

Rising Senior Presentation

Key actions for a smooth transition into your senior year for your post-high school goals!

NAVIANCE

- ▶ **ONE OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS DURING THE COLLEGE PROCESS!!!**
 - ▶ Students will access NAVIANCE via their LCPSGO
 - ▶ Parents are able to have their own login. Email your School Counseling office to obtain a log-in
- ▶ **Naviance Tabs to Focus on**
 - ▶ **All About Me**
 - ▶ **Strength Explorer**
 - ▶ **Career Interest Profiler**
 - ▶ **College**
 - ▶ **Colleges I'm Thinking About**
 - ▶ **Colleges I'm Applying To**
 - ▶ **Scattergrams**
 - ▶ **SuperMatch**
 - ▶ **Scholarships**
 - ▶ **Teacher Letter of Recommendation**

Explore Potential Career Goals & College Majors

Complete the following assessments in Naviance “All About Me”

- Strength Explorer
- Career Interest Profile

Engage in family discussions regarding

- Thoughts regarding career choice
- Career lifestyle
- What it takes to reach your career goals

Create Your “Colleges I’m Thinking About” and “Colleges I’m Going to Apply to” in Naviance.

- ▶ The number of colleges you should apply to depends on your specific situation.
- ▶ The standard thinking from counselors has been that the average college-bound student should apply to about 6-8 colleges: 2-3 reach colleges, 2-3 target colleges, and 2 safety schools.
 - ▶ Reach schools are colleges that are unlikely to offer you admission (less than a 30% chance),
 - ▶ Target schools are colleges that you have a decent chance of gaining admission to (a 30%-80% chance), and
 - ▶ Safety schools are colleges to which you’re almost guaranteed of admission based on your qualifications (greater than a 80% chance).
 - ▶ It is important to select a safety school that you will want to actually attend. Do not pick a “safety” school just because you can get in. Make sure the school has the major(s) you are looking for and it is a school you will feel comfortable attending.

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

- ▶ You can determine which schools that are reach, target, and safety schools by logging into Naviance and viewing the Colleges' Scattergrams.
 - ▶ The Scattergrams highlight Valley students' admissions decisions and their GPA and SAT/ACT scores.
 - ▶ The next slide is a Scattergram for James Madison University.
 - ▶ When looking at your Scattergram look for the light blue circle with a person in it. This is where your GPA and current SAT/ACT (PSAT scores if you have not taken the SAT/ACT) have you plotted on the graph.
 - ▶ Green indicates Accepted, Red X indicates Denied admission, and Dark Blue indicates Waitlisted/Deferred admission.

