

# Navigating Your Way to College



**College Planning Night 2018**

# Hempfield High School Guidance Dept.

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# College Planning Timeline

## 10<sup>th</sup>

Build academic record & update course plan

Get involved in and out of school

Keep track of accomplishments and activities (resume)

Start researching colleges

## 11<sup>th</sup>

Continue researching colleges (admissions process, financial aid, etc.)

Campus visits

Continue to track accomplishments and activities

Take PSAT for practice and for National Merit consideration (October)

Take SAT and/or ACT at least once before end of year

## 12<sup>th</sup>

Narrow down college choices during summer/ early fall

More visits in the fall

Start applying in fall (aim for apps to be in by Thanksgiving)

Take SAT and/or ACT again if needed

Complete financial aid process for each college (including FAFSA)

Scholarship applications throughout the year

Choose your school!



Laying the Foundation-  
Academics and Extracurriculars

# Academics

## Tips for Success:

- Grades/ GPA: Create a solid foundation early
- Academic Rigor: Take challenging courses through senior year
  - Class choices- don't set yourself up to fail!
- Get to know your counselors and teachers

# Life Outside of Class

- **Extracurricular Activities**
  - Quality of participation vs. quantity
  - Community Service
  - Include activities in and out of school
  - Look for leadership opportunities
  - Make connections with peers, advisors, boss, mentor, etc.
- **Social Life**
  - Friend choices
  - Reputation
  - Digital Footprint



# Utilize HHS Resources

[Translate](#) ▾ [District Home](#) [Choose School](#) ▾ [Sign In](#)

SEARCH



## Hempfield High School



Sapphire



Schoolology



Calendar



Communications

[HOME](#) | [ABOUT US](#) | [OUR SCHOOL](#) | [NEWS](#) | [WHHS](#) | [GUIDANCE](#)

Freshman Academy

Athletics

Clubs

Driver's Education

Knights of the Red Tablet

Performing Arts

State Assessments

Summer School

The Flash

### Club Council

The following information provides details on club locations, and activity descriptions. Also included are athletic, musical, and performing arts opportunities. Clubs are listed alphabetically.

#### Aavidum Club

*Mrs. Wallace & Mr. Lin*

Aavidum is a student organization to raise awareness of the warning signs of depression and suicide. Its slogan is "I've Got Your Back." This club seeks to encourage students and community members to support one another and help to deter teenage depression and suicide.

#### After School Homework Program

*Dr. Cielsinski (CES)*

The Tuesday After School Homework Program offers Hempfield High School students the opportunity to assist elementary students complete homework, study for tests, read books, and more. The program is held in the CES cafeteria. HHS students volunteer each Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.; October through May. HHS students can volunteer for the school year or during available "seasons."

#### Anchor Club

# Utilize HHS Resources



## Counseling Office

- ▶ Home
- ▶ Counseling News
- + Academics
- College & Career Planning
  - ▶ Financial Aid
  - ▶ Letters of Recommendation
  - ▶ NCAA and NAIA
  - ▶ Testing
  - ▶ Transcript Release
- + How To Use Naviance
  - ▶ Scholarship List
- ▶ Social & Emotional Services

Home > Counseling Office > > College & Career Planning

## College & Career Planning

College provides students that ability to study and specialize in a variety of fields and professions. Each college and university is different and offers students different opportunities.

If you're not sure what major or college would be the best fit, consider attending a community college. Community colleges are public, two-year schools that provide an excellent education, whether you're considering an associate's degree, a certificate program, technical training, or plan to continue your studies at a four-year college.

### College Planning Timelines and Checklists

- [Junior College Planning Timeline](#)
- [Senior College Planning Timeline](#)
- [Junior College Planning Checklist](#)



EXIT 1A

Thinking Ahead:  
Career and Major  
Consideration

EXIT



ONLY

# Long-term goals

Start by considering the end-goal



- Types of goals:
  - Start more general
    - “I want to go to college.”
  - Work towards more specific
    - “I want to go to a large liberal arts college to study Landscape Architecture.”
  - Undecided
    - How can you start to explore and develop personal goals?

