

**Question and Answer Segment from Senior Application Night**  
**Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Do you have any view on how merit scholarships will be considered without SAT/ACT tests?**

*Many schools are changing how they award merit awards and utilizing just GPA. However, I would suggest reaching out to schools directly with this question. In addition to getting a solid answer you will be demonstrating interest.*

**If we have questions for RHS alumni who are attending schools that we are considering, how do we access the list that RHS Counseling has created?**

*It should be under files in our School Counseling Teams Page. I will repost this to our page tomorrow so it can be easy to access*

**Can students submit their applications as soon as they are done -or do they need to wait for their teacher recommendations? And should they remind their teachers about writing those recommendations?**

*I would suggest submitting whenever a student is ready. Do not worry about waiting for a teacher letter. I always suggest a fall follow up with the teachers writing a student's letters. Confirming they have the information needed to write the letter and notifying them of your earliest deadline. It also provides the student to once again thank the teacher for writing this letter*

**For those schools with Test Optional, how do they differentiate between the ones submit and those did not?**

*Great question! It is simply one less factor that they are looking at. If there are 5 factors that admissions are considering in the review of applications a test optional applicant would only have 4.*

**How can we check if a teacher has completed the letter of recommendation or not?**

*Students can view this on Naviance. However, if they are unsure where to see that information I would suggest a quick message to their counselor.*

**Does the student need to request the initial transcript on Naviance and if so at what point?**

*Students need to request transcripts through the Naviance program. There is a brief how-to piece in our presentation tonight. Also, this information is found in your school counseling team. You should complete your portion of the application first. Once you submit, request your transcript be sent by your school counselor. You are always welcome to make an appointment with your counselor to review where you are in the process.*

**Earlier it was stated to use Naviance to apply to schools, then we heard Common App, Coalition etc. Do we need to apply through both applications example, Naviance and Common App or is Naviance just a tool?**

*Students will use Common App, Coalition App, or an Institutions App to apply. We as the school use Naviance to send school-based materials (transcripts and rec letters). Students will use Naviance to request these materials be sent to a college*

**How can I get a college application parents checklist?**

*We will post this in the Class of 2021 team for student access. We will also link to it on our school counseling website under forms.*

**When do we sign the FERPA?**

*Signing the FERPA is the first thing that must be completed in Naviance. This can be done right away. You only sign once in the process.*

**I assume matching FERPA to Naviance is done after submitting the Common App and not just when that section is completed in the Common App.**

*I suggest doing the match as soon as they sign the FERPA. We can't submit transcripts until the FERPA is matched so complete a task on their to do list early on.*

**If you are applying to colleges with different timelines, do you need to request transcripts prior to each deadline?**

*Yes - we require two-week's notice prior to each deadline. Many times, students apply to one college at a time. Many other students apply to all at once. In either case, we ask for two weeks prior to the earliest deadline to process applications.*

**Is there a document or a site that spells out all of this information and all of these steps that are required? It's a lot to take in and remember and I'm afraid I will miss something.**

*We will be posting this program for future reference. While we don't have a document that gives this process step by step I would encourage scheduling a meeting with either myself or your counselor and we can review everything with you to confirm applications are completed.*

**do we have request transcripts every time we apply for college?**

*You must request a transcript for each college to which you apply.*

**Will the sat in school provide for accommodations**

*If a student has accommodations approved by the college board, he/she will receive these accommodations. Please check with myself or Dr. Thomas this week.*

**Are the transcripts and rec letters the only things that are submitted once to all colleges while everything else is submitted individually to each college?**

*All documents are submitted individually to each college. As a student submits each application they should request their transcripts and rec letters be sent to that school individually.*

**How does not having an sat score effect merit scholarships?**

*Many schools are eliminating SATs as part of the matrix used to determine merit awards. However, I would contact admissions counselors from the schools you are looking at and inquire about their merit awards specifically and what is being considered.*

**Will our counselor be meeting with us or do we have to request a meeting?**

*We recently advertised additional college meetings for all seniors. School counselors will review the process and answer specific questions in 30-minute appointments at the family's request. Please reach out to the school counselor via email or students via the booking's app for an appointment. Students may be in person but parents will have to be added virtually.*

**Can you apply for scholarships prior to knowing what college you will be attending?**

*Yes, right now the focus should be on completing your college applications. Once they are complete shift gears to scholarships. No need to wait until a final decision is made.*

**could you clarify decile and GPA rankings and whether or not they are weighted per the common app**

*We provide a decile ranking based on the weighted GPA. Students can find their decile ranking in Naviance under my profile.*

**Do teachers generally write positive recommendations and/or are they checked by guidance prior to sending out?**

*Teachers are experienced in writing letters of recommendations. In addition, counselors annually provide PD for staff regarding this important process. Students should select teachers that know them well and can speak to them as a citizen as well as a student. Counselors have access to the letters in Naviance but do not review or critique.*

**Is it worth filling out the FAFSA form if you already know that you will not be receiving financial aid based on your income?**

*I usually suggest year 1 doing it to be sure you won't qualify since you can qualify for aid at one school and not another.*

**Is Randolph HS going to schedule SAT's for its students? Say on a weekday during school hours?**

*Yes, it was announced early tonight that we will be holding an SAT on Oct 14th. Information will be sent out tonight regarding registration.*

**My sept SAT was cancelled can I transfer the money I paid for that to the Saturday oct 14th SAT Randolph is hosting?**

*Unfortunately, no. The school-based SAT is processed entirely through RHS and our business office. Your previous registration was through the college board. You can contact College Board at (866)756-7346 to request a refund and submit a separate payment to RHS for the October 14th test date.*

**how do we connect Naviance and common app?**

*After signing the FERPA in Common App you will need to log into your Naviance account. Under colleges I'm applying to there will be an option to "Match Accounts" in the top right-hand corner.*

**How long does it take to fill out FAFSA? What information do I need to have available prior to completing?**

*This can take up to two hours to prepare. However, if you connect the FAFSA to the IRS website they will pull your information in from last year's taxes and auto fill most of the application for you. This makes it much simpler process and you can finish it in less than an hour.*

**What's the average number of schools that a student should apply to?**

*I suggest 7-12 schools*

**how many students are in the class?**

*405*

**Hearing some kids are creating a College Resume. is this necessary? My daughter never had to do this 3 years ago**

*Some colleges allow you to upload this to your application. In my opinion it allows a student to give a little more detail to the activities they participated in during high school. I usually suggest having this ready for scholarships as well. When a scholarship application asks for a list of activities a resume always looks more formal.*

**Which kind of teachers do you suggest for recommendations?**

*A Humanities teacher and a STEM teacher*

**who is answering as moderator so I can reach out**

*Ms. Huey and Mr. Dimiceli. Feel free to contact us both and/or your counselor. We will be happy to help you with anything you need.*

**Thank you so much for the presentation and answers.**

*THANK YOU for attending and for your patience in the beginning. We hope this was helpful for all.*