



*The road to college lies before you.  
It's time to begin the journey....*

# ***AN OVERVIEW OF THE COLLEGE PLANNING AND EXPLORATION PROCESSES***



***Presented by the Kinnelon High School  
Guidance and Counseling Department***

January 11, 2012

7:00 PM

# COLLEGE PLANNING AT KINNELON HIGH SCHOOL

- College planning at Kinnelon High School is approached as a developmental process

***Students have been preparing for the college process throughout the course of their high school experience***

## AT A GLANCE –

- ✓ Taking college preparatory courses and building an academic portfolio
- ✓ Further developing time management and study skills
  - ✓ Identifying and refining interests and talents
    - ✓ Honing leadership skills
    - ✓ Taking standardized tests

# COLLEGE EXPLORATION



DECISION MAKING  
PROCESS

INVOLVES  
SELF-  
EXAMINATION

REQUIRES  
TIME

REQUIRES  
RESEARCH

# *KNOW YOURSELF*

## *SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION*

- What are your academic interests and preferences?
- How do you learn best? Do you learn by listening in large lectures, or do you need small classes with discussion?
- Do you do best in a competitive atmosphere? Do you work best independently or with others? Are you self-motivated or do you need close personal attention?
- What have you enjoyed most about your high school experience? What would you do differently?

# *KNOW YOURSELF*

## *SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR EXTRACURRICULAR LIFE*

- What extracurricular activities have been most important?
- How would others describe your role in your school or community?
- After a long, hard day, what do you most enjoy doing?

# CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING A COLLEGE

- *ACADEMIC MATCH*
  - most, highly, very, or competitive
- *TYPE OF COLLEGE*
  - public, private, liberal arts, technical, career specific
- *MAJOR/PROGRAM OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES*
- *LOCATION*
  - regional or specific state
  - large city, small city, suburbs, rural
- *SIZE*
  - very large (20,000+)
  - large (8,000 – 20,000)
  - average (2,000 – 8,000)
  - small ( under 2,000)
- *COST*

# RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE EXPLORATION

## NAVIANCE FAMILY CONNECTION

Link to <http://connection.naviance.com/kinnelon> or go to Kinnelon High School Guidance website link.

Naviance is a secure, web-based resource that can assist you in making post-secondary plans.

The Naviance Family Connection makes college research easy to do from home. Some of the tools available include:

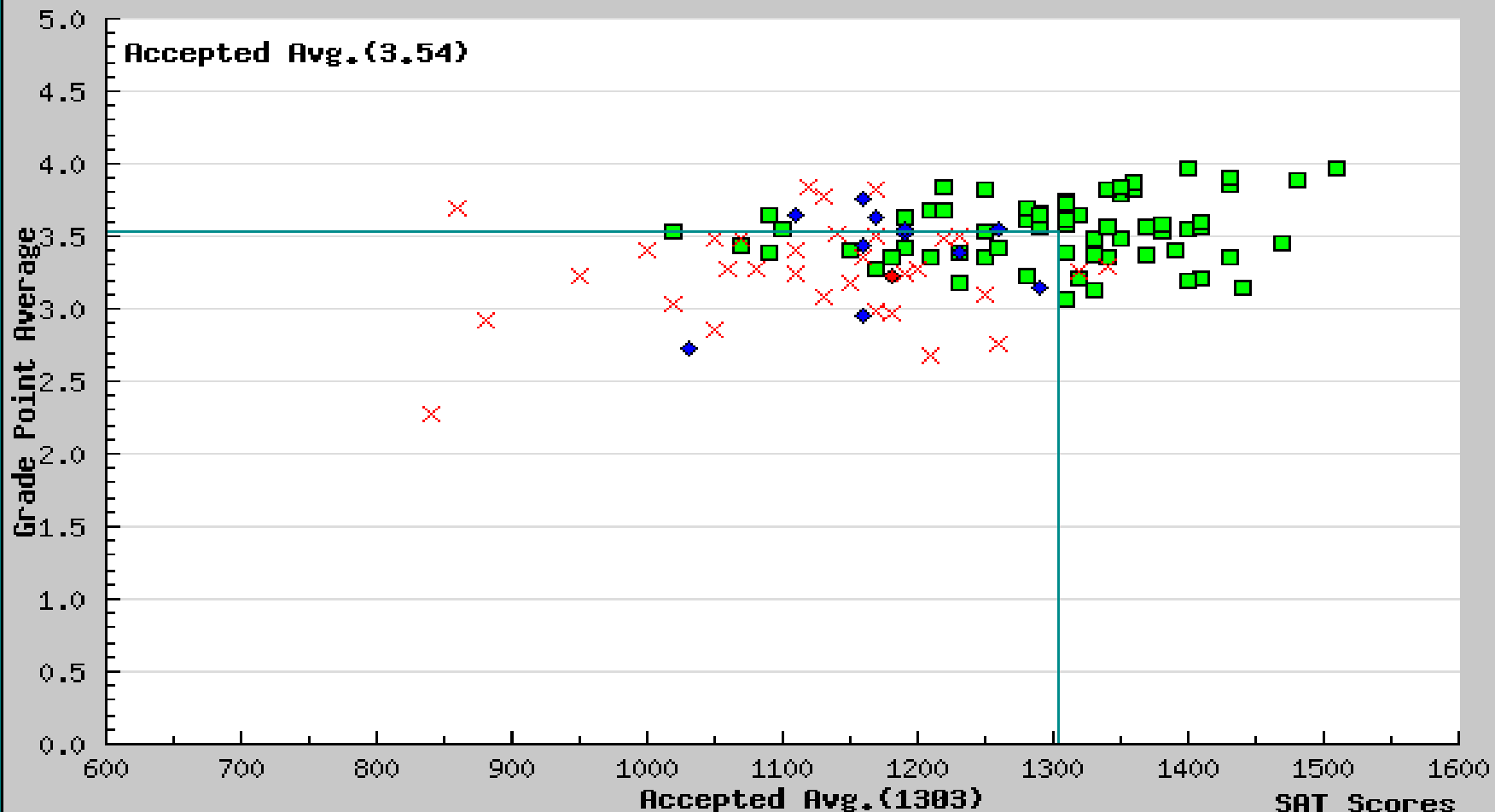
- **College Search:** Find a list of colleges based on characteristics that are important to you.
- **College Look Up:** Check a college's profile and statistics. View the top Kinnelon application overlaps. Link to the college's own website.

# NAVIANCE (continued)

- **College Compare:** View the average GPA and SAT scores for Kinnelon students accepted to the colleges you select. Also available is the number of Kinnelon students accepted out of the total that applied.
- **Scattergrams:** It is a graphical representation of Kinnelon application results beginning with the Class of 2007. The accepted average GPA and SAT is noted as well as the GPA and SAT for each individual application.
- **Acceptance History:** Review the number of accepted Kinnelon Applications for each college and the number of Kinnelon students enrolled.

# THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Kinnelon High School  
SAT (1600) vs. GPA Scattergram (2007-2011)