# Deciding on a Career/ Major

- HS Classes
    - Electives
  - Interests
  - Abilities
  - Values
- } Things to consider
- Search tools
    - Counselors
    - Naviance (“Careers” tab)
    - <https://www.mappingyourfuture.org/playyourcareer/>
    - [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)



EXIT 1A

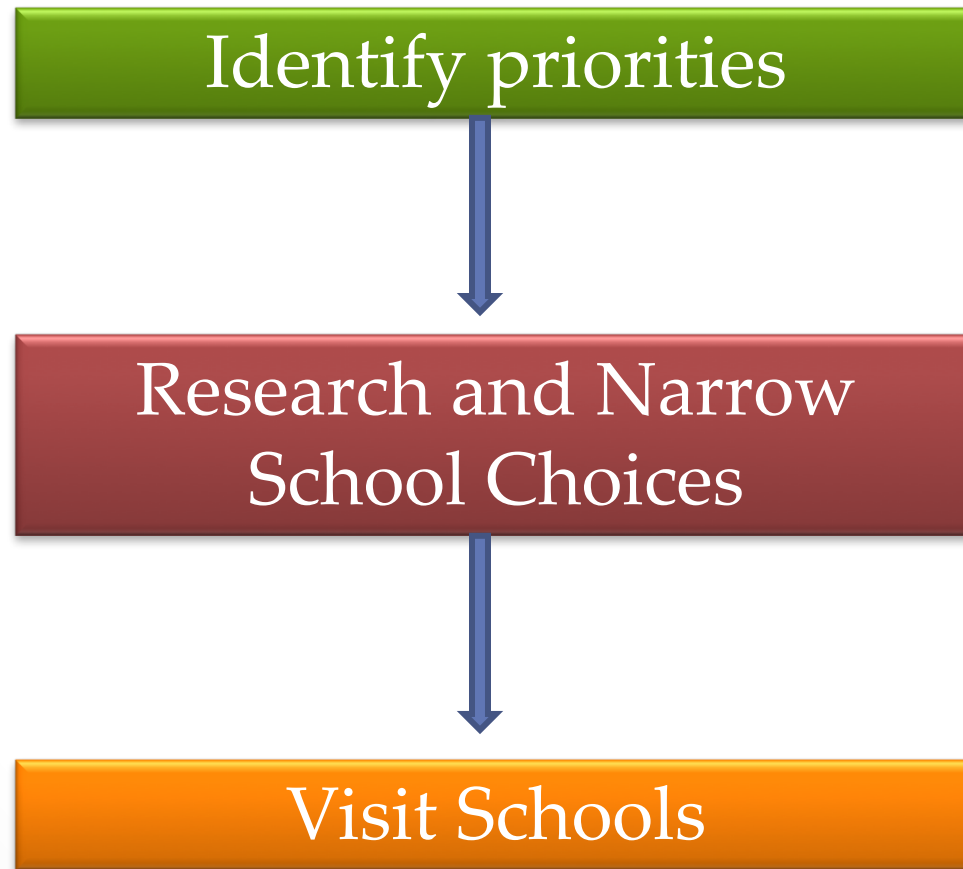
Choosing  
the Right  
College(s)

EXIT



ONLY

# Steps in Choosing a College



# The College Search

- Factors to consider:
  - Admissions “fit”
    - Look at GPA, admissions test scores
  - Choice of major
  - Type of school
    - 4 year, 2 year, Trade, Technical
    - Public or private
    - Religious affiliation
  - Location
  - Size
  - Campus life and activities
  - Cost/ financial aid availability
- Utilize Naviance, CollegeBoard, and colleges’ websites to research information and compare choices

# Narrowing It Down

- Research!
  - Check admissions standards
  - Limit to 1-2 “reach” schools
  - Try to include 1-2 “safety” schools
- We recommend applying to 4-8 colleges
  - Remember, application fees aren’t cheap!
- Visit college fairs, request information, meet with college reps who visit HHS
  - Future Planning Fair- April 19<sup>th</sup> during 4<sup>th</sup> period (11<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Compare Pros and Cons
- Ask this question: “Can I see myself at this school?”
  - Should be able to answer “YES!” to every school on your list!



