

Building a College List

Is your son or daughter still adding to their college list? Here are a few ideas of how to find schools that are a good fit.

- **Campus Visits** – There is no substitute for touring a college campus to learn what a student is looking for in a college or if the particular school is a good fit. We encourage visits on a weekend or day off from school. However, students can visit on a school day, so long as the JHHS Attendance office is notified in advance of the absence and you bring evidence of your campus visit back to the JHHS Attendance Office.
- **College Fairs** – Fairs are a great chance to meet admission representatives from a variety of colleges and learn about course offerings, college life, admission and financial aid. See the list of upcoming college fairs below.
- **College Representative Visits** – Admissions representatives from over 120 colleges will visit the JHHS College Career Center (CCC) this fall. Once the school year begins, a list of upcoming visits will be posted outside the CCC, in Naviance and in morning announcements. This list is updated frequently, so encourage your student to check often for schools of interest and take advantage of these great opportunities.
- **Career Exploration** – Encourage your child to explore possible careers through the District 214 Career Nights, Career Treks or internships. Contact JHHS's Career Advisor at 718-4838 for more information.
- **Naviance** – Students can use Naviance to shape their college list, searching for colleges based on career interests or specific college traits, and studying scattergrams to determine if they are likely to be admitted to a particular college.

How long a college list should your senior have? It depends! Last year the average John Hersey High School senior applied to 5 schools. BUT...if your senior is happy with schools where they are very likely to be admitted, then the final list can be shorter. The number may be higher, if your student has several reach schools, where there is a low probability of being accepted. We recommend that all students should have at least one school where they are likely to be admitted and one "financial safety" school that you know your family can afford, even if you receive no financial aid or scholarships. If your student needs help in building a balanced list, please set an appointment with the college counselor.

Fall 2017 College Fairs

"Colleges That Change Lives" College Fair

Sunday, August 27, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Lincolnshire Marriott Resort
10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire, IL

Maine Township College Fair

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Maine South High School
1111 S. Dee Road, Park Ridge, IL

Directions Special Needs College/Career Fair

Tuesday, September 26, 6 – 8:30 p.m.
Forest View Educational Center
2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL

NACAC Performing and Visual Arts Fair

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 – 9 p.m.
UIC Forum
725 W Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL

District 211 College Fair

Wednesday, October 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Palatine High School
111 North Rohlwing Road, Palatine, IL

Loyola Academy Fair

Thursday, October 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Loyola Academy
1100 Laramie Ave, Wilmette, IL

NACAC College Fairs

Saturday, October 14, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
McCormick Place
2301 South King Drive, Chicago, IL

Chicago National Portfolio Day for the Arts

Sunday, October 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
280 S. Columbus Dr., Chicago, IL

Application Procedures

The key to managing the college application process is to **start early and stay organized**. Completing applications early can give your son or daughter a better chance of being admitted, receiving scholarships, getting on campus housing, registering early for coursework, and being selected for special programs such as honors or leadership programs. The goal should be to **complete all applications by November 1st** and certainly no later than Thanksgiving.

- 1) **Get Organized!** During classroom sessions in late August, your student will be given a college organizer to list their colleges and application deadlines. This organizer will help them track the materials required as part of each application, such as application fees, transcripts, test scores, counselor or teacher recommendations. Looking at due dates helps students set goals for sending needed materials and completing applications.
- 2) **Send Application Materials:** Applications are not complete until colleges receive all required application pieces. Since requests can take time to complete at the peak of the application season, students should send materials well in advance of deadlines:
 - **Send ACT and/or SAT Scores 4-6 weeks before the deadline.** Students should carefully check the test requirements for each school and take any needed tests early this fall. Then, since JHHS can **NOT** send test scores, students should log into their ACT and SAT online accounts and send test scores directly to their colleges.
 - **At least 15 school days before the application deadline, students should request any needed transcripts.** Many applications, including the Common Application and Coalition Application, will have students request the transcripts within the online application. For those that do not, students will request transcripts through parchment.com. There is no charge to send transcripts to colleges.
 - **Request Counselor Forms or Recommendations at least 15 school days before the deadline.** Some applications require the counselor to complete a form or letter of recommendation. If required, students should finish a "Counselor Rec Survey" in Naviance to ensure the counselor has the information needed. Then, the student will request these materials through the college application.
 - **Request Teacher Recommendations at least 15 school days before the deadline.** Some colleges require one or more teacher recommendations. If required, seniors should ask the teacher in person and complete a Student Information Form so they have the information needed to write a strong letter of recommendation. Students should follow the instructions in their application to invite their teachers to upload and transmit online recommendations.
- 3) **Complete the Application.** Students will find online applications for their Colleges and universities on each college's website. Students are encouraged to use the Common Application or Coalition Applications, if these shared applications are accepted by two or more of their schools. A complete list of colleges accepting the Common Application is found at <http://www.commonapp.org/search-colleges> while the list of Coalition Application schools can be found at <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/alert.html>.
- 4) **Register with Athletic Eligibility Centers.** If your student wants to play DI or DII athletics in college, they must be cleared with the NCAA or NAIA Eligibility Centers through the online sites www.eligibilitycenter.org or www.playnaia.org. In addition to the eligibility application, your student must send transcripts and direct the ACT or SAT to send official scores to the eligibility centers in order to certify their initial eligibility.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Financial aid refers to merit and need-based monies that can be used to pay for college. There are many types of financial aid including scholarships, grants, Federal work study, and loans, which can come from the Federal or State government or private sources. Most scholarships and financial aid are competitive and require applications. Listed below are suggestions for how to apply for financial and scholarships.