# OTHER COLLEGE SEARCH RESOURCES

## **KHS GUIDANCE/COUNSELING OFFICE**

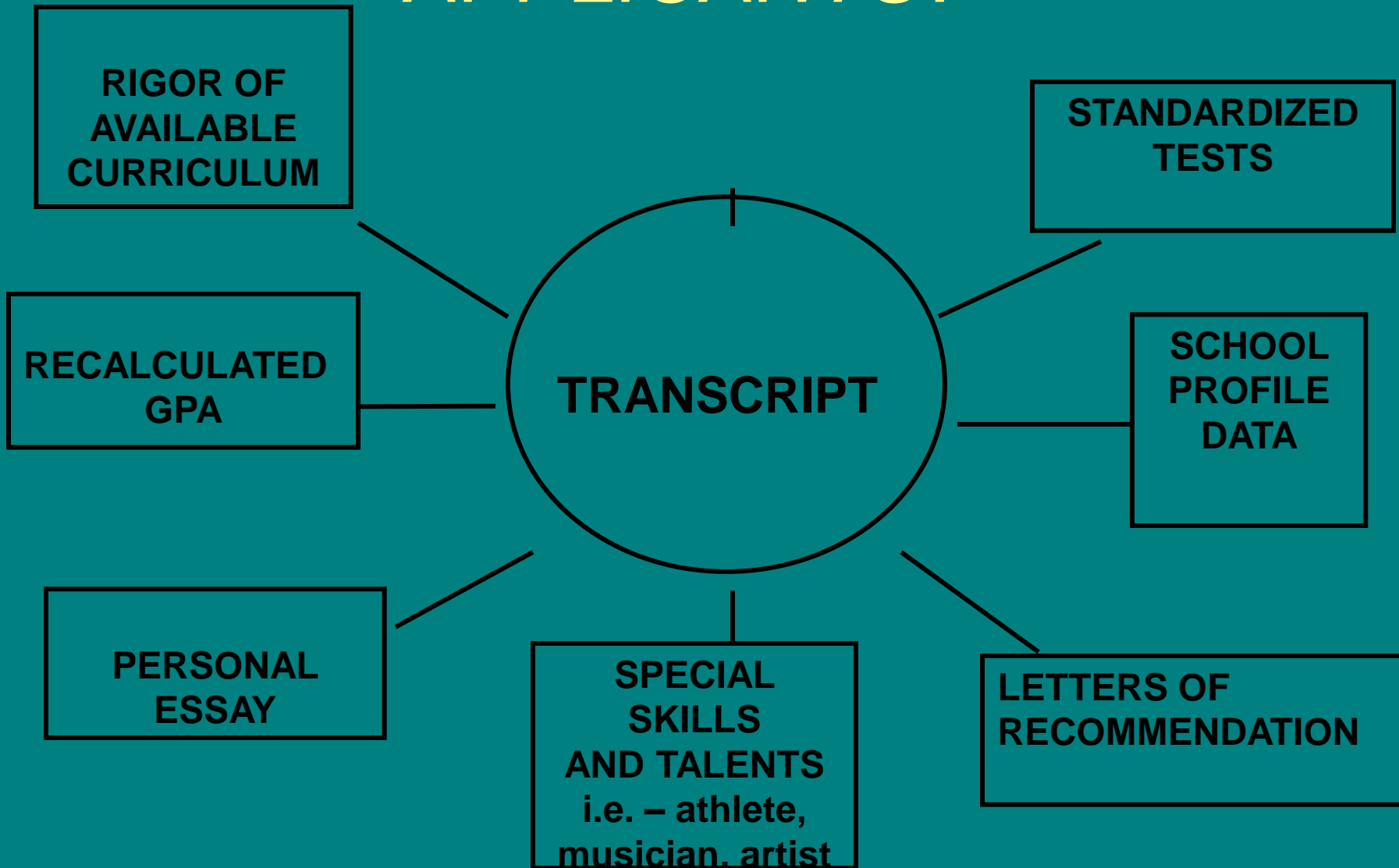
- counselors, KHS college and career center – guide, catalog and reference books, etc...

**FRIENDS/FAMILY MEMBERS** – speak with recent graduates, many of whom are on winter break

**INTERNET**- visit KHS website for recommended sites and resources; see recommendations from ABCs Workbook (JUNIOR CONFERENCES)  
**ALSO, SPEND TIME ON INDIVIDUAL COLLEGE WEBSITES.**

**COLLEGE FAIRS** – Spring 2012 NJ NACAC +  
NY NACAC

# HOW DO COLLEGES EVALUATE APPLICANTS?



# ACADEMIC CRITERIA

- COURSE SELECTION- emphasis on core academic units; a strong senior year program is a must

## COMPETITIVE AND SELECTIVE COLLEGES EXPECT:

4 years of English

4 years of mathematics

3-4 years of natural science

3-4 years of world language (preferably same language)

3-4 years of history and social science

- PROVEN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE – grades are important

# ACADEMIC CRITERIA (continued)

- RECOMMENDATIONS –  
Colleges are interested in you as a day-to-day student, your effort, and motivation

- STANDARDIZED TESTING –  
SAT Reasoning/ACT tests are generally recognized as a reliable predictor of success in a college level curriculum.

***NOTE: Score requirements can vary according to intended major or program of study.***

# COLLEGE TESTING

# PSAT

## Preliminary SAT

- View questions & answer explanations
- Compare performance to that of students in your state or region
- Get a personalized SAT study plan
- Find lists of colleges, major and careers

[www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart)

# What is the SAT?

- A test that measures skills a student should have developed over the years. The test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.
- The SAT measures a student's critical thinking skills in:
  - Critical Reading** – sentence completion and passage-based questions
  - Math** – based on the math that college-bound students typically learn during their first 3 years of high school
  - Writing** - multiple choice questions and an essay
- Scored 200-800 per section, added together for a combined score. A 2400 is the highest possible combined score.
- 3 hours and 45 minutes

# Registration for SAT

- Students can register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or use a registration packet available in the Guidance Office.



