

STH Spring College Night 2019

1. Naviance

- A. Go to www.STHS.org → Academics → Counseling → scroll down/click on Naviance then 'Log in to Naviance' - Contact your counselor if you have difficulty logging in.
- B. Tools to help build a prospective college list: click the 'Colleges' tab and explore the 'Find your Fit' and 'Research Colleges' sections
 1. **SuperMatch** – results based on criteria you select
 2. **College Compare/Scattergrams** – Select colleges to compare your scores/GPA to other students from STH that have been accepted.
 3. **College Lookup** – displays information on the schools you search: compares your scores to average acceptance stats, school website link, overlaps, scattergrams, college info, admission officer for our region.

*Other excellent college search tools can be found at The College Board (www.collegeboard.org) and College Navigator (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>)

- C. College Visit notices appear on Naviance.
- D. Communication – Emails from Counseling Department about important college and scholarship information.
- E. Spring of Junior year:
 - Students - Complete Counselor, Teacher Questionnaire, Log your activities in Resume section
 - Parents - Complete Parent Questionnaire
- F. Senior Week - Counselors will conduct senior workshops for requesting transcripts/completing apps/building resumes, etc

2. Continue thinking about/investigating different careers and/or college major choices

- A. Each year, counselors meet with students to conduct assessments (Personality Type, Career Interest Profiler, Learning Styles Inventory).
- B. After assessments are taken, view full report in Naviance. Discuss results with your counselor, and continue to ask questions as they come up and you solidify your college and career interests.
- C. Spend your summers wisely! Participate in academic programs, enrichment programs, work, volunteering, job shadowing, and further exploring your interests.

3. Register to take and ACT/SAT test BEFORE next Fall:

SAT - March 9th, May 4th, June 1st ACT – April 13th, June 8th, July 13th

Colleges do not favor one test over the other; All colleges accept either test.

- A. In order to take the tests, students must create accounts on the website.
SAT - <http://www.collegeboard.org/>
ACT - <http://www.actstudent.org/>
*We do encourage you to take optional essay portion on both tests
- B. It is the student's responsibility to send test scores electronically to colleges using their online accounts.
- C. Register for SAT subject tests as needed: (best to take them as soon as possible after completing the corresponding course at STH). We suggest you use the June SAT test date for subject tests.
- D. Extensive test prep for both the SAT & ACT is available free of charge through Naviance using the Kaplan Online Self-Paced Programs.

4. Application Process

- A. All college applications are now electronic.
- B. There are four main application options (depending on the college and their preferences):
 - 1. **Apply Texas** (www.applytexas.org) which is used to apply to Texas public universities and several Texas private universities.
 - 2. **Common Application** (www.commonapp.org)
 - 1. Used by over 750 colleges and universities all over the country and the world.
 - 2. Some colleges may have extra supplemental sections that you must complete.
 - 3. Essays-max length 650 words
 - 3. **Coalition for College** (<http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>)
 - 1. 140 colleges and universities – Unique app due to digital storage and multi-year access.
 - 4. **Individual College Applications** - go to school's website and apply on their online system
ex: (Baylor)

Completion Goal: November 1st for All College Application

5. Representative Visits and Communication

- A. Sign Up for college visits on Naviance and obtain a slip from the Counseling Main Office.
- B. Attend College Fairs – Houston National College Fair March 28th
- C. Follow up with college reps if you are interested in the university.
- D. Round Up Holidays are great days to visit and you get two college visit days your junior and senior year.

6. Financial Aid

- A. **FAFSA** - www.fafsa.gov - Applications open October 1st
- B. **CSS Profile** - <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile> - Applications open October 1st (Required by some selective/private colleges to determine need-based scholarship eligibility).

Check the Financial/Scholarship section of the colleges that you plan to apply for additional opportunities for money. Most college websites have a financial calculator so you can determine cost.

7. Letters of Recommendation – Two teacher letters and a counselor recommendation.

- A. While your counselor will automatically be writing a letter for you, you are still expected to fill out the Counselor Questionnaire on Naviance.
- B. In terms of teacher letters, give thought before choosing a teacher to ask. Ideally it should be a teacher who knows you well, not necessarily the teacher you made the best grade with or like the best. A good teacher letter will talk about your work habits, motivation, level of responsibility, how well you relate to others, etc... Consider teachers you have had more than once or maybe even someone whose class you struggled in yet you put forth extra effort to improve. You must fill out the Teacher Questionnaire on Naviance before a teacher will write a letter for you.