

# Central High School

## College Advisors

Ms. Chasan - A to L  
Ms. Marrow - M to Z

## School Counselors

Ms. Coutts - A to L  
Ms. Wardlaw - M to Z

Dr. Soda – IB Students/Dept Chair

## Key Application Pieces

### ♦ Important factors in the admission review:

- Rigor of curriculum
- Grades
- SAT or ACT scores (if applicable)
- Personal statements and essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular activities
- Interviews

## Counseling Department College planning by grade

9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> – Advisory sessions/Naviance lessons, College Possible presentations, course selection assemblies, college fair, PSAT, Google Classroom platform

11<sup>th</sup> – Kick off to College Assembly, Rep visits/college fair, PSAT/NMSQT, Phila Futures “college fit” assembly, Naviance College SuperMatch, course selection assembly, college planning night in spring, Google Classroom platform

12<sup>th</sup> – Rep visits/college fair, advisory visits, application workshops, financial aid night, school day SAT, financial literacy presentation, Google Classroom platform

## Naviance: College Application Management Tool

- NAVIANCE is the tool where college and career activities are completed with different assigned tasks at each grade level
- Part of ESSA standards for the PA Future Ready Career Readiness Indicator

### FRESHMEN/SOPHOMORE YEARS:

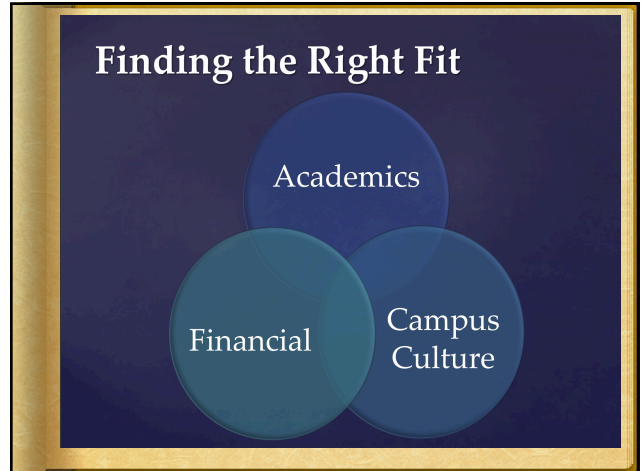
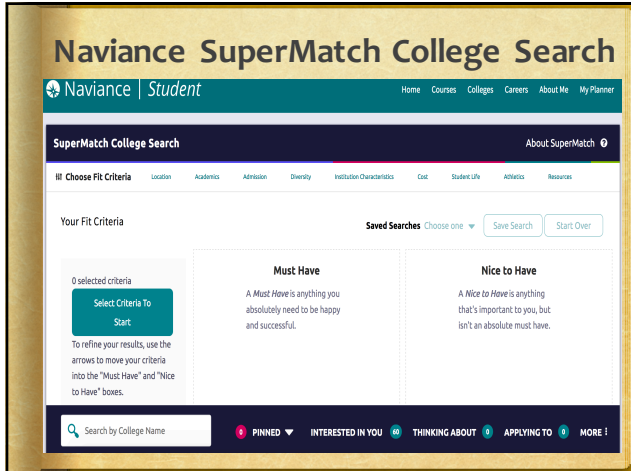
- Strengths Explorer
- Career interest inventory

### JUNIOR YEAR:

- SuperMatch College Search
- Create a resume
- Build a budget

### SENIOR YEAR:

- Requesting transcripts and teacher recommendations
- FAFSA award letter comparison activity



## Making a List

- ◆ **Students should have a balanced list of 4-7 schools**
- ◆ **1-2 Reach Schools** are colleges where your chance of being accepted may not be as high as at other institutions.
- ◆ **2-4 Target Schools** are strong matches, based on your academic profile, financial aid needs and social preferences.
- ◆ **1-2 Likely Admit Schools** — sometimes called “safety schools” — are colleges where your test scores, GPA, and class rank meet or exceed those for admission.
- ◆ A balanced list of right fit schools increases the student’s chances for admission and strong financial aid packages.

## Admission Plans

**Regular Decision**

- Most common option; majority of deadlines between Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>; decisions typically received in March/April

**Rolling Admission**

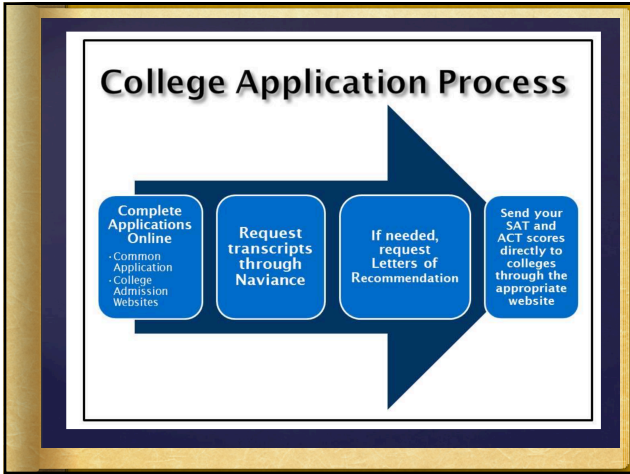
- Ongoing decisions are sent out within 4-8 weeks of receipt

**Early Decision**

- ED is a binding agreement for students who know with absolute certainty that a school is their top choice; Apply by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and receive a decision by mid-Dec.

**Early Action**

- Apply by Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and receive a decision by mid-Dec; not binding



## College Essay... Getting Started

- ♦ Begin to brainstorm:
  - ♦ Personal qualities, talents, strengths, background, accomplishments, and personal growth during high school
  - ♦ Challenges they may have overcome
  - ♦ What they would like to accomplish in life

## Standardized Tests – SAT/ACT

- SAT dates: December 7, March 14, May 2, June 6, August 2020
- ACT dates: December 14, February 8, April 4, June 13, July 18
- SAT Subject Tests: Check individual school requirements
- Fee waivers available to students who meet eligibility criteria
- SCORES ARE NOT LISTED ON THE TRANSCRIPT – students are responsible for sending scores through the testing agency (Collegeboard.org or ACTstudent.org)
- Ways to prepare for SAT/ACT: practice tests, Khan Academy, CHS class (JEVS)
- Many colleges are now test optional – fairtest.org

## Letters of Recommendation

- ♦ During junior year students should begin thinking about 2 teachers that they will ask for letters of recommendation
- ♦ They will need to first ask them in person (either before summer or in early fall of senior year)
- ♦ Many colleges also require a counselor letter of recommendation

## Financial Aid Basics

- ♦ FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens for filing on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 for current 11<sup>th</sup> graders planning to attend college in the fall of 2021
- ♦ Students are advised to complete the PHEAA State Grant application
- ♦ Some private colleges and universities require the CSS profile to determine institutional aid
- ♦ There will be a financial aid night in September 2020
- ♦ Use the Net Price Calculator on college websites to estimate costs
- ♦ Scholarships – Fastweb.com, Scholarships.com, bigfuture.collegeboard.org, scholarshipamerica.org

## Time Line of the Senior Year

