

BOLTON HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2022

JUNIOR NEWSLETTER



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JUNIOR CHECKLIST

Complete these as you prepare for your senior year

- Register for and take the SAT (and possibly ACT).
 - Make sure to list BHS as your home school: **070038**
- Use the Guidance Office Resources available to you
 - Naviance, counselor meetings, scholarship listings
- Request information from colleges and plan for campus visits
- Make lists/calendars of individual college deadlines, costs, admission procedures, expectations, test requirements, specific programs, etc.
- Compile your academic resume, including:
 - Honors achievements and awards
 - Extracurricular activities
 - Community involvement, service, and activities
 - Job experiences
- Narrow down your college choices by the end of summer - applications can be lengthy and expensive
 - Expect to pay \$25-90 per application, depending on the college
- Ask two to three teachers who can speak about your academic strengths and potential for letters of recommendation

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Written recommendations are required by many colleges. Some will require that you obtain recommendations from teachers in specific subjects while others will allow you to make the choice.

Teacher recommendations should support other data submitted with the application regarding your academic achievement and personal character. Teachers who have taught you recently or often and know you well are the best choices for writing a recommendation. You should ask your teachers in person before sending the request via Naviance, and ask them as early in the application process as possible.

QUESTIONS, CHOICES & DECISIONS



The next phase of a high school student's life often raises several important questions when evaluating the options available. The most critical question is deciding what you would like to do in your adult life and what kind of lifestyle you would like to experience. Whatever the choice may be, one point has been made repeatedly by statistical data - some form of education leads to more and better career opportunities. Given this, how do you make this happen and where will you pursue it?

Consider the following questions when researching your options- why do you want to continue your education? How do you wish to grow over the next several years? What kind of environment would help you grow the most? Academically, what degree of challenge is best suited for you? Would you prefer career preparation, technical training, military training, or a liberal arts education? There are many questions to ask yourself - make the time to answer these questions in the months ahead.

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START? START HERE!

NAVIANCE IS YOUR NEW BEST FRIEND.

All Bolton High School students have Naviance accounts, which is the platform used to send transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other information to various colleges and universities.

We strongly encourage students to review the results of their personality survey, as well as the career interest survey, that can be found in the Naviance student profile. Using these, students can see which majors fit with career interests and which colleges offer corresponding programs. These materials were presented by the BHS guidance team during the Career Unit in Grades 8-10.

Additionally, Naviance's *SuperMatch* allows students to research and compare institutions by subject major, location, size, price, and acceptance rate as well as other criteria such as religious affiliation, athletic programs, and nonprofit status.

Connecting the Common Application to your Naviance account allows students to track the status of their applications, their acceptances, and send any further documents requested by the institution, such as a second-semester report card and final transcripts.



REACH, REALISTIC, & SAFETY SCHOOLS

Students often wonder what their final list of colleges to which they will be applying should look like. Implicit in this concern is the number of schools that should appear on the list and the range of admissions competitiveness. Generally, a student's final list should include schools (usually no more than 6) from each of the following categories:

- **Category I** should include one's top choice schools. These are often referred to as **reach schools** where the chance for acceptance is less than 50%.
- **Category II** represents those schools that have the essential features desired by the student, with the probability of admission around 50% or more. These are called **realistic schools**.
- **Category III** should include schools that have most of the features preferred and where the likelihood of admission is high or certain. These are referred to as **safety schools**.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Many colleges require students to choose a more rigorous choice of classes than it takes to graduate from high school. For example, UConn at Storrs recommends four years of high school science to be considered for the engineering program, whereas BHS requires only 3 years of science to graduate.

Be sure to check the requirements for the colleges where you want to apply. You may need additional math or science classes, a certain level of a single world language, or a year of the arts. Check the college website, ask your counselor, or come to the Guidance Office for help.





GUIDELINES FOR SELECTIVE COLLEGES

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS INTENDED TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND HOW COURSE SELECTIONS, PERFORMANCE IN THESE COURSES, AND TEST SCORES RELATE TO THE KINDS OF CHOICES AVAILABLE IN HIGHER EDUCATION. PLEASE USE THIS ONLY AS A GUIDELINE - IT IS NOT DEFINITIVE.

MOST COMPETITIVE

Very strong GPA, AP & honors level courses.

Examples: Cornell, Georgetown, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Princeton, University of Virginia, Wesleyan, William & Mary, and Yale.

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

Very strong GPA, AP & honors level courses.

Examples: Colby, Connecticut College, Dickinson, Franklin & Marshall, George Washington, Holy Cross, Trinity, and Vanderbilt.

COMPETITIVE

Solid GPA; College Prep level courses with some honors level; solid SAT Scores.

Examples: CCSU,

Curry, ECSU, Franklin-Pierce, Hartwick, Keene State, Lasell, and Seton Hall.

LESS COMPETITIVE

Top 75% in class, College Prep level course, broad SAT scores.