Fast Facts About Financial Aid

Where do I start? The most important step in securing financial aid and scholarships is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will find this free application at www.fafsa.gov.

When should we file? This form should be completed sometime between October 1st, when the form becomes available, and mid-November. This is because financial aid funding is greatest when the application first opens. Since families will use 2016 tax information that has already been filed, you should be able to easily import the data from the IRS system or simply copy information into the FAFSA application. This process will be explained on Tuesday, September 19th at 7 p.m. during the D214 Financial Aid Night for Seniors at Rolling Meadows HS.

Who should file the FAFSA? We encourage families of seniors to fill out FAFSA, even if you do not think you will qualify for Federal aid. The FAFSA is also used by colleges and universities across the country as the starting point for determining school-specific financial aid and scholarships. It also is used to determine Federally-funded student loans and State grants.

Who should NOT file the FAFSA? Undocumented students (i.e. those in the U.S. without a proper visa) are not eligible for federal or state funding and should NOT complete the FAFSA, even those students with DACA work permits. Undocumented students may still be eligible for college and private scholarships. Refer to the JHHS College Resources web page for scholarship information for undocumented students.

How can I get help completing the FAFSA? District 214 will host a FAFSA Completion Night on October 10, 2017 in the Wheeling High School Library. Two sessions will be available by appointment, at 6.30 p.m. and 7.45 p.m.

When will I hear if my student qualifies for financial aid? Each of your student's colleges will send a Financial Aid Award letter between December and April. For help comparing different financial aid award letters, contact the college counselor.

Finding Scholarships

Step 1: Complete the FAFSA and any other required financial aid forms. Some schools require the CSS Profile at <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile> or their own Financial Aid application as a first step in qualifying for school scholarships. Check the Financial Aid website at each of your student's colleges to determine what documents are required.

Step 2: Apply for college scholarships. If a student's college requires applications for their scholarships, they will be posted on the financial aid pages of your senior's college websites. Some schools provide scholarships automatically based on grades and test scores, so no extra applications are needed.

Step 3: Apply for local scholarships. Scholarships from local businesses, charitable foundations, or individuals are announced in the JHHS morning announcements, posted on monitors throughout the school, and added to Naviance. This list includes the organization's name, a scholarship description, website address and an estimate of this year's due date. After your student has identified scholarships of interest, they can come into the College Career Center to pick up any paper applications.

Step 4: Apply for national scholarships. A list of reputable, free scholarship search engines are listed on the College Resources page of the JHHS website. These search engines will match your student's personal information to merit and need based scholarships around the country.

Final Tips:

- Pay close attention to scholarship deadlines.
- If required, students can request a transcript through Parchment at least FIFTEEN SCHOOL DAYS in advance of the deadline date.
- If recommendations are required, ask the writer at least three weeks in advance of the deadline so that they have time to write a thoughtful recommendation.