# What is the SAT II?

- Additional tests, often referred to as **Subject Tests**, are required OR RECOMMENDED by the **most competitive** colleges. Used for admissions and/or placement.
- Students are required to take **2 or 3** Subject Tests (check with each college) in subject area of choice (Math, History, etc.)

# SAT II

- Students are encouraged to take the subject tests immediately following completion of course taken in high school.
- More information available at:
  - Collegboard.com
  - Compassprep.com
  - **ivywest.com \*\*Good site for SAT info**
  - Naviance and KHS website

# What is the ACT?

- The ACT is an achievement test measuring a student's knowledge in **English, Math, Reading, and Science**.
- Writing section is optional.
- Scored 1-36 on each of the first four sections, averaged for a composite score. **The national average is about 21.**
- Subscore for Writing section.

# Registration for ACT

- Students can register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or use a registration packet which is available in the Guidance Office.



# Test Preparation

- Websites that offer free test preparation  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.act.org](http://www.act.org),  
[www.mystudentedge.com](http://www.mystudentedge.com) - - enter  
ZRVVJVTU as access code
- HOME & SCHOOL /Kaplan practice tests
- *Practice booklets for the SAT and ACT available in Guidance Office.*

# Alternatives to Testing and College Admissions

Some colleges no longer require the SAT/ACT or make it optional for the student to report scores. Some schools include:

Drew University

Union College

Muhlenberg College

Mt. Holyoke College

Ursinus College

Connecticut College

For complete list of colleges visit [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)

**NOTE:** To be considered for certain scholarships, SAT tests may be required.

# Reporting Scores

- Student must request the mailing of SAT scores from Guidance.
- Some colleges require scores to be sent directly from College Board and ACT. It is the student's responsibility to contact collegeboard.com and/or act.org and have scores mailed to colleges.
- Four Score Reports are included in the price of the SAT. Scores are sent directly to colleges (includes all scores).  
    **"See them all, Take the Best"**
- Four Score Reports are included in the price of the ACT. Score Reports include **ONLY the results for the test option taken on the current test date.**

# REVIEWING THE TRANSCRIPT

- Colleges will receive a copy of the student's transcript. The transcript shows the "weighted" and "unweighted" GPA
- The weighted GPA gives extra value to Honors and Advanced Placement courses

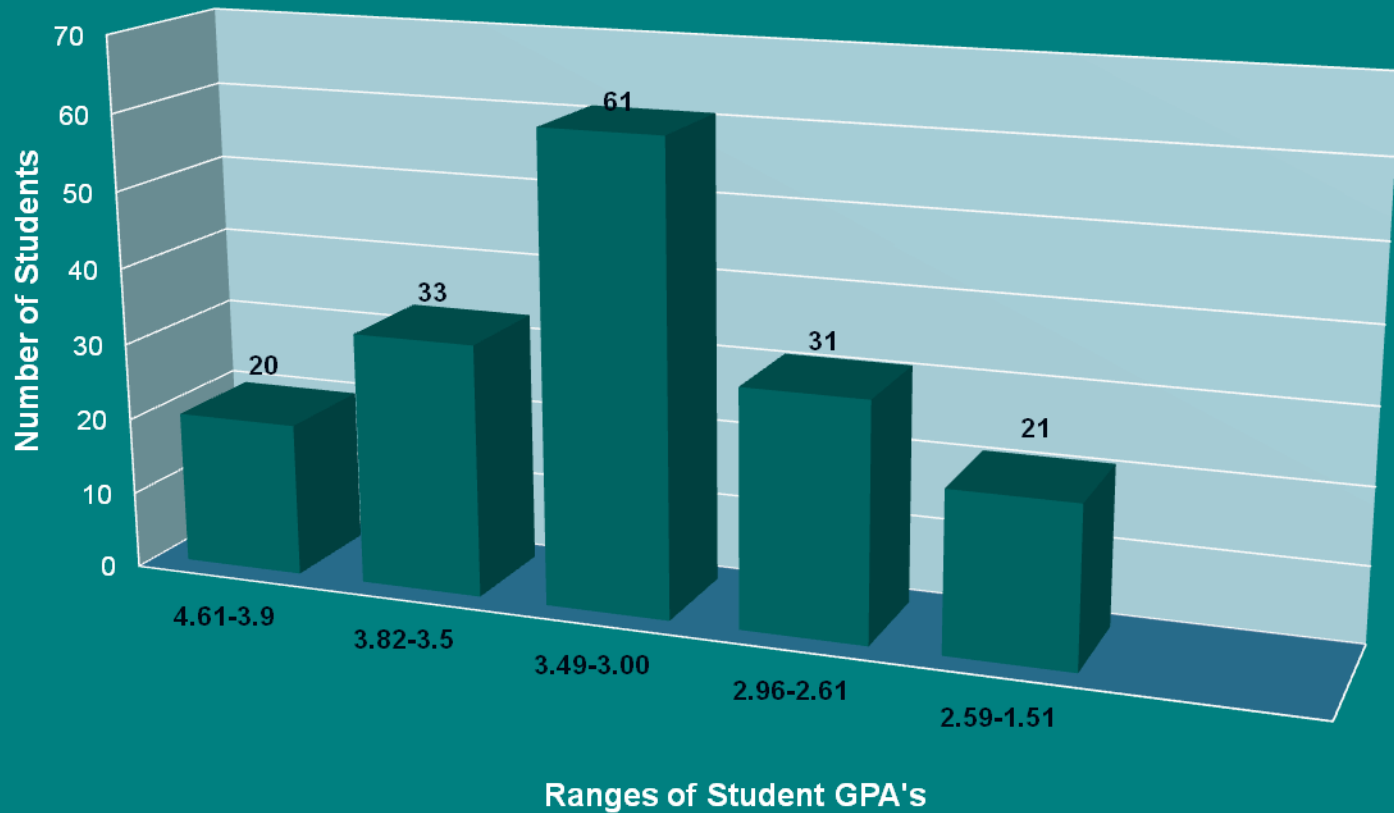
Example:     A in AP = 5 points  
                  A in H Level = 4.5 points  
                  A in CP level – 4 points

