POST-SECONDARY ADMISSIONS PROCESS

BHS School Counseling

Reviewing your post-secondary options

Credential or Certificate (Trade/Technical/Vocational School)

- Community/State College; example – FSCJ, SJRSC, J-Tech
  - Examples of careers: automotive, welding, HVAC, cosmetology, EMS, fire fighting

State College – (Two-Year, Associate Degree) – SJRCS, FSCJ, TCC, Valencia, Santa Fe

- **AS Degree** – Two-year degree then straight into the workforce
  - Examples of careers: nursing, air traffic controller, dental hygienist, radiological tech, IT
- **AA Degree** – Two-year degree that transfers to a four-year college/university to earn Bachelor's Degree

Four Year College or University (Four-Year, Bachelor's Degree)

- Master's Degree - Can be obtained after Bachelor's Degree
- Doctorate Degree - Can be obtained after Master's Degree

Military – ASVAB test

No idea what you want to do?

- Many interest inventories to help you find career options
  - Xello – Log in using Clever Links for Students (on BHS homepage)
  - https://fscj.lightcastcc.com/
  - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers

Post-Secondary Visits to BHS

◦ All visits are during your lunch in the courtyard

◦ August 14- US Air Force ROTC, US Navy, US Marine Corp

◦ August 28 – US Army, J-Tech Institute, Florida State College at Jacksonville, Paul Mitchell

◦ September 2 – Valdosta State University, New College of Florida, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of South Florida, University of South Alabama

◦ September 11 – Savannah College of Art and Design, University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, University of South Carolina

◦ September 18 – United States Coast Guard, United States Coast Guard Academy

◦ September 23 – First Coast Technical College, Universal Technical Institute

◦ September 30 – St Johns River State College

◦ October 16 – New York University, Florida Southern College

◦ October 24 – Aveda Institute

◦ October 30 – North Florida Sheet Metal Workers

◦ College Fair – September 6– 9 am - https://www.nacacattend.org/25Jacksonville

When to apply?

- **Scholarships**
  - There are scholarships you can apply for NOW and you should continue looking for scholarships throughout college

- **4 Year College and/or University**
  - By October 31 of senior year **(check with the college to make sure the deadline isn't October 15, but most are November 1)**
  - **DO NOT WAIT TO APPLY**
  - Firm deadline vs. Rolling admissions (larger window, decision within a few weeks)
  - Even if the deadline is in May or the college is on a 'rolling admission', we suggest applying by Oct 31 for access to scholarships, housing, etc.
  - You are applying with the cumulative GPA from the end of junior year, ACT and SAT test scores obtained by August of senior year, and strength of your senior schedule.

- **2 Year College/Trade/Technical/Vocational School**
  - Spring of Senior Year
  - FSCJ and SJRSC will be on campus on March 26 and 27 for FREE application days. Wait until those schools are on our campus to apply.
  - FCTC Field Trip = November 6
  - Vocational schools are recruiting on campus. Check link for when they are on campus: https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/post-secondary-visits/

- **Military**
  - Start speaking with recruiters. Check link for when they are on campus: https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/post-secondary-visits/
  - Take the ASVAB

What do you need <u>before you start</u> the application process?

- Look at the websites of all the colleges you are applying to and make a list of the following:
  - Application deadlines
  - Application fees
  - Admission essay requirement and topic
  - Letter of recommendation requirement
- Current academic history (you can view this in HAC on the transcript tab)
- Ordering transcripts – via Parchment
- ACT, SAT, and/or CLT score reports (send score reports directly from your ACT or SAT or CLT account)
- List of extracurricular activities (inside and outside of school). Put the best stuff first.
- Academic honors and achievements
- Information about you and your parent(s)/guardian(s)
  - Social Security Number
  - Parent information: occupation, employment status, income, level of education (which colleges they attended and how many degrees they have earned)

Get Organized !

Keep a folder/file/binder with everything that is needed to apply for multiple scholarships and colleges.
- Application deadlines
- ACT/SAT/CLT scores
- High school transcript (request from Parchment)
- Letters of recommendation, if needed (because you may be able to use one for multiple applications)
- Resume of activities, community service, and leadership roles
- Essays (because you may be able to use one essay for multiple applications)
- Parents level of education, occupation, income

Get an appropriate e-mail address
- JohnSmith01@gmail.com (YES)
- BigDaddy01@gmail.com (NO)

Applications

- Two ways to apply to colleges:
  - Most colleges have their own online application OR not both
  - Common App (students must link Common App account with Xello)
- Submit the application and all other requirements before the deadline – these deadlines are firm!
- It would be helpful to have your parent/guardian close by while filling out applications
- Have your academic history, extra curricular activities, essays and ACT/SAT/CLT score reports with you while filling out the application
- Organize yourself – put all of the information you need in one notebook/folder so that you'll have it handy
- Break down the application process in small chunks – you don't have to do it all in one day!