# Visit Potential Colleges

## What to do when you are there:

- Tour campus
- Talk to current students
- Visit a class
- Set up appointments with faculty or staff
- Eat in the dining hall
- Stay overnight
- ASK QUESTIONS!

## When to go:

- Campus Visit Days/Open House events
- Schedule in advance (through the admissions office)
- Visit on days off from school

## If you can't visit:

- Research as much as you can online
- Make some type of contact with the admissions offices (email, phone, etc.)
- Join social media groups
- Attend College Fairs
- Keep up-to-date on rep visits



# College Rep Visits to HHS

Hempfield High School

Logged in as: Joe Student ([log out](#))

[Manage my account](#)

## family connection

Here are all the tools for getting into cool schools



[home](#)

[courses](#)

[colleges](#)

[careers](#)

[about me](#)

[my planner](#)

search for colleges:

[MORE SEARCH OPTIONS >>](#)

### resources

- [transcripts](#)
- [test scores](#)

### my colleges

- [colleges I'm thinking about](#)
- [colleges I'm applying to](#)
- [letters of recommendation](#)

[Upcoming college events](#)

#### Upcoming college visits

- 04/19/18 Moore College of Art and Design [details »](#)
- 04/23/18 Automotive Training Center [details »](#)

[view all upcoming college visits](#)

### college research

- [SuperMatch™ college search](#)
- [college match](#)
- [college compare](#)
- [college lookup](#)
- [college search](#)
- [college resources](#)
- [college maps](#)
- [scattergrams](#)
- [acceptance history](#)
- [enrichment programs](#)

### scholarships & money

- [scholarship match](#)
- [scholarship applications](#)

EXIT 1A

Preparing for the  
Application Process

EXIT



ONLY

# What Colleges Consider

- Grades/Academic Achievement (HS transcript)
  - Cumulative GPA
  - Achievement over time
- High school course selections
  - Appropriateness of course levels
  - Meeting college's high school course requirements
- Admission test scores (SAT/ACT)
- Essays/personal statement –varies by college
- Teacher and counselor recommendations – request 2-3 letters from teachers (end of junior year or start of senior year)
  - Request in person AND submit request in Naviance
- Class Rank – HHS provides rank based on weighted GPA
- Extracurricular activities & personal accomplishments – keep resume up-to-date!
- Interviews/auditions/portfolios
- “Demonstrated Interest” in the college
- Senior year grades!

# Application Deadlines

Admissions processes, deadlines, and policies will be different for each college. Students are strongly encouraged to contact individual colleges for clarification!

## Regular Decision

Students apply by a set deadline, at which time the college begins reviewing applications. Admissions decisions are typically returned to students in the spring on a set date.

## Rolling Admissions

College will review applications and send admissions decisions as applications are received, often without a specific deadline (i.e., applications will be accepted until the class is full!).

## Early Action (EA)

An application deadline that is earlier in senior year (often between Oct. 15 and Dec. 1) where admissions decisions are sent well ahead of regular decision. EA is typically non-binding, meaning students may apply to other colleges without restrictions.

## Early Decision (ED)

Similar to Early Action, however Early Decision is a binding application to the college. This means students make a commitment to attend the college if they are accepted and must withdraw all other college applications.

- Students typically may only apply to one college under ED.
- This option should *only* be for those students who have done careful research and are committed to their 1<sup>st</sup> choice school.