- Many colleges recalculate grade point averages using only the courses they deem requirements (English, Math, Science, etc.)

# RANKING


- KHS does not rank; therefore, there will not be a rank on the transcript.
- KHS does provide a **Range of Student GPAs** to the colleges

# GPA SCORE RANGES Class of 2012



# COLLEGE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## NON-ACADEMIC CRITERIA

- ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS, INTERESTS – emphasis placed on quality, not quantity
- PARTICIPATION IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS – summer study, work, volunteer
- QUALITY OF APPLICATION – use this opportunity to make yourself shine 
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS – legacy, diversity (geographic, ethnic)
  - DEMONSTRATED INTERESTS – visits are a must

# The College Visit

Making the Most of It



# Advanced planning is Important

- Visit when students are on campus
- Schedule a tour
- Arrange to meet an admissions officer and prepared to talk, informally, with them
- Thoroughly research college website



# Campus Tour

- Request a business card or make a note of the name of any college official you meet
- Use the attached profile page to record thoughts about each visit (you won't remember later)
- Send a note to the admission counselor thanking him/her for meeting with you
- Find out about special programs that you may want to participate in to gain additional information about campus life
- Keep in mind that some colleges track your level of interest

# When you talk to students, ask them

- About their classes
- How much studying do they do?
- What are the weekends like?
- What do they do for fun?
- What do they like the most or the least?



# If Meeting with an Admissions Representative, Be Prepared to Answer Questions

- Describe some important event in your life
- Describe yourself as a person and student
- What contributions have you made to your school, club or team?
- What gifts and talents can you bring to this school?
- What is your favorite subject?
- Why do you want to enroll here?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?

# Reflect on Your Experiences

- Do you feel like the school would be a good fit for you?
- Is there a good rapport among students and staff members?
- Would I feel safe and happy here?
- Use the chart to record impressions



**“The college visit made it much easier to narrow my choices-spending the day talking to the students made me realize which schools were the best fit for me...”**

# COST

Success





## **NET PRICE CALCULATOR (NPC)**

**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE (as of 10/11) for colleges**

- **on college websites for estimating college costs**
- **answer questions and enter data**
- **College cost generated**

BEWARE- -

Estimates  
generated from  
calculator may  
not consider  
all factors



# SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



- **INSTITUTIONAL**

Money available through college or university

☺ [www.meritaid.org](http://www.meritaid.org) ☺

- **ACTIVITY/MAJOR SPECIFIC**

Examples: sports/community/accounting

- **OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS**

- **PERSONAL BACKGROUND SPECIFIC**

Examples: ethnicity/twins

- **EMPLOYERS (PARENT/STUDENT)**

- **LOCAL**

# *SOURCES FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION*

- *KINNELON HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN*

*NOTE:* *Students receive bulletins in English class*

*- also accessible through KHS Guidance & Counseling page of district's website.*

