



**WELCOME TO  
COMMACK HIGH SCHOOL'S  
SOPHOMORE COLLEGE  
PLANNING NIGHT**

**APRIL 18, 2023**

# INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLEGE APPLICATION & COLLEGE RESEARCH PROCESSES

## 5 PARTS OF THE COLLEGE APPLICATION:

1. Official Transcript
2. Resume
3. Letters of Recommendation
4. Standardized Testing (SAT/ACT)
5. The Application (online)

**EVERYTHING COUNTS...NOW!**



# #1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRANSCRIPT

- The TRANSCRIPT is the report sent to colleges that reflects every course enrolled for high school credit
- Courses taken in grades 9 through 12, as well as any high-school-level courses taken in middle school
- Final grades, course weighting, credits earned, and Regents scores are on the transcript (E for Exemption)
- Placement in Enriched, IB, AP, and college-level Classes receive **advanced weighting**
- Elective selections – what are you passionate or curious about?
- Unweighted and weighted grade point averages
- Cohort groupings
- Colleges utilize freshman, sophomore, and junior grades as admission criteria along with in-progress senior grades
- Colleges may recalculate the GPA according to their methodology
- **Video** “Understanding & Interpreting the Transcript”
  - [CLICK HERE](#)



# #2 - GET INVOLVED!

Involvement in extracurricular activities, leadership positions, participation in athletics, employment, and Honors/Awards all to be included in the college application and your **Activity Resume**

- ❑ Quality over quantity! A healthy balance is key.
- ❑ Find your passion and follow it. Develop as a leader, if possible
- ❑ Select school activities that demonstrate your interests, strengths, passions, or leadership abilities
- ❑ [Student Organization Presentation](#)
- ❑ Discover what is available in the community
- ❑ Volunteer...CSIP requirements



# START DRAFTING YOUR RESUME NOW!

- In Naviance or using Microsoft Word
  - Naviance Resume – user-friendly and printable
  - Sample Activity Resume Template: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Keep track of what you are doing. Items that could be included on a resume:
  - Community Service (CSIP)
  - Clubs/Honor Societies
  - Leadership positions
  - Athletics (in- and outside of school)
  - Honors/Awards/Accolades/Recognitions
  - Work (paid) experience
  - Research conducted
  - All paid and unpaid experiences
  - After school, weekends, summer, show it all!



# POTENTIAL COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

- Speak with your coach regarding ability level
- Meet with your counselor to discuss potential colleges
- Visit the NCAA website at [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) for registration and eligibility information
- Communicate with college coaches during Junior year
- **NCAA Night** – November 2023
  - [NCAA Night Presentation Slide Show](#)

**\*Choose your college based on an academic and overall personal fit, not solely athletics!**



# #3 MAKE CONNECTIONS, BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!

## □ Letters of Recommendation

- School Counselor
- 2 Teachers
  
- Personal; not about test grades and data illustrated on the transcript!
- Speaks to the qualities, strengths, attributes, areas of growth, etc. of the academician
- Letters will be requested the spring of Junior year



# #4 COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

## SAT AND/OR ACT

- The SAT and ACT are college entrance exams - they are used for the same purpose: College Admissions. These tests are administered around the world, to test high school students on knowledge-base and college-readiness. However, the two tests are very different...
- **\*Test Optional vs Test Blind**
- **\*List of Test Optional schools and more information:**  
[www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)





# Comparing the ACT® with the SAT®

ACT

- English
- Math
- Reading
- Science
- Optional Writing Test

 SECTIONS

SAT

- Evidence-based Reading and Writing
  - Reading
  - Writing and Language
- Math

- Composite score: 1-36
- Section scores for English, Math, Reading and Science: 1-36 each
- Writing Test: 2-12

 SCORING


- Total score: 400-1600
- Section scores for Math and Evidence-based Reading and Writing: 200-800

- 2 hours, 55 minutes (without Writing Test)
- 3 hours, 35 minutes (with Writing Test)

 TIMING

- 3 hours

- None

 PENALTY FOR WRONG ANSWERS

- None

- Two sections (English, Reading)
  - Passage-based grammar—including punctuation
  - Four reading passages in 35 minutes that are drawn from Prose Fiction (or Literary Narrative), Social Sciences, Humanities and Natural Sciences