# About College Admissions Tests

- SAT
  - “New” Redesigned SAT as of March 2016
  - Consists of two sections: Critical Reading and Math
  - Writing section is optional- may be required by some colleges!
  - Score is a combination of Critical Reading and Math: 200-800 points possible in each section (highest score is 1600)
- ACT
  - Consists of four tests: English, Math, Reading, and Science
  - Writing section is optional- may be required by some colleges!
  - Highest score possible is 36
  - No advantage of one test over another in admissions process!
- SAT Subject Tests
  - Subject-specific exams
  - Shorter in length; can take up to 3 on one test date
  - May be required or recommended, especially at highly selective colleges
    - <http://www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requirements-and-recommendations/>
  - Tip: Consider taking an SAT Subject Test immediately after a related course!

# About College Admissions Tests

## **SAT vs. ACT- which test should I take?**

- <https://www.princetonreview.com/college/sat-act>

## **How can I prepare?**

- Succeed in your high school courses
  - <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/high-school-classes-prep-sat-act>
- Khan Academy: Free practice tests and lessons (CollegeBoard recommended)
  - <https://www.khanacademy.org/test-prep/sat>

## **When to take the SAT(or ACT)? How many times?**

- Students typically take the SAT or ACT 2-3 times
  - Recommended: 1-2 times in Spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade and 1 time in Fall of 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- The SAT will be offered at HHS in October, March, and June
  - Offered at other high schools in August, November, December, and May
  - ACT is offered at other schools in September October, December, February, April, June, and July
- The registration deadline is typically one month before the date of the test

## **Things to keep in mind:**

- Don't take it too early or too late
- Fee waivers to cover the registration fee may be available for students with financial need. Students should see their counselor to discuss.
- Students can opt to include test scores on their transcripts, however some colleges may still require "official" scores be sent from College Board (check with the college!)

**Test Optional Colleges:** <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

# Additional Considerations:

- NCAA/ Prospective Student Athletes
  - Students considering participation in an NCAA Division I or II sport must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org)
  - Request to have the HHS transcript sent to the NCAA after the completion of 6 semesters (i.e., end of 11<sup>th</sup> grade)
  - Have “official” SAT/ACT scores sent directly to the NCAA
  - <https://www.hempfieldsd.org/Page/365>
  - <https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/getinthegame.pdf>
- Military Academies
  - US Military Academy- West Point
  - US Naval Academy
  - US Air Force Academy
  - US Merchant Marines Academy
  - US Coast Guard Academy
  - Preliminary application should be completed in 11<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Additional applications will later be required for Congressional nominations and in the regular admissions process
  - In many cases, a face-to-face interview will be required
  - Both a medical exam and a physical fitness test are required for admission
  - Specific procedures or admissions criteria will vary by institution
  - Look into Summer Program opportunities!



# Paying for College



# Develop a Financial Plan

- Determine all college costs — not just tuition.
  - “Cost of Attendance” or “Net Price Calculator” on college websites
- Calculate your college savings so far and see if you’re on track
- Estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) — an EFC calculator is available at [www.collegeboard.org/payforcollege](http://www.collegeboard.org/payforcollege)
  - The official EFC is determined by the FAFSA, the federal financial aid application. More information is available at <http://fafsa.ed.gov>
- Research the financial aid availability and process for the colleges being considered
- Attend the Financial Aid and FAFSA Completion nights at HHS (senior year)



# Research, Apply, & Compare

- Know your potential aid options:
  - Federal and State Aid/ Grants
  - Loans
  - Work-study
- Fill out the free FAFSA application as early as possible (starting Oct. 1 of senior year), and meet all deadlines
  - **The FAFSA will ALWAYS be free.** If you are at a website asking you for money to complete your FAFSA, you are on the wrong page! Unfortunately there are numerous scam pages out there.
- Compare financial aid award letters from colleges and determine how they fit with other possible contributions:
  - Family
  - Savings
  - Scholarships



# Scholarships

## Scholarships can come from many different sources

- Directly from the colleges
  - Contact Admissions and/or Financial Aid offices for more information
- Scholarship search databases
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
  - [www.schoolsoup.com](http://www.schoolsoup.com)
- Parent/ Family members' places of employment, clubs, organizations, etc.
- Naviance
  - The HHS Guidance Dept. maintains a list of scholarship opportunities that are sent to our school
  - The list also includes many local scholarship opportunities, specific to Hempfield, Lancaster County, etc.
  - Sallie Mae National Scholarship Database

While many scholarship opportunities are specifically for seniors, opportunities may be available for 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade students so it's never too early to start looking and applying!