College Application Fees

◦ Colleges charge a fee to apply! Application fees vary but could be between $35-$50, depending on college

◦ SJRSC and FSCJ come to BHS on March 26 and 27 and will allow you to apply for FREE! So, pay attention to those dates!

◦ There is never a fee associated with scholarships

◦ SAT, ACT, or NACAC college application fee waivers can be used to waive college application fees

   ◦ If you took the ACT or SAT with a fee waiver, see your counselor about obtaining college application fee waivers.

◦ If using fee waivers (free and reduced lunch), contact each college to determine how they would like the fee waivers submitted. Every college has a different process.

ACT and SAT and CLT Score Reports

The only way a college will see your ACT/SAT/CLT score is if you SEND your scores to them! Do this for free when you register for your test or pay a fee afterwards.

ACT

- www.actstudent.org
- Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice
- If you didn't send scores when you registered for the test, then this will cost money

SAT

- www.collegeboard.org
- Log in and send your scores to the college(s) of your choice
- If you didn't send scores when you registered for the test, then this will cost money

CLT

- https://www.cltexam.com/tests/clt/

Letter of Recommendation

◦ Everyone will have to provide a transcript or SSAR, but not necessarily a letter of recommendation

◦ Check to see if letter of recommendation is required. If it isn't required, don't ask.

◦ Who should you ask to write a letter? Ask an adult in your life, who is not related to you, who knows you really well and would say really nice things about you!

◦ Give them a resume or brag sheet of your achievements to help them

◦ Ask well in advance of the deadline – bare minimum 2 weeks

◦ Give instructions to writer about how to submit the letter of recommendation

  ◦ Directly to you?

  ◦ Uploaded electronically?

  ◦ Sent directly to college or scholarship organization?

◦ Send a thank you note!

Essays

◦ Colleges can either make the essay optional or required

◦ You can view specific essay requirements on the college's admissions page

◦ Authentic story

◦ Excellent written skill

◦ No spelling or grammatical errors

◦ Essay is organized and has a purpose

◦ Essay answers the prompt

◦ Always type the essay outside of the application portal first

◦ Proofread the essay before submitting to the application portal

High School Transcript

- Official record of academic performance and testing history
  - Different than a credit detail report that a counselor can print for you
- Request transcript via **Parchment**
- Most public state universities in Florida require students to complete the Self-Reported Student Academic Record (SSAR)instead of sending an official transcript.
  - We recommend using the transcript screen in HAC or requesting a copy of your transcript via Parchment to assist you in completing your self report.
  - Keep in mind that the university in which you enroll will require a final transcript at the end of the year that will need to match your self report.

Student Self Academic Report (SSAR)

◦ Most public universities in Florida require SSAR instead of official transcripts

◦ We recommend using the transcript screen in HAC or requesting a copy of your transcript via Parchment to assist in completing your self report

◦ Entering Courses & Grades

  ◦ Grade level taken: look at the school year in HAC/Transcript

  ◦ Name of course: list it exactly as in HAC/Transcript (if the course is called a different name than what is in HAC, enter what it is called in parenthesis)

  ◦ Indicate if the course is standard, honors, AP, AICE, or dual enrollment

  ◦ Enter semester 1 grade and semester 2 grade

  ◦ Yearlong courses: Enter the same grade for semester 1 and 2

  ◦ Current 12th grade courses: in progress

Application Help!

September 5 and October 24 in Media Center during 4th, 5th, and 6th periods. Seniors must have a pass from teacher or come during modified/lunch.

Seniors are always welcome to stop by the counselor's office before school, during lunch, or during a modified period

Decisions! Check your email & university portal!

◦ Most colleges and universities send decision letters, including any scholarships that are awarded, electronically.

◦ Depending on the college that could look like …

◦ Log into your application portal for all decisions, including admission and scholarships

◦ Check your email for all decisions, including admission and scholarships

◦ How admission offices review an application …

◦ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvVL-aeMPvA

• Admit: A student that has been formally approved and acknowledged as having been granted admission to their academic programs.

• Waitlist: A group of students held in reserve after a college makes its admissions decisions. If openings occur, students on the waitlist may be offered admission.

• Deny: An admission outcome wherein a student was unable to be offered admission.

• Defer: An admission outcome wherein a student who has applied for early admission is not accepted or rejected, rather their application is reconsidered within the Regular Decision pool.