- *COLLEGE APPLICATIONS AND COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE BOOKS (all available online)*

- *COLLEGE VISITATIONS AND INFORMATION SESSIONS*

- *INTERNET RESOURCES*

*FAST WEB – [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)*

***JUNIOR PARENTS --***  
**CALL COUNSELORS**  
**TO SET UP**  
**INDIVIDUALIZED**  
**JUNIOR PLANNING**  
**MEETING**



## What Colleges Are Looking For (Part 1)

# CollegeBuzz



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeuQuK1VvnY>

**Take the most  
rigorous schedule available**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIImxPz5Lw>

## Good Reasons:

- Academic environment
- School size
- Courses available
- Faculty



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3OdPMhVGt8>

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

- **QUESTION:** Should a student take an easy course and get a better grade, or take a hard course and risk a lower grade?
- **ANSWER:** Colleges like to see Honors and Advanced Placement courses in a student's program, but only for students who are truly qualified for those classes. Admission officers would rather see a B in an AP or Honors classes than an A in a college preparatory class.
  
- **QUESTION:** What is the recommended number of colleges to which a student should apply?
- **ANSWER:** Though there is no "magic" set number, it is important that a student apply to an appropriate number of reach, target, and safety schools. However, on the average, students apply from 7 to 9 schools.

# FAQs (continued)

- **QUESTION:** What is the recommended number of times a student should take SAT?
- **ANSWER:** 2 to 3 – as noted “see all, take best”
  
- **QUESTION:** Can various majors or programs of study have different admission requirements.
- **ANSWER:** Yes, therefore, this is an imperative consideration in the research process.
  
- **QUESTION:** How will extracurricular activities be evaluated by the colleges?
- **ANSWER:** Colleges stress one theme in terms of extracurricular and community activities – SUSTAINED INTEREST IN WHATEVER THE STUDENT CHOOSES – QUALITY OF INVOLVEMENT.

# FAQS (continued)

- **QUESTION:** What if a student is interested in pursuing athletics at the collegiate level?
- **ANSWER:** College bound athletes are required to file paperwork and to follow rules and regulations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Also, a sports resume and other documents should be prepared. We encourage students to meet with their counselors about the specific details and timelines. Additional information can be accessed via the Guidance/Counseling website.

# FAQS (continued)

- **QUESTION:** What programs have special requirements or admissions processes?
- **ANSWER:** Students interested in pursuing music and art programs will be required to prepare a portfolio or have an audition. Admission to military academies (USAFA, USCGA, USMA, USNA) may require participation in summer programs and a complicated application process which involves nominations of politicians.

SEE COUNSELORS FOR ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION AND TIMELINES

# FAQS (continued)

- **QUESTION:** Which summer programs and/or opportunities best enhance an applicant?
- **ANSWER:** Though there is no clear cut answer to this question, there are many summer experiences through which a student can benefit. These include pre-college programs, travel programs, work and volunteer experiences. Additional information on some of these opportunities will be available from KHS counselors and through the KHS Guidance website.

## **QUESTION:**

**How do I find out about scholarships?**

## **ANSWER:**

**There are many sources for scholarships/scholarship money.**

### **MOST COMMON TYPES:**

**INSTITUTIONAL – money available through college or university  
Research admissions site and through -- [www.meritaid.org](http://www.meritaid.org)**

**LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS – money available through local organizations  
Often applications and essay required**

**QUESTION:**

**WHAT FORMS ARE REQUIRED FOR FINANCIAL AID?  
WHEN ARE FORMS FILED?**

**ANSWER:**

**If applying for financial aid, all parents are required to complete Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1<sup>st</sup> of student's senior high school year.**

**Also, some private colleges also require an additional form – CSS Profile, which must be completed fall of student's senior year. There are fees involved for submitting these forms.**

# *KINNELON HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING STAFF MEMBERS*

- Ms. Meridith Charles, Supervisor
- Mrs. Heidi Cosmi-Godau, Counselor
- Mr. Patrick Derrot, Counselor
- Mrs. Monica Gormley, Counselor
- Mrs. Francine Gordon, Guidance Secretary
- Ms. Susan Latevola, Transcript Secretary

*THANK YOU FOR COMING!!!*