GETTING READY FOR SENIOR YEAR



Class of 2024 - May 31, 2023

OPTIONS FOR YOUR FUTURE

Check out the helpful FCPS <u>College & Career Google site</u> (log in from @fcpsschools.net) to explore your post-secondary options:

- ★ College
- ★ Military
- ★ Training and Apprenticeships
- ★ Gap Year Programs
- ★ Employment



STANDARDIZED TESTS

Nearly 80% of U.S. colleges and universities will be test optional for the next admissions cycle. Test optional schools will not require SAT or ACT scores as part of their application.

- ★ Check <u>www.fairtest.org</u> and university websites for the most updated information
 - VA schools include UVA, William & Mary, JMU, VCU and many more! Database is updated weekly!
- * Research the SAT and ACT to see if one is right for you
- ★ Visit the FCPS <u>College & Career Resources</u> site for more information
- ★ SAT/ACT fee waivers are available from Mrs. Stamper

COLLEGE APPLICATION TYPES



Research how each college accepts their application, with options of:

- ★ Common App most often-used platform, over 1,000 partner colleges
- ★ Coalition App
- ★ Individual college/university website application

<u>Understand the difference</u> between Early Decision (one school only, binding contract), Early Action, Regular, and Rolling Admission

Get a head start! Use your summer to finalize your list and start applications.

ADMISSION OPTIONS



DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

COLLEGE ESSAYS

Set yourself apart with a great essay. Start brainstorming this summer! <u>College Essay Guy</u> has helpful free resources to explore.

Colleges want to know:

- ★ Your writing ability your voice and how you use it
- ★ How you think values, preferences, and style
- ★ Who you are YOUR story, viewpoint

Check out the <u>Common App</u>, <u>Coalition App</u>, and individual university websites for their essay prompts.



FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIPS

- * Review Financial Aid resources on FCPS Google Site
 - Types of Financial Aid grants, loans, work study
 - How to find <u>Scholarships</u> in Naviance
 - What is the <u>FAFSA</u> and <u>VASA</u> and <u>CSS Profile</u>
- ★ Watch or attend workshops offered by College Access Fairfax
- ★ Meet individual university deadlines for need-based aid and merit-based scholarships
- ★ Contact Financial Aid Champion Mrs. Horowitz (bdhorowitz@fcps.edu) for an appointment
- ★ Read weekly College & Career Corner <u>newsletter</u>

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- ★ Check college website, <u>Common App</u> or <u>Coalition App</u> for requirements
- ★ Give your recommender AT LEAST 30 days to complete your letter
- ★ Ask teachers now! (Current or past high school teachers)
- ★ Write a thank you note to teachers, coaches, or other recommenders. Keep them informed as you get admission and scholarship decisions.

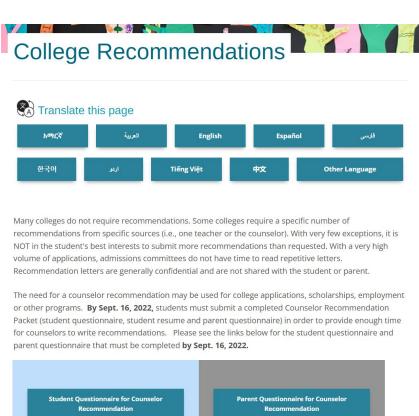


LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Counselors need 3 things to write a letter of recommendation Due September 15:

- ★ Senior Input Questionnaire
- ★ Parent/Guardian Input Questionnaire
- ★ Resume (template available in Student Services Schoology course)

Both questionnaires can be found on the school website

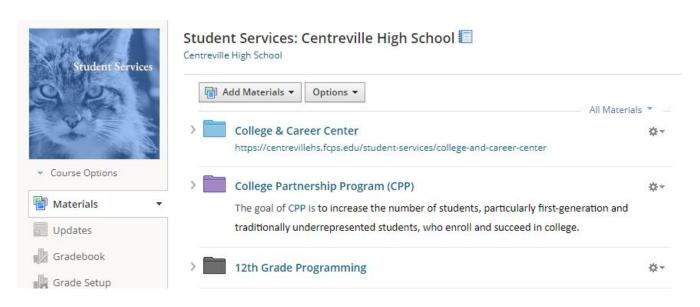


TRANSCRIPT REQUEST PROCESS

- ★ Every school you apply to will need to be documented on a transcript request form that will be submitted online to CVHS Transcript Assistant, Mrs. Slebrch (EKSlebrch@fcps.edu)
- ★ Official school transcripts are sent by CVHS and must be requested 30 days prior to the college deadline
- ★ If you apply via Common App, you must add your Counselor into the portal as your "Counselor Recommender" using their ofcps.edu email address (NOT fcpsschools.net)
- ★ While you should be thinking about schools this summer, the actual transcript process does not begin until school resumes in August. NO submissions before then!

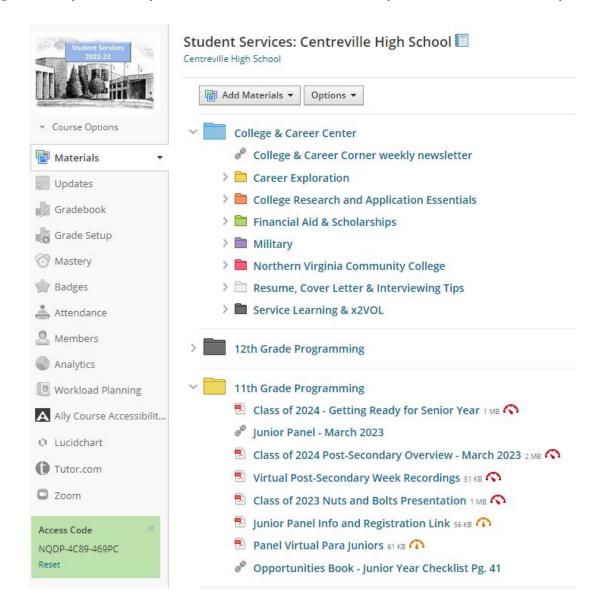
JUNIOR SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ★ Complete the student and parent/guardian <u>questionnaires</u> and resume and turn them in to your counselor by Friday, September 15, 2023.
- ★ Research and decide on your post-secondary plans. Remember this is YOUR JOURNEY!
- ★ Review the resources in the Student Services Schoology course



STUDENT SERVICES SCHOOLOGY

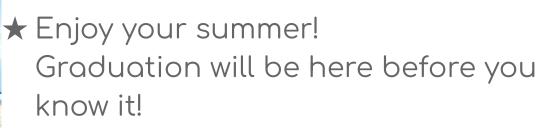
Check regularly for updates on workshops, scholarships, and more!



JUNIOR SUMMER CHECKLIST

- ★ If applying to colleges start looking at applications, think about who will write your letters of recommendation, and brainstorm essay ideas.
- ★ Visit as many of the schools you are interested in as you can! Summer is a great time to travel!
- ★ Check out the <u>Opportunities Booklet</u> checklist (available in Spanish too)
- ★ Feel free to pick up a hard copy!





IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, REACH OUT TO YOUR COUNSELOR OR STUDENT SERVICES STAFF TO ASSIST. CONTACT INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE **CVHS WEBSITE**.

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