College Counseling Events for the Class of 2018

DATE	EVENT	TIME & PLACE	TARGET AUDIENCE
August			
Tuesday 22	Senior Guidance, Part 1 Seniors meet with the College Counselor to learn about the college admissions	During the school day in classroom sessions.	Students
Wednesday - Thursday 23 & 24	Senior Guidance, Part 2 Seniors meet with their counselors for college/career planning	During the school day in classroom sessions.	Students
Sunday 27	Colleges That Change Lives Liberal Arts College Fair & Info Session	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort 10 Marriott Drive, Salons A-H Lincolnshire, IL	Parents & Students
Thursday 31	JHHS Parent University The JHHS College Counselor discusses the college admissions and financial aid process with parents of seniors.	7 p.m. in the JHHS Theatre	Parents
September			
Monday 4	No School. This is a great opportunity for a campus visit. Call ahead for a tour.		Parents & Students
Wednesday 6	Career Night: Arts & Communications/ Human Services	6:30 - 9 p.m. Prospect High School	Parents & Students
Wednesday 6	Coffee with the Counselors Includes an overview of the application timetable and procedures	7:15 a.m. JHHS Titre Room	Parents
Tuesday 19	D214 Senior Financial Aid Seminar Learn how to apply, qualify for and evaluate your financial aid opportunities.	7-8:15 p.m. Rolling Meadows High School Theatre	Parents & Students
Thursday 21	No School. This is a great opportunity for a campus visit. Call ahead for a tour.		Parents & Students
Tuesday 26	Directions Special Needs College Fair Meet with specialists in learning disabilities and college admission officers to find evaluate post high school options.	6 – 8:30 p.m. Forest View Field House	Parents & Students with Special Learning Needs
Wednesday 27	D211 First Generation Symposium with Spanish Translation: For families whose parents did not complete a 4 year college degree	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Palatine High School	Parent & Students
October			
Tuesday 3	NACAC Performing & Visual Arts Fair Visual & performing arts colleges	6:30 - 9 p.m. UIC Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt, Chicago	Parents & Students interested in the arts
Wednesday 4	Career Night: Health/Natural Resources	6:30 - 9 p.m. Buffalo Grove High School	Parents & Students
Tuesday 10	FAFSA Completion Night Financial Aid experts will help you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	6:30 p.m. or 7:45 p.m. Wheeling High School Library	Parents & Students
Wednesday 11	District 211 College Fair	6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Palatine High School	Parents & Students

DATE	EVENT	TIME & PLACE	TARGET AUDIENCE
<u>October</u>			
Thursday 12	Harper College Open House	5:00 – 8 p.m. Harper College Wojcik Center	Parents & Students interested in Harper
Saturday 14	NACAC College Fair Over 400 colleges in attendance!	11 a.m. – 3 p.m. McCormick Place, Chicago	Parents & Students
Sunday 15	National Portfolio Day Art School professionals review student portfolios and talk about their programs	10 a.m. – 2 p.m. School of the Art Institute of Chicago	Parents & Students interested in the visual arts
Monday 16	No School. This is a great opportunity for a campus visit. Call ahead for a tour.		Parents & Students
Wednesday 18	Career Night: Engineering & Industrial Technology/Business & Computers	6:30 - 9 p.m. Buffalo Grove High School	Parents & Students
<u>November</u>			
Tuesday 7	Senior Guidance Counselors talk with seniors about Financial Aid/ Scholarships	During the school day	Students
Monday 20	Advising The Student Athlete Learn about college athlete recruitment, NCAA eligibility, and scholarships.	7:00 p.m. @ Forest View Educational Center Theatre	Potential college athletes & their parents
<u>January</u>			
Saturday 27	Gap Year Fair Students investigate options for a year off between high school and college	12 – 3:00 p.m. New Trier High School Winnetka Campus Cafeteria	Parents & Students
<u>April</u>			
Monday 9	Award Letter Day Compare financial aid offers and understand the financial impact of your college choice.	By appointment only Call Nancy Davis at 847-718-4846	Parents & Students
<u>May</u>			
Tuesday 1	National Decision Day Party Students should stop by the CCC to celebrate their post high school plans wearing their college colors or t-shirt.	College Career Center Periods 4, 5, 6	Students
Tuesday/ Wednesday 1 - 2	Final Senior Guidance Seniors learn about finalizing their post- high school plans, graduation, and transitioning to the next phase of life.	JHHS classrooms	Students
Friday 25	Graduation Rehearsal		Students
Sunday 27	Graduation		Parents & Students