

Senior LEAP Back To School Night

College Application Overview

What Your Student Should Have Already Done:

- Created their Common App Account
- Made significant progress with Common App Essay & additional essays
- Registered for fall SAT/ACT test dates (if necessary)

What Your Student Should Be Doing Now:

- Continue working on applications and essays
- Getting organized (Master Spreadsheet)
- Finalizing their list of colleges applying to
- Scheduling visits & interviews
- Deciding whether to apply Early Action or Early Decision
- Following up on letters of recommendation (teacher's deadline = Sept. 30)
- Preparing for fall SAT/ACT (if necessary)

Important Dates:

- October 1: CSS Profile Available
- October 11: SAT (register by Sept. 12)
- October 20: College Financial Night at BTHS, 6:30 pm
- October 25: ACT (register by Sept. 19)
- November 8: SAT (register by Oct. 9)
- December 1: Rutgers Application Deadline
- January 1: FAFSA Available
- May 1: Commitment / Decision Deadline

Application Reminders & Tips:

- Applying through Early Decision is a binding commitment
- It is recommended to apply to 7 - 10 schools, based on selectivity:
 - REACH – college standards exceed your scores (2-3)
 - TARGET – college standards comparable to your scores (2-4)
 - SAFETY– your scores exceed that of the college (2-3)
- The only way to send official SAT/ACT scores is directly through the College Board or ACT websites. Students must send their scores to every college they apply to.
- School Document / Transcript Requests must be submitted to the Guidance Office at least 10 school days before the application is due (paper form & Naviance)
- Apply well before the college's deadlines (2 weeks suggested)
- Connect / communicate with colleges to demonstrate interest - visits, interviews, etc.

How Parents Can Help:

- Proofread applications & essays for mechanical / grammar errors
- Assist with organization and logistics - dates, deadlines, visits, etc.
- Let your student take control (parents only contact w/colleges should be about finances)
- Have open and honest conversations with your student (especially about any limitations)
- Provide continual support & encouragement