

CLASS OF 2019

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

December 2017

ADMISSIONS & FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE Churchill Class of 2019

- ▶ **Now-November 2018 : College Search**
- ▶ **October 1, 2018 : File FAFSA for Financial Aid**
- ▶ **October 2018-January 2019 : College Applications**
- ▶ **December 2018-March 2019 : Admissions Decisions**
- ▶ **December 2018-April 2019 : Financial Aid Decisions**
- ▶ **December-May 1, 2019 : College Choice and Deposit**

Admissions timelines are moving earlier & earlier

Official college websites have the most accurate information about specific deadlines.

Key Tasks for Juniors

- ▶ Take a MOCK SAT or ACT

These are full length practice tests. The schedule of opportunities is posted on the web and a copy is in your handout.

- ▶ Gather information about colleges.

- ▶ Do college search on Naviance.

Naviance access was given to your student last year.

- ▶ Take SAT and/or ACT after you receive practice scores.

- ▶ Get involved in school or community activities.

- ▶ Work hard on academic subjects.

- ▶ Take challenging courses in the senior year.

- ▶ Create an activity sheet for grades 9, 10 and 11; add 12th later.

- ▶ READ THE INFORMATION IN THE GREEN COLLEGE FOLDER

DEVELOPING A COLLEGE LIST

An initial list may include 20 colleges or more.

We recommend the *final list* for application be between 6 and 8 colleges.

BASIC FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- ▶ Geographic location
- ▶ Setting
 - ▶ Urban
 - ▶ Suburban
 - ▶ Rural
- ▶ Size
 - ▶ Large vs. small
- ▶ **COST**

Examples of Additional Factors To Consider

- ▶ High school courses required to be considered for admission
- ▶ Special criteria, beyond basic university requirements, for specific majors (business, engineering, art, music)
- ▶ What required courses must be taken once admitted?
- ▶ What career services are offered? What is the job placement rate?
- ▶ What is the percentage of male vs. female students?
- ▶ What services are offered for students with disabilities?

RESOURCES FOR MAKING A SELECTION

- ▶ Counseling Department
- ▶ Web tools
 - ▶ Naviance a password protected web based program with Churchill specific data. All juniors have an account.
 - ▶ Individual college websites
 - ▶ CollegeBoard.com
 - ▶ Google/google earth
- ▶ Print resources
- ▶ College visits
- ▶ Local Visits

WCHS COUNSELING DEPARTMENT WILL

- ▶ Explain the college search process to students (earlier this week) and as necessary
- ▶ Explain the recommendation and essay aspects of the application in mid-March
- ▶ Meet with students, as necessary, to answer questions
- ▶ Assist students in identifying appropriate colleges
(After doing a college search and creating a prospective list of colleges, make an appointment with Mrs. Zimmerman to discuss your list.)
- ▶ Suggest way to minimize stress
- ▶ Reassure students and keep them on track

HOW IS NAVIANCE ACCESSED?

Family Connection can be accessed on the Web:

- <http://connection.naviance.com/churchill>
- There is a Naviance link on the CHS website on the Counseling page.

Each junior was has access to Naviance

- Login to Family Connection as a “Returning User”
- Use a password that can be shared between student and parent

Every parent has access to his student’s Naviance

- Access was emailed to parents in September
- If you do not have your access code, contact your student’s counselor

SOME THINGS NAVIANCE CAN DO FOR YOU

- ▶ College search
- ▶ College comparison
- ▶ Display scattergrams
- ▶ Track deadlines
- ▶ Display schedule of college visits
- ▶ Scholarship Search
- ▶ Deliver email communications

Naviance will be a key tool in the application process

VISIT COLLEGES WHEN STUDENTS ARE ON CAMPUS

- ▶ Attend an information session.
- ▶ Go on a campus tour.
- ▶ Ask questions.
- ▶ Sleep over.
- ▶ Attend class.
- ▶ Sample the food.
- ▶ Read the school newspaper.
- ▶ Take and keep notes about the visit.
- ▶ *Detailed information is in the college folder.*

CHURCHILL POLICY FOR COLLEGE VISITS

- ▶ Seniors and second semester juniors are excused **5 days** for college visits.
- ▶ A note from a parent or guardian must be submitted to the attendance office at least **48 hours** prior to the visit.
- ▶ The note is to be signed by each teacher and your administrator. Students are **responsible for making up missed work.**

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Montgomery County College Fair

April 10-11, 2018, Montgomery County Fairgrounds field trip for juniors

April 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m. open to parents and students

Maryland College Night

Fall 2018, 7:00 p.m. Churchill Auditorium

Representatives from public and private institutions of
higher education in the State of Maryland

College Information Sessions in the Community

Evening or weekend events

Held at hotels, schools, or meeting places

Get on the college's mailing list to be invited

College Rep Visits in the College/Career Center

Almost 200 colleges/universities visit the Churchill College/Career Center between early
September and November each year

THE FORMULA FOR MAKING “GOOD” DECISIONS

- **It's a process not a one-time activity.**
- **The student's choices and decisions are subject to change as they learn new information and have more experience.**
- **The better the student knows him/herself the more authentic the decisions will be.**
- **Students should use their head AND heart.**

Information + Experience + Evaluation + Trusting Instincts = Good Decision.

