

# College Planning for Juniors

## January 2024

[Amy.Greene@norwellschools.org](mailto:Amy.Greene@norwellschools.org)

[Rebecca.Prescott@norwellschools.org](mailto:Rebecca.Prescott@norwellschools.org)

[Brenda.Barrientos@norwellschools.org](mailto:Brenda.Barrientos@norwellschools.org)

[Meaghan.Stolp@norwellschools.org](mailto:Meaghan.Stolp@norwellschools.org)

# Current Trends in College Admissions

- Earlier Process
- Students applying to more colleges
- Test Optional Policies
- Demonstrated interest can be a factor
- Cost has become a bigger factor

# Developing a College List

- Location
- Setting (city, suburban, rural)
- Size
- Majors
- Academic Fit
- Admissions Standards
- Campus Culture/Social Fit
- Special Programs (Athletics, Art, Music, Theater, ROTC, Study Abroad)
- Cost- Net price calculators on each college's website.

# Prospective Colleges

- Discuss at home
- Discuss with school counselor
- Use GPA and any test results to do college search and seek information in **SCOIR**
- Categorize to ‘reach’, ‘target’, ‘likely’
- Evaluate whether your college list is balanced by using **College Kickstart**

# SCOIR

- SCOIR - an online college planning system
  - Navigate college search and selection
  - Manage school end of application process
    - Counselor documents (transcripts, letters)
    - Teacher letters
- Students will receive an email invitation from SCOIR to register for their accounts on 1/25
- Parents can also have access to SCOIR
  - Students invite parents to link to their account

# College Kickstart

- Online tool designed to augment the college planning process and SCOIR
- College Kickstart helps you create a sensible college plan
  - Balanced list (reach, target, likely)
  - Early admission strategy
  - Action plan to minimize wasted effort/cost
  - Key application requirements
  - Affordability/Merit \$ Opportunities

# SCOIR and College Kickstart

- Students will be introduced to SCOIR and College Kickstart during extended advisory assembly on 1/25
- Students will use these programs with their counselors and independently
- SCOIR will be available until graduation
- College Kickstart is used from now until next December while students are building their college list and a plan for applying to college

# College Visits

- Check college website (go to admissions for times of tours and to register)
- Attend admissions information session
- Tour conducted by college student
- Interview may be possible, many colleges do not do them, some are done by local alums
- Juniors – 3 excused absences
- Seniors – 5 excused absences
  - MUST obtain documentation from the college



# Fall College Fair

- In-school college fair in September
- 100 college representatives
- Seniors introduce themselves to representatives of colleges on their lists
- Ask questions about the colleges
- Search for any colleges you may wish to add to your list

# College Application Options

- Regular Decision- deadlines begin early January
- Early Decision – Nov, Dec deadlines
  - BINDING = contract required
- Early Action – Oct, Nov, Dec deadline
  - NON BINDING
- Rolling Admission- Decisions on a rolling basis
- Be aware that colleges can establish their own early application rules and requirements, some colleges restrict early action

# College Application Forms

- Most colleges: Common Application at [Commonapp.org](http://Commonapp.org)
- Some colleges: Individual College Online Applications

# Winter/Spring of Junior Year

- January 18th: Parent Seminar
- January 22nd & 23rd: Classroom presentations
- January 25th: Assembly- Scoir Day
- Individual counseling meetings
  - Use SCOIR for college search and to view graphs of historical acceptance data
  - Develop a list of prospective colleges
  - Use College Kickstart to balance list and plan strategy for applying to college

# Winter/Spring of Junior year

- Register for SAT and/or ACT
  - Many colleges are test score optional
  - School Day SAT at NHS on 4/10
    - Deadline to register with online payment of \$60 through Unipay is 2/9
- Plan senior classes well (challenge/balance)
- Common Application Essay Assignment in Junior English Classes

# Winter/Spring of Junior year

- Think about letters of recommendation
  - Counselor is required to provide a written evaluation
    - Complete resume in SCOIR
    - Will be discussed in first fall Senior meeting
  - Teacher Recommendation(s)
    - Most colleges require one teacher letter
    - Whom to ask?
    - When to ask?

# SAT

- Students who wish to take the SAT more than once this spring would register for an additional test date at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - March 9, register by Feb. 23
  - May 4, register by April 19
  - June 1, register by May 16
- School Day SAT will be offered to seniors in October

# SAT Score Choice

- Student is responsible for sending SAT scores to colleges ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org))
  - Choose 'test date' scores to send
  - Select Score Choice at the time you send
- Can send entire record
- Colleges will superscore



# ACT

- Can be substituted for SAT
- Some students take it in addition to SAT
- Test questions more subject matter oriented
- Register at [ACT.org](http://ACT.org)

# Test Preparation

- Test Prep Classes – Revolution Prep, Princeton Review, Kaplan, Summit (some are classes you would attend, many are online classes)
- Individual tutors
- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) provides free SAT practice through Khan Academy
- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) for ACT practice
- Test prep books available

# Test Optional/Test Free Colleges

- Many colleges and universities have decided not to require test scores as part of their admissions process
- Colleges establish their own admissions criteria, so you will need to check each college you are interested in
- Students are encouraged to submit test scores if the scores are on the higher end for a particular college

# Fall of Senior Year

- Counselors make class presentation to seniors in September
- Individual meetings with seniors (as many as needed)
- Evening program for senior parents
- College Fair
- Retake SAT or ACT as needed
- Send SAT and/or ACT scores as needed
- Complete applications
- Interviews if needed
- Recommendations
  - Counselor
  - Teacher (one, some colleges may specify two)

# Fall/Winter of Senior Year

- Complete College Application Process
- Financial Aid process
  - Complete FAFSA (required by all colleges)
  - CSS Profile (required by many private colleges)
  - College specific forms posted on individual college websites
- Local Scholarship Program (Feb. 2025)

# Selection Process

- Strength of Curriculum
- Grades (including senior grades)
- Test Scores
- Counselor Recommendation
- Teacher Recommendations
- Personal Essay
- Activities (commitment, leadership)
- Jobs/Community Service
- Interview (for some colleges) on campus, virtual, or with alumni in the area

# The Admissions Decision

- Admitted: Student is accepted.
- Deferred: Student is not accepted Early Action or Early Decision, but will be considered in the regular applicant pool.
- Denied: Student is not accepted.
- Waitlisted: Student is not accepted and may not get accepted off the waitlist.

# College Application Tools

- **SCOIR** (research, your final college list, school submission platform)
- **College Kickstart** (resource to balance and finalize college list)
- **Common Application** (main type of application)
- **College Board** (SAT score, if applicable)
- **ACT** (ACT score, if applicable)



# Tasks for Summer to Get Ahead

- Use SCOIR and College Kickstart
- Begin filling out applications
  - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Work on essays
- Continue researching and touring colleges
- SAT or ACT prep

# Guidance Website

- College planning
- Summer Programs
- Scholarships
- Career planning
- Announcements

[www.norwellschools.org](http://www.norwellschools.org) - NHS - Guidance

# QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

- Email your school counselor
- Set up appointment by seeing Mrs. Berglund

[Amy.Greene@norwellschools.org](mailto:Amy.Greene@norwellschools.org)

[Rebecca.Prescott@norwellschools.org](mailto:Rebecca.Prescott@norwellschools.org)

[Brenda.Barrientos@norwellschools.org](mailto:Brenda.Barrientos@norwellschools.org)

[Meaghan.Stolp@norwellschools.org](mailto:Meaghan.Stolp@norwellschools.org)