# family connection

home

[courses](#)

**[colleges](#)**

[careers](#)

[about me](#)

 [my planner](#)

search for colleges: [colleges](#) > scholarships and financial aid

[MORE SEARCH OPTIONS >>](#)

## scholarships and financial aid

The list below contains scholarships or financial aid awards that may be relevant for you. Click the name of a scholarship to view more information or click the column headings to sort by name, category, deadline or maximum award.

You may also check the scholarships for which you are submitting applications and then click "Add Selected Scholarships to My List" below.

### my colleges

> [colleges I'm thinking about](#)

> [colleges I'm applying to](#)

> [college visits](#)

### college research

> [SuperMatch™ college search](#)

> [college match](#)

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> [college maps](#)

> [scattergrams](#)

> [acceptance history](#)

> [enrichment programs](#)

### scholarships & money

> [scholarship match](#)

Browse by category: (select category)   Only show scholarships added or updated since my last visit

Name	Deadline	Maximum Award	Merit Based	Need Based	Essay Req	Service Req
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Abbott and Fenner Scholarship Program</a>	6/14	\$1000.00			X	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">AES Engineers Scholarship</a>	10/6	500.00			X	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Alfred W. Kenlin Memorial Scholarship</a>	4/6	\$400.00		X		
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">AMDA Grants &amp; Scholarships</a>	-	N/A	X	X		
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Ann Brown Memorial Scholarship</a>	3/30	\$1000.00				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Ashara-Casiphia Lodge No. 551, F &amp; AM Scholarship</a>	4/16	\$500.00				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">ASHE Engineering Scholarships</a>	4/6	\$2000.00				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Aspiring Nurse Scholarship</a>	8/31	1000.00				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">B. Davis Scholarship</a>	5/22	1000.00			X	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">BigSun Scholarship</a>	6/19	\$500.00				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Cabrini College</a>	-	N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Cal U Scholarships</a>	-	N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Calvin College Scholarships</a>	-	N/A				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Catharine Oster Scholarship</a>	4/15	\$2500.00	X	X		
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Christensen &amp; Hymas General Scholarship</a>	8/1	1000.00				
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Clarion University Scholarships</a>	-	N/A				

# Tips for Parents

- Help your student understand the college search process
- Be realistic and non-judgmental
- Be in the "back seat" - and not the driver - of the college search and application processes
- Be open to dialogue and responsive to questions
- Help your child be aware of deadlines and fees due
- Know that things have changed since your college days
- Don't overemphasize your own alma maters
- Don't compare your student with others
- Don't dwell on disappointments, like a rejection letter
- Celebrate successes!



# Important Reminders for Students

- Make sure YOU are taking charge of this process! (Especially when contacting potential colleges)
- Maintain a rigorous, yet manageable and relevant course load
- Keep in contact with the counselors and ask questions!
  - Schoology and in person!
- Use the HHS website, Naviance, CollegeBoard, and any other resources available to you
- Keep track of all activities, honors, experiences, etc. (utilize the Resume in Naviance!)
- IMPORTANT: There is usually a window of time over the summer when you DON'T have access to Sapphire, Google Drive, etc. At the beginning of the summer, save a copy of your transcript and any essays, etc. that you're working on to your computer or a flash drive!
- Track your application deadlines and submit your materials well in advance
- Attend "College Application Boot Camp" (August of 12<sup>th</sup> grade!)