**As the list is narrowed down,
your student should ask him/herself
these questions:**

- **Can I do well academically there?**
- **Will I be happy in the social environment?**
- **Can my family afford it?**

DEFINITION OF A “PERFECT UNIVERSITY”

- **The student’s perfect universities = PERFECT FOR HIM/HER.**
- **Perfect universities are the campuses that have the
resources
environment**

**that most support the student in achieving his/her unique
educational and life goals.**

College Admission

- ▶ Is holistic
- ▶ NOT based on GPA and SAT/ACT alone

Holistic Review

- ▶ “The undergraduate admissions process is rigorous and individualized. As the university must make fine distinctions among large numbers of highly qualified applicants, the ability to assess consistently all information presented in the application becomes increasingly important. Therefore, the university employs a holistic review process that engages the expertise of professional educators whose judgments—based upon consideration of each applicant’s credentials measured by all admissions criteria—build an entering class that will best complement the existing student body and meet the university’s mission objectives.
- ▶ In this context, academic merit is assessed on the basis of each applicant’s achievements and potential in a broad range of academic categories, as influenced by the opportunities and challenges faced by the applicant. These categories include:
 - ▶ Educational Performance
 - ▶ Potential for College Success
 - ▶ Potential to Promote Beneficial Educational Outcomes and to Contribute to Campus and Community Life
 - ▶ Students’ Persistence and Commitment to Educational Success.”

Source: University of Maryland Website November 2017

FACTORS WHICH MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE HOLISTIC REVIEW

Transcript-rigor and GPA over four years

- Test Scores

- Activities

- Essays- will be discussed with students in March

- Recommendations- will be discussed in detail with students in March

 - Counselor

 - Teacher

 - Other

- Other possible factors

 - Demonstrated interest

 - Legacy

 - Geographic distribution

 - Other examples, See the handout with information from the University of Maryland

Demonstrated Interest

- ▶ Visit to campus
- ▶ Attendance at an information session/program in our local area
- ▶ Signing up for the mailing list
- ▶ Opening emails
- ▶ Clicking through links in emails
- ▶ Clicking through links on the college specific website.
- ▶ Communication with the area admissions representative

COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING

- ▶ Most colleges require standardized testing as part of admissions
- ▶ Colleges will accept either the SAT or ACT
 - The writing section is optional on both tests, although some colleges require**
 - Colleges will finalize their specific requirements for 2018-19 by July 1.**
 - Please refer to the specific college website for details.**
 - A number of colleges require no testing
 - A listing of these colleges can be found at fairtest.org
- ▶ Register for either the SAT or ACT on line, with the testing agency
- ▶ Spring of the junior year is the time to test
- ▶ Students generally take the SAT or ACT twice
- ▶ SAT subject tests are required by FEW colleges. Take only if necessary.
- ▶ MPCPS will provide a voucher, in Spring 2018, to each junior for either one ACT (April or June) or one SAT (March or June). More specific information from MCPS will become available mid-January 2018.

Maryland College and Career Readiness and
College Completion Act of 2013 (CCRCCA)
requires that all students be assessed
for college & career readiness
in English and mathematics
by the end of grade 11.

The SAT, ACT, and Accuplacer are measures used
to determine college readiness.

Juniors who have not taken or verified registration for the SAT or
ACT by May 2018 are required to take the Accuplacer at
Winston Churchill High School in June, 2018

SAT vs. ACT

Test Schedules are found online

Except for scoring these tests will be very similar

WE RECOMMEND STUDENTS TAKE THE OPTIONAL ESSAY AT LEAST ONCE

ACT

- ▶ 3 hours, 35 min. (with writing)
- ▶ 4 sections (English, Math, Reading, Science)
- ▶ Scoring 1-36 composite based on the average scores from the 4 test sections
- ▶ Optional essay

SAT

- ▶ 3 hours, 50 min. (with essay)
- ▶ 4 sections (Reading, Writing, Math no calculator, Math with calculator)
- ▶ Scoring is out of 1600: 800 for Math, 800 for Reading and Writing
- ▶ Optional Essay

SAT/ACT TEST PREP OPTIONS

Familiarity with the test is important

- ▶ Montgomery College/Workforce Development & Continuing Education
- ▶ Group classes
- ▶ Private instruction
- ▶ MOCK tests
- ▶ Independent preparation
- ▶ On line opportunities, many are free

Things To Do In The Spring

- Register for and take the SAT I and/or ACT, consider taking at least once with writing .
- Register for SAT II if planning to apply to a highly selective private college.
- Attend the National College Fair at the Fairgrounds in April.
- Complete Student Service Learning hours by the end of the school year.
- Develop a college list.
- Follow the guidelines your counselor will give during the school day in March to discuss information about recommendations and essays.
- Students who do not take for the SAT or ACT before the end of the junior year will take the Accuplacer at school.

Things To Do In The Summer

- Have a productive summer
 - Take a class
 - Take part in a significant volunteer activity
 - Get an internship
 - Get a job
- Write your resume
- Assess the need to take additional standardized testing in the fall
- Continue college research and work to refine the list

**Let your student
take ownership of
the college search
and application
process.**

Look forward to senior year!