what you want.** After doing research, visit some schools and talk with students, and narrow down what you're looking for: big/small, public/private, nearby/far away, liberal arts/specialized, coed/single sex, independent/religiously affiliated. **We suggest you limit your college applications to 5 choices.** *Be sure to include safety schools.* Don't rule out a school simply based on cost; you never know what type of financial aid package you could get!
8. **The essay: be yourself and answer the question.** Don't write about what you think colleges want to hear; write about something you know, something that is important to you. Make sure you answer the question! For additional help, visit www.essayedge.com.
9. **Know the deadlines.** There are deadlines for everything: SATs, ACTs, college applications, scholarship applications, financial aid, acceptance responses, auditions, portfolio reviews, etc. Make sure you know what the deadlines are!
10. **Keep your grades up!!!!** Grades are an important part of your application. Fight senioritis! Finish strong! College acceptances are pending successful completion of your Senior year.

You can organize your college planning by following these seven steps:

1. Know Yourself
2. Identify College Characteristics Important to you
3. List Colleges You Are Considering & Collect Information
4. Investigate and Compare Colleges
5. Apply for Admission
6. Determine your Financial Plan
7. Make Some Decisions



College and Career Readiness Checklist

- Be sure all requirements are met for graduation (i.e., coursework, credits, State Exams, etc.)
- Review **transcript** for errors and use the [Academic Planning Card](#) to monitor your progress toward graduation
- Submit the [Yellow Transcript Request Form](#) to Mrs. Staib in the GRC (Fall of senior year when you have your final list of colleges you will be applying to)
- Schedule an appointment with your counselor for your Junior College Conference and review the [Junior College Planning Packet](#) beforehand
- Have a strong inclination as to what you would like to do after High School (i.e., College, [Trade School](#), Armed Forces, [World of Work](#), etc.)
- Do your **research** (i.e., College Fairs/Tours, Visit Recruiters, Interview folks in careers that interest you, etc.)

➤ www.naviance.com

➤ [College Search - Big Future](#)

- Athletes planning to participate in Division I/II sports (in college) must register at: [NCAA Eligibility Center](#)

➤ If you are registered with the NCAA, submit a [Yellow Transcript Request Form](#) at the end of your junior year

➤ For more detailed information, please refer to the: [NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete](#) and the [NCAA Initial Eligibility Standards](#)

- You should have registered and/or taken the **SAT or ACT**; it's a must if you're college-bound! Register at: www.collegeboard.org and/or www.act.org. For test preparation, register here:

➤ [Khan Academy \(FREE\)](#)

➤ [Princeton Review](#)

➤ [Method Learning](#)

➤ [ACT Test Prep \(FREE\)](#)

- Finalize rough-draft of your **College Essay**

➤ [HHS College Essay Writing Handbook](#)

➤ [Common App Essay Prompts](#)

- Finalize rough-draft of your:

➤ [Sample Resume](#)

➤ [Junior Brag Sheet](#)

➤ [Parent Brag Sheet](#)

➤ [Student Activity/Honors Sheet](#)

- Get **Letters of Recommendation (at least two)** from teachers and add the official request on www.naviance.com
- **Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)/CSS Profile** (one or both must be completed to get student aid)

➤ SUNY Financial Aid Days	➤ CSS Profile Application
➤ www.studentaid.gov	➤ CSS Profile Participating Schools

- Although community service is *optional*, consider doing at least 100 hours of service before you graduate
- Attend the Common App Boot Camp in the summer hosted by our Counseling Department and review the [Common App Ready Toolkit](#) beforehand
- Avoid procrastination!

Here are a few useful websites:

➤ 11th Grade Timeline	➤ 12th Grade Timeline
➤ www.collegeboard.org	➤ www.bigfuture.com
➤ www.commonapp.org	➤ www.fastweb.com
➤ www.naviance.com	➤ www.studentaid.gov
➤ www.finaid.org	➤ www.careerzone.ny.gov



Standardized Test Dates



SAT Administration Tests and Deadlines:

SAT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 28, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023
August 26, 2023	TBD	TBD
October 7, 2023	TBD	TBD
November 4, 2023	TBD	TBD
December 2, 2023	TBD	TBD

To register for the **SAT** visit:
www.collegeboard.org

ACT Administration Tests and Deadlines:

ACT Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023
July 15, 2023*	June 16, 2023	June 23, 2023
Sept 10, 2023	TBD	TBD
Oct 22, 2023	TBD	TBD
Dec 10, 2023	TBD	TBD

*No test centers are scheduled in New York for the July test date.

To register for the **ACT** visit:
www.actstudent.org

~ Please visit the Princeton Review section on the high school guidance website for information regarding updates to the SAT and the difference between the two exams.