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items



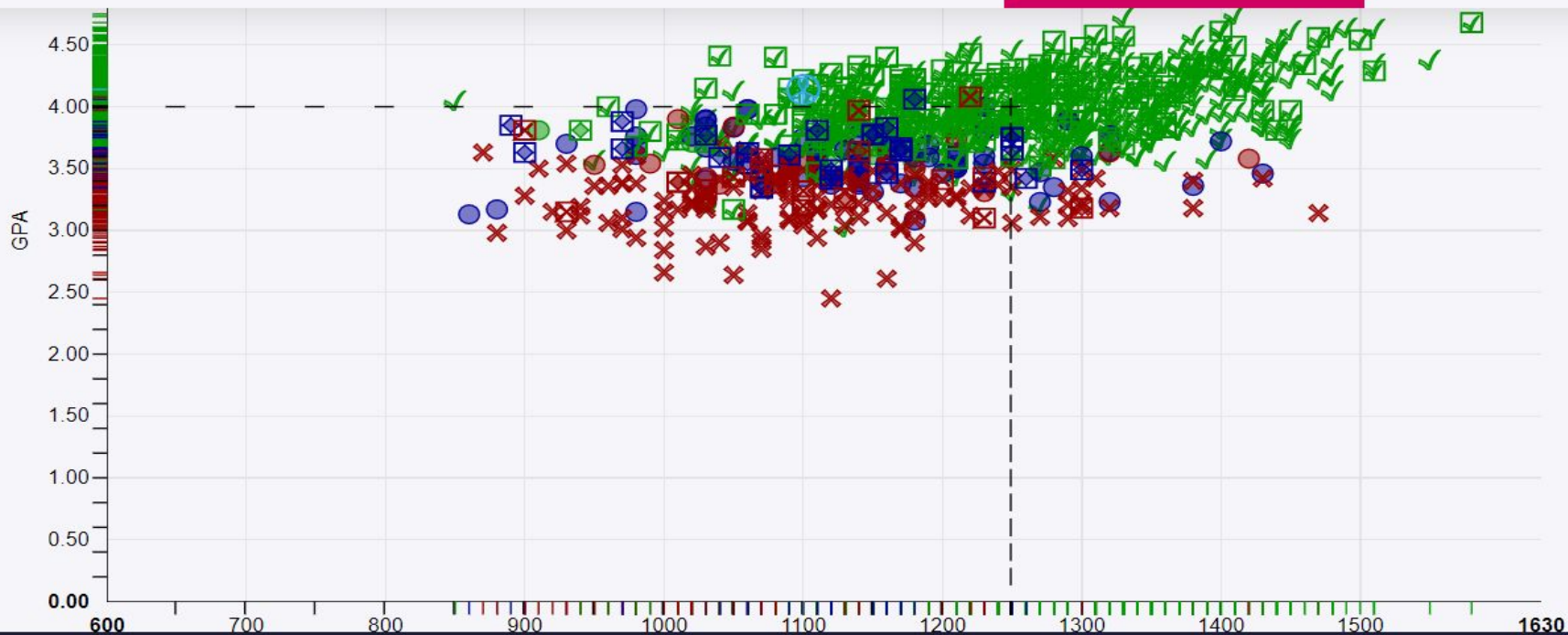
Overview

Studies

Student Life

Admissions

Costs



Determine if you will be applying to the schools via the school based application, Common App, Coalition App or Common Black College App

- ▶ What is the Common App? The Common Application is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to more than 900 colleges and universities.
 - ▶ <https://www.commonapp.org/>
- ▶ What is the Coalition App? The Coalition for College Access application is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to more than 140 colleges and universities.
 - ▶ <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- ▶ What is the Common Black College App? The Common Black College Application (CBCA) is an undergraduate college admissions application for more than 55 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) for one application fee.
 - ▶ <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>

Once you determine which application platform you will be using, create your account and begin working on your application.

- ▶ Do not hit submit until everything is perfect!!
- ▶ Quadruple check everything!
- ▶ Ask a friend, family member, or trusted adult to review your application with fresh eyes!
- ▶ Spelling and grammar errors will negatively impact your admissions read!

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

Once you determine how you will apply, begin working on your College Admissions Essays

- ▶ Your goal is to have an amazing rough draft by the end of August to have your English teacher or another trusted adult review.
- ▶ If you are applying using the school based application, go to the school's admissions page for their essay questions.
- ▶ If you are applying using either Common App or Coalition App, click the links below for their list of essay questions.
 - ▶ Common APP
 - ▶ <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>
 - ▶ Coalition APP
 - ▶ <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/essays.html>

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

Tips for a Stellar College Application Essay

By Princeton Review

<https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay>

1. Write about something that's important to you.

It could be an experience, a person, a book—anything that has had an impact on your life.

2. Don't just recount—reflect!

Anyone can write about how they won the big game or the summer they spent in Rome. When recalling these events, you need to give more than the play-by-play or itinerary. Describe what you learned from the experience and how it changed you.

3. Being funny is tough.

A student who can make an admissions officer laugh never gets lost in the shuffle. But beware. What you think is funny and what an adult working in a college thinks is funny are probably different. We caution against one-liners, limericks and anything off-color.

4. Start early and write several drafts.

Set it aside for a few days and read it again. Put yourself in the shoes of an admissions officer: Is the essay interesting? Do the ideas flow logically? Does it reveal something about the applicant? Is it written in the applicant's own voice?

5. No repeats.

What you write in your application essay or personal statement should not contradict any other part of your application—nor should it repeat it. This isn't the place to list your awards or discuss your grades or test scores.