Examples: AIC, Wells College, Becker, Mitchell, and Southern New Hampshire.

NONCOMPETITIVE

These schools offer open admission and are typically community colleges.

Take every possible opportunity to visit schools you are interested in or talk with reps to ask questions about admissions, college life, and the academic and campus cultures.

THE COLLEGE ESSAY

Adapted from The Princeton Review

This coming spring and summer is an optimal time to start the first drafts of your college essay. This is your opportunity to show colleges what sets you apart from other applicants. Your responses to essay questions help admission officers understand your motivations, creativity, background, and personality. This is your chance to tell your prospective schools what is important to you and how it has made you who you are.

SOME TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR ESSAY:

- Don't simply recount an event that happened to you - reflect on how it shaped you
- Write several drafts and ask a parent, teacher, or counselor to edit them for any spelling and grammar issues, clarity, and impact
- Don't recount awards or grades you have received during high school - this is already in your application
- Be authentic - use your own style to showcase who you are
- Pay attention to your word count and be succinct in telling your story
- Don't reuse essays that are school-specific for other schools (especially "why us" essays)
- Start in the middle of the action to hook your audience
- Remember that there is no "right answer" to these essay prompts!



TYPES OF ADMISSION & DECISIONS

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ADMISSIONS AND DECISION DEADLINES - CHECK THE SCHOOLS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FOR SPECIFIC DATES AND PROTOCOLS.

REGULAR DECISION

Regular Decision allows for application to multiple colleges with notifications arriving in the spring (usually April).

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

Rolling admissions permits students to send applications at any time during the process. Students receive notification shortly after the institution has received all required materials.

EARLY DECISION (ED)

Early decision plans allow you to apply early (usually November) and get an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date. Early decision plans are "binding," meaning if you apply as an early decision candidate, you agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. Although you can apply to only one college for early decision, you may apply to other colleges under regular admission. If you are accepted by your first-choice school early, you must withdraw all other applications. Usually colleges insist on a non-refundable deposit well before May 1.

EARLY ACTION (EA)

Early action plans are similar to Early Decision in that you can learn early in the admission cycle (as early as December) whether a college has accepted you. Unlike early decisions, most early action plans are not binding, meaning you do not have to commit to a college to which you've applied for early action. Under these plans, you may apply to other colleges. Usually, you will notify the school of commitment by late spring.

SAT & ACT TEST DATES

IT IS RECOMMENDED TO TAKE THE SAT OR ACT AT LEAST TWICE.

SAT DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REG. DEADLINE	SCORE RELEASE DATE
October 1, 2022	September 2, 2022	September 20, 2022	October 14, 2022
November 5, 2022	October 7, 2022	October 25, 2022	November 18, 2022
December 3, 2022	November 3, 2022	November 22, 2022	December 16, 2022
March 11, 2023	February 10, 2023	February 28, 2023	March 24, 2023
May 6, 2023	April 7, 2023	April 25, 2023	May 19, 2023
June 3, 2023	May 4, 2023	May 23, 2023	June 16, 2023

ACT DATE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	LATE REG. DEADLINE	SCORE RELEASE DATE
October 22, 2022	September 16, 2022	September 30, 2022	November 1-15, 2022
December 10, 2022	November 4, 2022	November 11, 2022	December 20, 2022 - January 3, 2023
February 11, 2023	January 6, 2023	January 20, 2023	February 21 - March 7, 2023
April 15, 2023	March 10, 2023	March 24, 2023	April 25 - May 9, 2023
June 10, 2023	May 5, 2023	May 19, 2023	June 24 - August 4, 2023

RESOURCES

We regularly update our website with resources for post-secondary education, scholarship opportunities, and other helpful information. Students should also meet with their school counselor throughout their high school career to prepare for opportunities and pathways after graduation.

Financial Aid

www.studentaid.gov
www.finaid.org
www.collegestats.org
www.salliemae.com

the federal financial aid application process
comprehensive collection of financial aid information
career, college, and financial aid information
nation's leading provider of educational loans

Testing Info & Prep

www.act.org
www.collegeboard.com
www.khanacademy.org
www.review.com

ACT testing information & registration
SAT testing information & registration
free SAT review
Princeton Review site for testing prep

College Research, Application & Information

www.naviance.com
www.commonapp.org
www.ncaa.org
www.collegeexpress.com
www.niche.com
www.usnews.com/education
www.nacacfairs.org

used for college research & adjacent to Common App
application most widely used to apply to colleges
athletic eligibility standards
links to colleges based on personal information input
comprehensive college lists based on your parameters
rankings of schools by various programs, affiliations, etc.
National College Fairs (virtual and in person)

Scholarships

www.fastweb.com
www.scholarship.org
www.studentscholarships.org
www.goingmerry.com

free scholarship search
general private scholarship source
general private scholarship source
free scholarship search & application site; also an app

Contact the Guidance Department!

Phone: (860) 649-3353
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