



## College Planning Quick Tips



### Applying to College:

- **How to Apply** - Visit the College, University, or Tech School website and locate their electronic application, create an account, and then you can access the application. Most colleges require an application fee which must be paid in order to submit your application. Be sure to check their deadlines and submit all materials by the listed deadlines. Colleges may be on the Common App, which is a single application you can fill out for several colleges, and others may have their own individual applications.
- **How to order Transcripts** - This can all be done through your Xello account! You can access Xello through ClassLink. Once you are in, click on the Xello icon. Instructions on how to request your transcripts can be found on the [Senior Planning Tab](#). Here is a walkthrough with screenshots: [Requesting Transcripts through Xello](#)
- **ACT scores** - If you are applying to a 4-year college, they may require your ACT scores. When you took the ACT, you had the option of selecting a few colleges to send your scores directly to. If you are applying to one of those institutions, you do NOT need to send your scores again, as they already have them. However, if not, and they are requesting them, a COPY of your scores is included with your NRHS transcript. However if they request an OFFICIAL COPY, you must request them through ACT.org. If you do not have an account with ACT.org, go ahead and register on their site, and there will be a section to enter your ACT ID to connect your scores with your online registration. Your ACT ID can be found on your ACT results at the top. If you do not have your results, call ACT Customer Care at (319) 337-1270, and they can assist you.

*\*\*Due to COVID, some colleges are waiving the ACT requirement. However, since all Juniors did take it, there is no harm submitting them. If a college makes it optional, they will only use the score if they feel it will help your admission.*

- **College Visits** – If you have not done so already, set up a visit with the colleges you are interested in through their admissions office. To do this, visit their admissions or prospective student tab on the college website, and you may be able to set up a visit online, or you simply call the office. Many colleges also offer a virtual tour option online. This is a great place to start!

- **Letters of Recommendation** - Most colleges do not require letters of recommendation, however students may send them if they feel it could help with admission. In addition, you may need them for some scholarships. To request a letter of recommendation from your teacher, counselor, or another staff member, you can complete a [Letter of Recommendation Request Form](#) (you can make a copy of the google doc, and fill in) Give request to the teacher/staff member you are requesting a letter from, but make sure to provide at least 2 weeks for them to complete your letter.

### **Scholarships:**

- We have a NRHS scholarship program in which we coordinate and post over 130 scholarships each year. You can find Scholarships listed on the Senior Planning Tab on the School Counseling Page: [NRHS Scholarship Page](#). Scholarships will be listed as we receive them. We recommend students check it every week or two so they don't miss any opportunities!
- Check with the school(s) you will be applying to, as they usually offer scholarships specific to their school. These are usually under the college's "Financial Aid" tab.
- You can also find scholarships by searching online through scholarship search engines, such as [Fastweb.com](#), or [scholarships.com](#). More resources can be found on the [NRHS Scholarship page](#) on the right side of the screen.

### **Financial Aid:**

- Students planning on completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), can begin to do so at any point. However, colleges/universities will not review and process your financial aid application until you have been accepted at their university. So although you can start at any time, there is no penalty for focusing first on applying to school, and then starting on your FAFSA application shortly after.
  - To apply for the FAFSA, you must first request a FSA ID: [Requesting your FSA ID](#).
  - Then you can begin your application at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. This site also contains TONS of helpful information and guidance on the FAFSA process.