

College and Career Guidance Newsletter for Families from SLHS



May

FOR FAMILIES OF 11th GRADE

Narrowing Down College Options

Now is the time to follow a more specific path. Encourage your child to decide whether he or she wants to pursue full-time employment, further education or training (such as an apprenticeship, a technical school, a two-year or four-year college), or begin a military career. If students are interested in attending a military academy, they should talk to a guidance counselor about starting the application process now.

You and your child should continue gathering college information. Requesting more on a college's admission website will help your teen learn more about the college and will let the college know that your child is interested.

To narrow down college options, have your child begin by making a list of schools that meet criteria and preferences (for example, size, location, cost, academic majors, or special programs). Your child should weigh each of the factors according to their importance then develop an initial ranking of the schools on the list.

Encourage your teen to go to college fairs, attend college nights, and speak with college representatives who visit the high school. Additionally, you and your child can explore options using these online tools:

- Naviance: www.naviance.com
- Check out a College: www.checkoutacollege.com
- College Navigator: www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator
- BigFuture: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- Unigo: www.unigo.com
- College Raptor: www.collegeraptor.com
- Cappex: www.cappex.com

Source: [Petersons](#)



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Did You Know?

Young adults with a bachelor's degree earned more than **twice** as much as those without a high school diploma or GED (\$46,900 vs. \$22,900) and **57%** more than young adult high school completers (\$46,900 vs. \$30,000).

Source: The Condition of Education 2014 Report

Myth Buster

MYTH: My child can't possibly get a college scholarship because of the competition.

REALITY: Many universities offer merit scholarships based on a student's application alone. Those are generally based on overall GPA and/or SAT/ACT test scores.

There are also a lot of contests and potential awards around, but students have to seek them out. There are millions upon millions of scholarship dollars available.

First, however, students have to determine what they do well. Scholarship contests aren't just for valedictorians, but for people with particular interests and talents. The opportunities are quite diverse.

As students search, they should be sure to look in their own community. Many of them don't require much more of each student than writing an essay or giving a speech.

Upcoming Events & Announcements:

We are remote learning

for the remainder

of the school year.

We will notify you when new events are scheduled.

We miss you!

Student Checklist

- Look at some college applications and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults whom you might ask to write letters of recommendation for your college applications.
- Register to take the SAT or ACT if you haven't done so already at www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org. It is recommended that you take these once this spring and once again in the fall of your senior year.

Family Checklist

- Help your teen look at some college applications. Start thinking about all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Help your teen make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and other adults who they might ask to write letters of recommendation for their college applications.
- Help your teen register to take the SAT or ACT if you haven't done so already at www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org.



Visit readyssetgrad.org to learn more and access resources to help your child make a plan.