6. Answer the question being asked.

Don't reuse an answer to a similar question from another application.

7. Have at least one other person edit your essay.

A teacher or college counselor is your best resource. And before you send it off, check, check again, and then triple check to make sure your essay is free of spelling or grammar errors.

Determine how many Letters of Recommendation you will need for the application process

- ▶ Each school is unique. Some schools will not require letters of recommendation, while others will be very specific regarding the number and from whom the letters should be written. Schools will detail their requirements on their admissions webpage.
- ▶ Begin asking your teachers to write you a letter of recommendation ASAP. Some teachers cap the number of letters they write per year.
- ▶ Email/Speak with your teacher to determine if they are willing to write you a letter of recommendation. If they agree, promptly supply them with any documentation that they request. Be sure to also include details regarding when your applications are due and to which schools you are applying.

Continued ...

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

Determine how many Letters of Recommendation you will need for the application process (Continued)

- ▶ Then, log into Naviance and formally request a letter of recommendation. You will:
 - ▶ Click the “College Home” tab
 - ▶ Scroll down to “Applying to College” and click the “Letter of Recommendation” link
 - ▶ Click “Add a Request” and complete the questions asked.
 - ▶ This should be done AFTER you have a conversation/email exchange with the teacher AND the teacher has agreed to write you a letter!
- ▶ In the fall, be sure to write a HANDWRITTEN thank you note!! Teachers will spend around 2 to 3 hours writing your letter during their “free time”. Your note of thanks will mean the world to them!

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

Determine if you will be applying Early Decision, Early Action, or Regular Decision

- ▶ Please keep in mind how the college entrance exams will be factored into the admissions decision. If the school is not a Test Optional school or you want the school to review your SAT/ACT scores, you will need your test scores to the college by the due date of your application.
- ▶ Early Decision
 - ▶ Plans are binding — a student who is accepted as an Early Decision applicant must attend the college.
- ▶ Early Action
 - ▶ Plans are non binding — students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.
- ▶ Regular Decision
 - ▶ The normal process by which students apply by published deadlines, with promise of receiving an admissions decision no later than April 1 of their senior year.

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

Determine if the Colleges/Universities you are applying to will need SAT/ACT test scores

- ▶ Due to COVID-19, many colleges/universities will be going test optional for the class of 2022.
- ▶ Visit the college/university's admissions page to determine how they will be handling college entrance testing for this application year.
- ▶ It is recommended that you take the SAT/ACT if you do not have test scores -- even if the schools you are applying to go test optional
 - ▶ Many scholarships have an ACT/SAT component.

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

Create your SAT/ACT Fall Testing Plan

- ▶ Register for the fall testing dates that align with your application due dates
 - ▶ Spaces will fill up quickly! Register as soon as you can!
 - ▶ If you are on Free/Reduced lunch, please email your school counselor for a SAT/ACT fee waiver.
- ▶ You will register for the tests directly on the SAT/ACT websites
 - ▶ SAT - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>
 - ▶ ACT - <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

Late Spring - Summer -
Fall Action Items

What are the Differences Between the SAT and ACT

SAT - is more
of a reasoning
test

- Evidence Based Reading & Writing
 - Reading (52 questions in 65 minutes)
 - Writing (44 questions in 35 minutes)
- Math (58 questions in 80 minutes)
- Register via <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

ACT - is an
achievement
test
that focuses
on school
curriculum-
based skills

- Reading (75 questions in 45 minutes)
- Writing (40 questions in 35 minutes)
- Math (60 questions in 60 minutes)
- Science (40 questions in 35 minutes)
- Register via <https://www.act.org/>

Customized Free SAT Prep Course

Link your Khan Academy
& College Board accounts
for a free SAT Prep
Course customized for
you based on your PSAT
or recent SAT test scores!