 READING AND WRITING

- Two sections (Reading Test, Writing and Language Test) - Focus on multiple-meaning words
  - Five reading passages in 65 minutes that are drawn from world literature and significant historical or scientific documents—may include informational graphics, such as charts
  - Passage-based grammar—including punctuation
  - Emphasis on word choice and editing skills

- One 60-minute section
- Calculator allowed
  - Arithmetic
  - Algebra I & II
  - Geometry
  - Trigonometry

 MATH

- Two sections totaling 80 minutes
- Calculators are only allowed on one of the two sections
  - Emphasis on Algebra I & II
  - Arithmetic
  - Few questions on Geometry and Trigonometry

- The Writing Test is optional (40 minutes, timed)
- Students will need to make an argument on an issue relevant to high school students and evaluate and analyze multiple perspectives on that issue; they will be scored on ideas and analysis, development and support, organization, and language use

 ESSAY

- None

Still not sure which test is for you? We can help! Call us at **800-2Review (800-273-8439)** or visit **PrincetonReview.com**.

# PLANNING AHEAD FOR AN SAT AND/OR ACT

- PSAT is offered fall of grades 10 and 11
- Practice ACT for free is available online through Princeton Review
- Pre-ACT Saturday, April 29th, 8:00AM at Commack High School
  - **Register by April 21st: [CLICK HERE](#)**
- The summer after 10<sup>th</sup> grade is an excellent time to review PSAT/Practice ACT results
- **FREE SAT and ACT Resources: [CLICK HERE](#)**
- Check websites for more information and registration:  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)



# THE COLLEGE BOARD WILL TRANSITION TO DIGITAL EXAMS IN 2023-24

- October PSAT will be digital, using student Chromebooks, at CHS
- Test will be shortened to two hours
  - Shorter sections
  - Fewer questions
  - Reduce fatigue
- Computer adaptive test
  - More secure
  - Provide unique exams for each student
  - Scored quicker
- Spring 2024 the SAT will transition to Digital

**SAT vs. ACT: All You Need to Know - Fall 2023**

To view the 2022 presentation: [CLICK HERE](#)



# #5 LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST, THE APPLICATION

- Much more information to come!
- Group sessions with Counselors - Students create and begin college application(s) in the spring of junior year
  - Common Application
  - Coalition Application
  - Essay/Writing sample
  - Application and College Essay Workshops
- Applications, with all supporting materials, are submitted in the Fall of senior year

**Everything counts NOW and will be included in your college applications!**




# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA


- ❖ Strength in Curriculum: Enriched, IB, AP, College-Level, Dual Enrollment [Curriculum Guide](#)
- ❖ Course grades and Grade Point Average (GPA)
- ❖ Standardized Test Scores (SAT/ACT)
- ❖ Cohort Group (class standing)
- ❖ Essay or writing sample
- ❖ Counselor Recommendation
- ❖ Teacher Recommendations
- ❖ Interview or Audition (if required or recommended)
- ❖ Leadership roles
- ❖ Community Service/Involvement
- ❖ Employment and Extracurricular Activities (**Quality over quantity!**)



# FUTURE COLLEGE RESEARCH RESOURCES

- Junior Class Meetings & Junior College Planning Night - Fall 2023
  
  - Junior Planning Conference
    - Comprehensive individual family meeting with your Counselor
  
  - College Info Sessions at CHS – throughout every Fall
  
  - Use the Commack High School & Counseling Center websites □ “College Planning” tab [CLICK HERE](#)
    - Access to the College Board (SAT) and ACT websites, Naviance, and countless college resources for information regarding the application process, financial aid, scholarships, college majors, career exploration, and more!
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# EXPLORE AND RESEARCH NOW!

