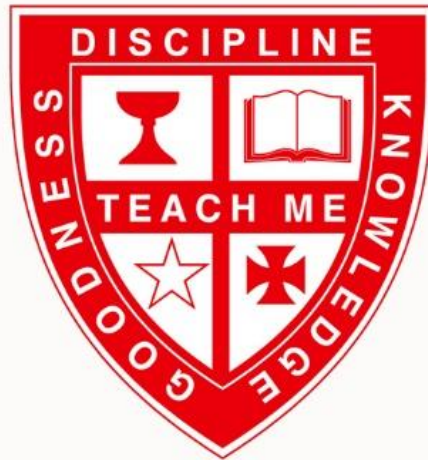


# Spring College Night



ST. THOMAS HIGH SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 13, 2019



## WHAT IS IT?

- Naviance Student is a web-based resource for students and parents that supports career and college planning and provides information and statistics that are specific to St. Thomas High School.
- Allows us to track college admissions related data and to send student transcripts and letters of recommendation to colleges **ELECTRONICALLY.**

## HOW TO GET TO IT

- ❖ Go to the St. Thomas Homepage – **www.sths.org**
- ❖ Click on **Counseling** from the **Academic** drop down menu.
- ❖ Click on the 9th option: **Naviance** then click **Log in to Naviance.**
- ❖ The Username is the student's school email address and the Password was set by them. Parent accounts are also available.

# COLLEGE APPLICATION TIMELINE



# SPRING 2019

- **Junior Family Meetings**– Signups will go out by the end of the week
- **Start creating a running list of perspective schools**– Search tools:
  - Naviance “SuperMatch” and college info
  - College Board’s College Search feature
  - US News & World Report’s rankings\*
- **Complete Teacher & Counselor questionnaires and request teacher recommendations in Naviance**
- **Use Round-Up Holidays to visit colleges while they are in session**
- **Prepare for the SAT/ACT to improve scores**– great prep resources:
  - Khan Academy (free)- SAT only; can link previous PSAT/SAT scores for personalized prep
  - Kaplan [www.kaptest.com](http://www.kaptest.com)- free online prep through Naviance
  - Princeton Review  
[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)
  - TestMasters, CramCrew, etc.
- **Register to take your first SAT/ACT**
- **Get good grades!**

# SUMMER 2019

- **Continue College Visits** – coordinate visits with vacations
- **Get experience** – job shadowing, internship, enrichment program, part-time job, etc.
- **Take 2<sup>nd</sup> SAT/ACT**
- **Start essays** – College Essay Boot Camp with Ms. Speck
- **Apply Texas opens July 1**
- **Common Application opens August 1**

*Counselors will be available throughout the summer to meet with you!*

# SEPTEMBER

- **Meet with counselors** – They will give valuable perspective about schools.
- **Narrow your list** – somewhere in the neighborhood of 4-6 schools. Three categories: reach, match and safety.
- **Finalizing essays should begin in earnest** – should have moved beyond reflection and planning phase.
- **Senior grades DO MATTER!!!** – Get off to a good start
- **Register to take 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> SAT and/or ACT**
  - Good time to take subject tests if needed for selective schools

# UPCOMING TEST DATES AND DEADLINES

**SAT** - <https://sat.collegeboard.org/register>

**MARCH 9**

**OCTOBER 5**

**MAY 4**

**NOVEMBER 3**

**JUNE 1**

**DECEMBER 7**

**AUGUST 24**

**ACT** – <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/>

**APRIL 13**

**SEPTEMBER 14**

**JUNE 8**

**OCTOBER 26**

**JULY 13**

**DECEMBER 14**

# OCTOBER

- **Visit with college reps at STHS and at college fairs.**
- **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the CSS/Financial Aid Profile, if required – Both become available on October 1<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Decide if you are applying early – Early Decision, Early Action, and Priority applications MUST be finished in October. Deadlines are typically November 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.**



# NOVEMBER

- **Submit completed applications** – It is the goal of counseling dept. to have all students done by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Testing** – Nov. is still within the normal window to take a repeat SAT and/or ACT.
- **Grades** – This is a critical month for your high school classes. Finish the semester strong!
- **Financial aid** – Become familiar with financial aid/scholarships at the colleges you applied to. You should receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR, from the FAFSA. Review this carefully and discuss its implications as a family.

# DECEMBER/JANUARY

- **Testing** – December is likely your last opportunity to retake either the SAT or ACT in order to make an impact on an admissions decision.
- **Grades** – Schools may ask to see your fall grades before they make a decision. Request a midyear transcript if this is the case **OR** if you decide on your own to send them. Any upward grade trend could make a significant impact on your chance to get in.
- **Early acceptance** – If you applied early decision/action, you will likely receive a decision at this time. Discuss the result/s with your counselor so that they can help you with the next step.

# FEBRUARY/MARCH

- **Decision letters** – Acceptance, rejection and waitlist letters may start arriving as early as February or in March by the latest. Discuss the result/s with your counselor so that they can help you with the next step.
- **Plan an initial or return visit** - Consider planning a trip to visit all schools that you are accepted to if you have not seen them yet. Visiting as an accepted student is often a different and fun experience.
- **Financial aid** –Financial aid offer letters from colleges typically arrive shortly after an acceptance letter if not at the same time. As a family, compare net costs for the schools you are admitted to.

# APRIL/MAY

- **Make your final decision** – You will have now heard from all of the schools to which you applied. With the help of counselors and family, weigh all of your options before making a final decision. Schools typically expect a decision (and possibly a tuition deposit) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Grades** – Finish strong! A noticeable dip in grades to finish the spring semester may cost you a scholarship or even an admission offer.
- **Get acclimated to your future school** - Be sure to stay on top of information and expectations regarding Freshman orientation, housing arrangements, class scheduling, etc.

# Data Updates

---



TEXAS  
The University of Texas at Austin

# Texas A&M

---

**41, 761 Total Applications last year**

**23,733 Admits**

**Of those admitted:**

**11,159 Top 10%**

**4646 Academic**

**4115 Holistic Review (out of 27,000+)**

# UT - Austin

---

**50,557 Total Applications last year**

**19,381 Admits (75% were in the Top 7%)**

**4845 Holistic Review Admits**

**38.3% Admit Rate**

**74.5% were given 1<sup>st</sup> choice major**

**76.7% were given 1<sup>st</sup> choice school of study**

# Common Myths about Admissions

---

Admission essays are really not that important.

Always be modest in your admissions essay.

The most extracurriculars you have, the better your chances are of getting accepted.

Colleges would rather see lower grades in hard classes than A's in easy ones.

Colleges only look at your Junior year grades.

Very high standardized test scores guarantee admission.

Admission officers never check your social media accounts.



# New Trends

---

**Self-reported grades and scores/score optional**

**Highly selective schools requiring ALL scores be sent**

# HOUSTON NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR AT NRG CENTER

---

**Thursday, March 28, 2019**

**9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**REGISTER FREE AT [GOTOMYNCF.COM](http://GOTOMYNCF.COM)**



**THANK YOU!**