Common App 2023-2024 Essay



The essay demonstrates your ability to write clearly and concisely on a selected topic and helps you distinguish yourself in your own voice. What do you want the readers of your application to know about you apart from courses, grades, and test scores? Choose the option that best helps you answer that question and write an essay of no more than 650 words, using the prompt to inspire and structure your response. **Remember: 650 words is your limit, not your goal.** Use the full range if you need it, but don't feel obligated to do so. **(The application won't accept a response shorter than 250 words.)**

Below is the full set of Common App essay prompts for 2023-2024.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.





Upcoming Events



March

- March 14
 - Spring Mini College Fair for Students – 10:20am – 12pm
- March 16
 - College Essay Writing Workshop 7pm
- March 20
 - Evening College Fair 6:30pm – 8:30pm

April

- April 24
 - Western Suffolk Counselors Association College Fair 6-8:30pm – Radison Hotel Hauppauge
- April 25
 - Nassau Counselors Association Spring College Expo 5:30-8:30pm - Hofstra University- David S. Mack Sports Complex



Harborfields High School

MINI COLLEGE FAIR

MARCH 14th, 2023

10:20am-12pm

South Gym

Bryant University	Sacred Heart University
College of Mount Saint Vincent	Saint Joseph's University - PA
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice	Salve Regina
Endicott College	St. John's University
Florida Southern College	St. Joseph's University - LI Campus
Husson University	Suffolk County Community College
Island Drafting & Technical Institute	SUNY Albany
Ithaca College	SUNY Alfred State
Keuka College	SUNY Canton
LeMoyne College	SUNY Geneseo
Lycoming College	SUNY Herkimer College
Maine Maritime Academy	SUNY Maritime College
Manhattan College	SUNY Oswego
Manhattanville College	SUNY Purchase College
Marist College	SUNY Stony Brook University
Miami University	Syracuse University
Marywood University	The College of Saint Rose
McDaniel College	Towson University
Moravian University	University of Maryland College Park
New York Film Academy	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Nova Southeastern University	University of New Haven
Pace University	University of South Carolina
Penn State University	University of Tennessee
Quinnipiac University	Vaughn College of Aeronautics & Tech.
Rochester Institute of Technology	Virginia Tech
Rutgers University	Wagner College



*As of 3/1/23, list is subject to change

**Harborfields High School
EVENING COLLEGE FAIR
MARCH 20th, 2023
6:30-8:30pm
North Gym**

Adelphi University
Albany College of Pharmacy
and Health Sciences
Alvernia University
Assumption University
Bryant University
Central Connecticut State
University
College of the Holy Cross
Dickinson College
Elizabethtown College
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Fairfield University
Fairleigh Dickinson University
Five Towns College
Franklin & Marshall College
George Mason University
Hartwick College
Hobart and William Smith
Colleges
Hofstra University
Iona University
Island Drafting & Technical
Institute
Johnson & Wales University
Keiser University Flagship
Campus
King's College
La Salle University
Lafayette College

Liberty University
Long Island University
Lynn University
Manhattan College
Manhattanville College
Mercy College
Molloy University
Montclair State University
Mount Saint Mary College
Nassau Community College
New York Institute of
Technology
Norwich University
Penn State University
Providence College
Rider University
Roger Williams University
Rutgers University - New
Brunswick
Sacred Heart University
Salve Regina University
Seton Hall University
St. Bonaventure University
St. John's University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Stonehill College
SUNY Binghamton University
SUNY Cobleskill
SUNY Cortland
SUNY Farmingdale State
College

SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Old Westbury
SUNY Oneonta
SUNY Oswego
SUNY Plattsburgh
SUNY Polytechnic Institute
SUNY Stony Brook University
SUNY University at Albany
Susquehanna University
The Catholic University of
America
The College of Mount Saint
Vincent
The College of New Jersey
The Princeton Review
Towson University
University of Massachusetts
Amherst
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Pittsburgh
University of Scranton
Ursinus College
Vaughn College of
Aeronautics and Technology
Virginia Commonwealth
University
U.S. Army
Wagner College
Wentworth Institute of
Technology
Western New England
University
Xavier Universit

Lasell University

SUNY Fredonia
SUNY Geneseo

*As of 3/1/23, list is subject to change



Harborfields High School Guidance



College Admissions Night &

7th Annual College Fair

MONDAY MARCH 20th @ 6:30pm-8:30pm



The evening will include one-to-one conversations with over 80 college representatives in the North Gym from 6:30pm-8:30pm

You are also invited to attend valuable breakout seminars every half hour in the high school cafeteria:

- ★ Student Athletes presented by Mr. Companion, Physical Education teacher at Harborfields HS
- ★ The College Admissions Process presented by Suzanne Miller, Long Island Admissions Counselor at SUNY Geneseo
 - ★ The Digital SAT: What You Need to Know presented by The Princeton Review
- ★ Do the SAT and ACT still Matter? Presented by the Princeton Review



HARBORFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL



QUESTIONS TO ASK A COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

The following questions may be helpful in your college search.
You can use this list as a guide or create your own list from these questions.