Common App & Xello

○ If you are applying using the colleges application (not CommonApp, then you don't have to do anything with Xello)

○ If you are applying to college with CommonApp then you must link with Xello

   ○ Per district guidelines, student must link their Common App account with Xello for counselors to send necessary forms to Common App

   ○ Log into Xello using Clever – Links for Students on the BHS website
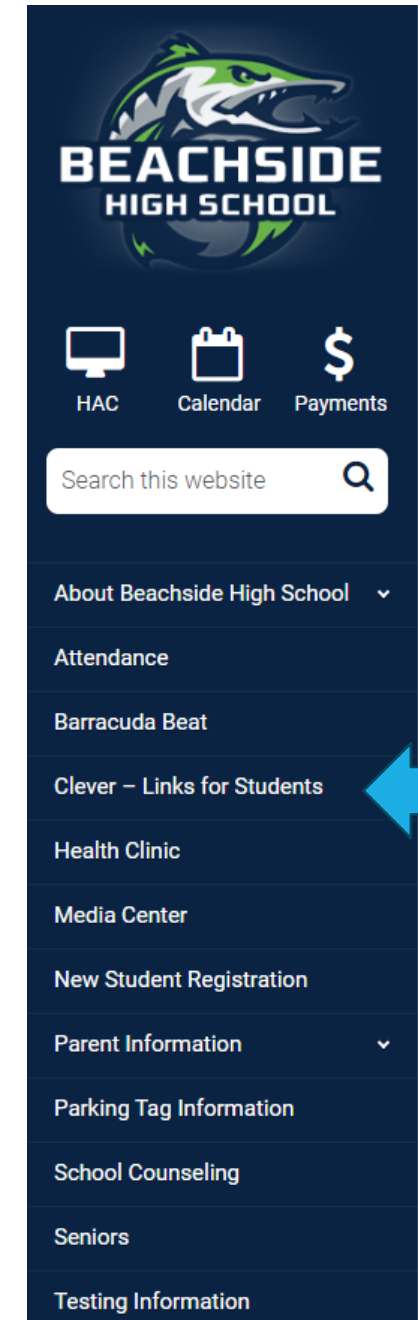
Before linking Common App & Xello

◦ Click the Common App tab. From the left menu, open Profile and then Education to complete the required fields.

◦ Click the College Search tab and add at least one college you plan to apply to.

◦ Click the My Colleges tab and open one of your saved colleges.

◦ In the left menu of the college profile, click Questions and fill out your Preferred Start Term.

◦ Again, from the left menu, click Recommenders and FERPA. Read and complete the FERPA Release Authorization form.

Linking Common App & Xello

◦ Once you've signed the FERPA Release Authorization form, you'll need to connect your Xello account to CommonApp

◦ Sign in to Xello

◦ Under Quick links, select College Planning.

◦ Click View my applications to see the full list of colleges you're tracking.

◦ In the banner with the Common App logo, click Connect to open the Common App sign in page.

  ◦ A pop-up will first let you know you may need to redo tasks you've already completed. This could include assigning a counselor or requesting a Teacher Evaluation. This will only apply to colleges associated with Common App.

◦ Sign in to Common App

  ◦ Once you've logged into Common App, you're redirected back to the page you left in Xello.

  ◦ The banner at the top of the page now states the accounts are connected.

Assign a counselor to send forms via Common App

◦ This is done in Xello

◦ Click on a college with the Common App logo.

◦ Next to Counselor forms, click Assign counselor.

◦ Choose your assigned counselor. Click Select.

  ◦ You'll only need to assign a counselor once. Selecting a counselor means that they'll send all the necessary forms to all the schools saved in your My colleges list in Common App

◦ Click Send to return to the college page.

  ◦ A banner at the top of the page indicates success.

Requesting a teacher evaluation via Common App

- Make sure this is required by the college/university

- Ask them first, don't just add their name

- Give them a resume or brag sheet of your achievements to help them

- After they have said they will write a letter …
  - In Xello, click on a college with the Common App logo
  - Next to Teacher evaluations, click Request to open the list of teacher recommenders available at your school in Xello
    - You can also search for teachers at other schools in you district who also use Xello with Common App enabled. This search is useful if you've transferred schools or if the teacher you want as a recommender has changed schools
  - Choose the teacher you'd like and click Select
  - Click Send to return to the college page

Not using Common App?

◦ If you are applying to college/university using their institutional application, you DO NOT use Xello.

◦ Apply via the application on the college website

◦ Send transcripts via Parchment or fill out SSAR

◦ Ask the person directly to write a recommendation letter (if required for application/scholarship).

Resources – Linking Common App & Xello

◦ Video to help you link Common App and Xello - https://youtu.be/N45gOPQy0dE?si=Sl4ypwGsmGzZF70k

◦ Written directions (with screenshots) to link Common App and Xello - https://xello.mcoutput.com/1374595/Common_App_Guide_Students.pdf

◦ This presentation will be uploaded to our 'presentations and resources' page - https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/presentations-and-resources/

◦ Transcript requests via Parchment - https://www-bhs.stjohns.k12.fl.us/guidance/transcript-requests/

◦ College Application Help Session – September 5 and October 24

◦ SUS Matrix - https://issuu.com/fiupublications/docs/state_university_system_matrix_counselor_guide_202?fr=sZTZhNjg0MzAwNTA

We will see you again on either October 7 or 9 for Financial Aid information in the media center (via ELA classes)!