- Utilize Naviance to begin researching colleges
    - College and career research database
  - Visit college campuses and attend college fairs, **virtually** and in-person
    - Use virtual visits and virtual information sessions on Admissions websites, and social media to get to know colleges!
    - Use family trips and vacations for college visits, when possible
    - Call college(s) ahead to inquire about scheduling a private family tour
  - Mark your calendars for **College Fairs**:
    - **Mini College Days, Commack High School**
      - October 17, 2023 and March 13, 2024
    - **Commack High School's College & Career Fair**
      - March 13, 2024 (subject to change)
    - **50<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring College Expo Presented by the NCA**
      - April 25<sup>th</sup> at Hofstra University: Click [HERE](#) to register
    - **WSCA College Fairs**
      - Fall 2023 and Spring 2024
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# NAVIANCE – COLLEGE AND CAREER RESEARCH TOOLS

You are viewing Naviance Student as [redacted]

Give feedback | 4 new messages | LOG OUT

Naviance | Student

Home | Colleges | Careers | About Me | My Planner

Welcome, [redacted]

Search for Colleges [dropdown arrow]

Type a college name [input field]

SEARCH




### Welcome

The Commack High School Counseling Center is pleased to have upgraded to Naviance Student. This Web-based service is designed especially for students and parents. Naviance Student is a comprehensive website that you can use to help in making decisions about courses, colleges, and careers. Naviance Student is linked with Counselor's Office, a service that we use in our office to track and analyze data about college and career plans, so it provides up-to-date information that's specific to our school. Among the features that you can currently use are:

- Researching colleges and career paths
- Comparing Colleges

[Read more](#)


### My Favorites

-  COLLEGES  
I'm thinking about
-  COLLEGES  
I'm applying to
-  CAREERS AND CLUSTERS  
I'm thinking about

### Important To-Dos and Tasks

 TACK Individual Annual Review

### What's New




 Mini College Day - Period 2 will be visiting your school on Monday, March 11th, 2019 at 8:15 am