Admission Questions

- What are your admission requirements?
- What is your average GPA and ACT/SAT scores? Are you SAT/ACT optional?
- Do you have other requirements?
- What are your course requirements? Do you require a foreign language and, if so, how many years?
- What are your deadlines?
- Do you require letters of recommendation? If so, how many and from whom?

Academics and Career Planning Questions

- Is the college public or private?
- What is the average class size and what is the student-to-faculty ratio?
- Do you accept AP credit and where can I get a list of the AP credit that is accepted?
- Do you have my major?
- What are some of your strongest academic programs?
- Is there an Honors Program and, if so, what are the requirements?
- Is there a career resource center?

Student Body

- What is your undergraduate enrollment?
- Do you have the extra-curricular activities that I am interested in?
- What is the school spirit like on campus? Is there a Greek life?
- What are some of your internship opportunities?
- What are the study abroad opportunities?
- What percentage of the students live on campus and what percentage commute?

Financial Aid

- What types of scholarships and financial aid are available?
- Do you require additional Forms with the FAFSA for financial aid? (Example – CSS Profile)
- When is the FAFSA deadline?
- What percentage of students receive some form of financial aid?
- What is the average loan package?
- How do I go about applying for scholarships to you school?



Harborfields High School



Parent Brag Sheet

STUDENT'S NAME: _____

1. What do you consider to be the most important achievement of your child during high school and why?

2. In what areas do you believe your child has shown the most development and growth since entering high school?

3. Describe your child's attitude towards school and learning. What subjects have they enjoyed the most/least throughout their education?

4. What do you consider to be his/her strong personal characteristics, as well those areas you feel may need improvement.

5. Please describe any unusual circumstances or adversity that has had an effect on your child's education and/or life outside of school.

6. Describe your child's most significant and valuable personality traits.

7. Please describe your son/daughter in 4 or 5 adjectives.

8. Describe specific and significant activities or special talents in which your child has participated during his/her high school career, both in and out of school.

9. What would you most like a college admissions office to know about your child? If admitted, what can your child contribute to the college community?

JUNIOR



**Harborfields High School
Junior Brag Sheet**



JUNIOR

Student Name: _____ Email: _____

The information provided in this questionnaire will only be used when writing your comprehensive letter of recommendation. Please answer the following questions as completely and as honestly as you can. Please note that only your counselor will have access to this information.

1. Which classes have you enjoyed the most? What about these classes made them so rewarding for you?

2. Do you feel your academic record is an accurate measure of your ability? Why or why not?

3. What major would you like to pursue in college?

4. What have you done related to your possible major or career path?

5. List three adjectives that people who know you best might use to describe you and an example of why they describe you in each of these ways.

6. What is the most important activity you participate in and why (inside school or out)?

7. What do you like to do in your spare time? Do you have any special talents or hobbies?

8. How would you describe your role within your family?

9. What circumstances, if any, have presented a challenge to you in high school (for example, learning style, illnesses, family issues, home responsibilities, jobs, or extensive extracurricular commitments)?

10. What would you most like your counselor to highlight in his/her letter of recommendation?

STUDENT ATHLETES:

Are you being recruited/interested in being recruited? Yes: _____ No: _____

Which sport are you interested in playing on the collegiate level? _____

STUDENT ARTISTS:

Are you interested in applying to a specific performing arts/fine art major? _____

SPECIAL EDUCATION/504 STUDENTS:

Do you receive services as per an IEP or 504 plan? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, would you like your school counselor to disclose this information in their letter of recommendation? Yes _____ No _____

NON-SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Activity	Grade(s)	Description

EMPLOYMENT:

List any jobs you have held including internships, summer, and work during the school year, approximate time commitment, and a description of the job.

Place of Employment	Grades	Hours/Week/ Summer	Position, Details, and Accomplishments

ATHLETICS:

Sport	Level (JV/Varsity/Outside)	Position, Details, Accomplishments



Student Information Sheet for Teachers **College Recommendation**



Student Name: _____

Counselor: _____

Teacher: _____

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What major do you intend to pursue in college? _____

2. List the colleges that you intend to apply to. _____

3. List the course(s) that you have had with this teacher.

4. What did you enjoy most about this teacher's class?

5. What was your greatest challenge with the course?

6. Were there any circumstances in your life that might have had a negative impact on your academic performance in this class?

7. List five adjectives that describe you as a person and give an example of how you exemplified one of these traits in class.

8. When looking back on your high school career, what academic experience, club or activity meant the most to you?

Note: Please feel free to use a second sheet of paper if your comments do not fit into the spaces provided.



Juniors – Don't forget to join the Google Classroom **Code r25qxhu**



Make sure you know your Naviance Log in and password! Please see Mrs. Staib or your counselor for assistance.