Go to

www.satpractice.org

ATTEND COLLEGE FAIRS & COLLEGE VISITS @ VALLEY

College Visits @ Valley

- Students sign up via Naviance
- College visits are listed in the Loudoun Valley Weekly Newsletter

College Fairs

- LCPS College Fair - September 2021
- LCPS HBCU College Fair - October 2021
- FCPS College Fair - October 2021
- Montgomery County National College Fair - April 2022

LCPS Gap Year Fair - Riverside High School
- February 2022

LCPS Career & Apprenticeship Fair - ACL -
April 2022

BEGIN VISITING COLLEGES

Tour all types of schools to find your student's preference for the size and location of the College/University

Register for official tour via schools' admissions department

Attend college events such as their Fall/Spring open house/tour days

Due to COVID Colleges and Universities have created virtual tours and Zoom information sessions. This information will be found on the University/Colleges' admissions page.

Begin Thinking about Financial Aid

Join us for Valley's Financial Aid night
Thursday September 30, 2021

Begin looking at scholarship opportunities

- Search scholarships being offered current seniors in Naviance
- Visit the LVHS Scholarship Site
- Sign-up for Scholarship search sites
- Review Financial Aid/Scholarship pages for the institutions your student is considering applying to

Plan on completing the FAFSA October 1, 2021

- You will need to have your 2020 taxes compiled in order to complete the FAFSA
- Many institutions will not award internal scholarships without the FAFSA completed, so it is beneficial to complete the application regardless of your income.
- Some schools will also require a CSS Profile. This will be highlighted on both the college/universities' admission and financial aid webpages.

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

Visit [cb.org/opportunity](https://collegeboard.org/opportunity) for details



ARE YOU LOOKING TO
ENGAGE IN YOUR
SPORT AT COLLEGE?
(Div I & Div II)

Complete your NCAA Eligibility Account

- ▶ Log onto <http://www.ncaa.org/> to create your account.
- ▶ Be sure to read the COVID Updates to determine how they will affect your eligibility
- ▶ Request your SAT/ACT scores to be sent to NCAA
- ▶ Valley will need to send NCAA an official transcript AFTER you create your account.
 - ▶ Complete a Transcript request form and email it to Cindy.Ashley@lcps.org
 - ▶ <https://www.lcps.org/cms/lib/VA01000195/Centricity/Domain/3202/LCPS%20Transcript%20Request%20Form-current%20students.pdf>

1. **Create a College Application Plan**
 - ▶ Specifically which colleges you're applying to and their due dates
 - ▶ This list should mirror your “Colleges I’m Apply to” list in Naviance
2. **If you are apply via the Common App, “Match” your Common App and Naviance accounts**
 - ▶ Instructions on how to match are found on the Valley’s School Counseling Senior Webpage
3. **Complete your Student and Parent Insight sheets**
 - ▶ Insight sheets are found on Valley’s School Counseling Senior Webpage
4. **Complete your Transcript Request Forms (TRF)**
 - ▶ Forms must be submitted at least 3 weeks prior to your application due date - one per school!
 - ▶ It’s never too early to submit your TRF - it is preferred that you submit them as soon as you know when/where you are applying - even if it’s months out!
 - ▶ TRF are found on the Valley’s School Counseling’s Senior Webpage
5. **Upload your most recent resume to Naviance**
6. **Submit an official request for letter of recommendation in Naviance - After you have asked your teacher!**

Valley’s School Counseling Senior Webpage

<https://www.lcps.org/Page/196324>

Prepare for your
Fall Senior
Meeting with your
Senior Counselor
**Please note Early
Release will not be
granted until you have
your senior meeting!

CONTINUE TO WORK ON YOUR LIFE SKILLS

Learn	Navigate	Learn	Self Advocacy	Time Management
Learn how to do your own laundry and basic cooking skills	Navigate how to refill prescriptions and make doctor's appointments	Learn how to manage your money/live on a budget	Continue to master the art of communication with your teachers, adults, and peers	Create a calendar /organizational system that works for you. Continue to use your alarm to rise each morning!

Questions??

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your School Counselor! We are here to help you navigate the application process.

Mrs. Candy Grim, 11th/12th - A - G

Mrs. Adria Frie, 11th/12th - H - O

Mrs. Shelli Cook, 11th/12th - P - Z