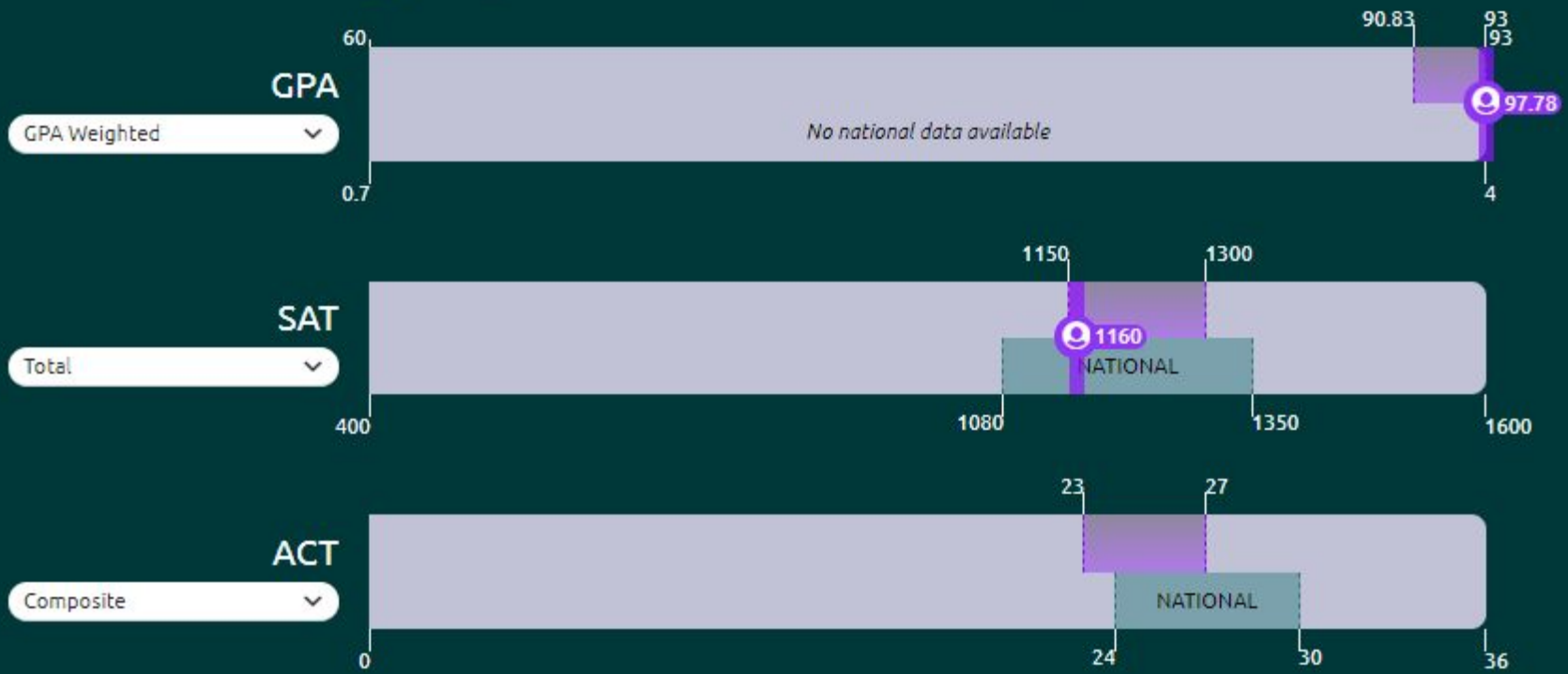


# VIEW INFORMATION ABOUT PARTICULAR COLLEGES & COMPARE YOURSELF TO AVERAGE CRITERIA

## How you compare with others who have applied to University at Buffalo, State University of New York


This institution is a **Match**: Your academic qualifications (GPA & test scores) **are similar to** the academic profile of students nationally who are typically enrolled at this institution.

 You  Your High School's Middle 50% of Accepted Students  National Middle 50% of Enrolled Students



# CONDUCT A COLLEGE SEARCH

## Advanced College Search

 Search for colleges

To start, begin with a section that's important to you. It's up to you which questions you answer and in what order. You can view your results at any point along the way by clicking **View Matches**. Once you have narrowed down your list of schools, you will be able to compare these colleges using historical admissions results from your own school.

0 Matches

View Matches

Start Over

Type Location Students Admission Athletics Majors Costs Special Programs

## School Type

### Two-Year vs. Four-Year

- Two-Year
- Four-Year
- No preference

### Coed vs. Single-sex

- All Male
- All Female

### Public vs. Private

- Public
- Private
- No preference

### College Groups

No Preference 

### Religious Affiliation

### Campus Surroundings

- Large City
- Small City
- Large Town
- Small Town
- Rural

# HELPFUL COLLEGE & CAREER RESOURCES

- Naviance <https://student.naviance.com/commack>
- In Like Me <Home - InLikeMe.com>
- NY Career Zone [CareerZone Index \(ny.gov\)](CareerZone Index (ny.gov))
- CollegeData <www.collegedata.com>
- ACT <www.actstudent.org>
- College Board <www.collegeboard.org>
- Princeton Review <www.princetonreview.com>
- Occupational Outlook Handbook <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>
- Continuing Education [CLICK HERE](#)
- Counseling Center's Scholarship website [CLICK HERE](#)
- Scholarship Search Engines [CLICK HERE](#)



# THERE IS A SCHOOL OUT THERE FOR EVERYONE!

- Public and Private colleges and universities
- More than 6,800 in the U.S.
- 460 in New York
- Come in various shapes and sizes
  - Major research universities
  - Comprehensive universities
  - Small liberal arts colleges
  - Faith-related colleges and universities
  - Specialized colleges for Arts and Technology
  - 2-year & 4-year colleges



# SOPHOMORE YEAR

## HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

- ❑ Select strong, appropriate challenges for junior year courses – push yourself! Take on a new challenge or interest!
- ❑ Monitor academic progress
- ❑ Parents/Guardians, foster independence and autonomy. Communicate with teachers and counselor, as needed.
- ❑ Utilize the Parent/Student Portal and Google Classroom
- ❑ Develop strong study skills and time management techniques
- ❑ Work on building a strong vocabulary – READ, READ, READ!
- ❑ Attend extra help and review sessions
- ❑ Get involved and stay involved!
- ❑ Take on leadership roles
- ❑ Review PSAT and Practice ACT results, plan test preparation strategies
- ❑ Naviance– Career Interest Inventory, research careers, college searches, visit colleges virtually or on family road trips!
- ❑ Get to know your counselor!

We advise students to make decisions based on a great personal  
& academic fit!



REMEMBER TO HAVE SOME FUN  
&  
REACH OUT TO YOUR COUNSELOR  
ANYTIME!

