College Planning Night

March 9, 2023 Southern Lehigh High School

Overview

- Factors Affecting Admission
- College Search (<u>Naviance</u>, <u>Niche</u>, <u>College Board Big Future</u>)
- Utilizing the college websites
- PART 1- The Application
 - O How do I apply?
 - Common App / Coalition App / Individual College website
 - Essay Prompts
- PART 2- Standardized Tests/ Test Optional
- PART 3- Other necessary school documents
 - <u>Transcript Release Form</u>
 - Letters of Recommendation
 - Transcript OR Self-Reported Academic Record
 - School Report
- PART 4- Naviance

Factors Affecting College Admission

- TRANSCRIPT
- Grade Point Average
- Rigor of Coursework (Honors & AP Courses)
- College Entrance Tests SAT/ACT
- Essay or Writing Sample
- Counselor/Teacher Recommendation Letters
- Extracurricular Involvement (Quality vs. Quantity)
- Student's Demonstrated Interest
- Interview (if available)

College Search

- Start searching for colleges/universities you need to explore further or wish to visit to learn more
- Consider important "filters"
 - O Size, location, activities, cost, major, admissions requirements/selectivity, special programs
- Many options:
 - Naviance
 - The <u>"naviance overview video"</u> details how to use naviance to conduct a search (at the 4:00 mark)
 - Niche
 - Big Future
- Goal → Choose Colleges to further research & visit
- Narrow down until you have a list to apply to in the fall
 - Include Reach, Core & Safety Schools
 - Pro Tip: 10+ schools is A LOT (it's your time, energy, & money!)

Utilize College Websites

- University of Pittsburgh <u>Visit Options</u>
- Look at <u>Common Data Sets</u>
- Johns Hopkins <u>Essays that Worked</u>
- University of South Carolina Required HS Courses
- Penn State University <u>Self-Reported Academic Record</u>
- Penn State University <u>AP Credit Transfer</u>
- Dual Enrollment transfer policy (ex <u>Kutztown Transfer Credit Evaluation</u>)

Admissions Rep visits to SLHS

- Occur during Spartan period
- Primarily in Sept, Oct & Nov
- Students sign up to attend in Naviance
- These are often the admissions representatives who read your application!

PART 1

The Application

The Application - how do I apply?

- 1. Individual College's Website
- 2. <u>Coalition Application</u>
- 3. Common Application

NOTE: Most applications become available August 1st!

The Application- COMMON APP

- commonapp.orq
- 900 members
- Could save you time→ submit to multiple colleges
- Individual colleges may have additional writing supplements
- Common Application Requirements Grid



Common App Essay Prompts

- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe
 their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your
 story.
- 2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
- 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
- 4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
- 5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
- 6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
- 7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

The Application- COALITION APP

- www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org
- 150 members
- Allows for the individualization of application by uploading music, videos, artistic works, etc.



The Application - PRO TIPS

- Write down all usernames and passwords!
- Write down deadlines for admission & financial aid
 - Rolling Admission
 - Early Action
 - Early Decision *BINDING*
 - Regular Decision
- Use a professional email (NOT spartan docs)
 - To communicate with admissions representatives
 - To create account for application
 - To register for standardized tests

PART 2

Standardized Test Scores or Test
Optional

Standardized Tests / Test Optional

- <u>SAT</u> (collegeboard.org)
- <u>ACT</u> (act.org)
- Test Optional (<u>fairtest.orq</u>)
- Many colleges and universities have <u>test optional</u> policies for admission...CHECK WEBSITES!
 - May have additional requirements
- Some colleges accept <u>self-reported test scores</u>....CHECK WEBSITES!
- If a college requires official test scores, the student is responsible for sending those via the testing website (CollegeBoard or ACT)

Test Optional - FAQ

- Should I take the SAT/ACT?
 - Kaplan Short Quiz to help determine which test

Should I send my scores?

 Will it hurt my chances of getting in if I do not send my scores?

Upcoming Test Dates at SLHS

SAT - March 11, 2023

SAT - October 7, 2023

SAT - March 9, 2024

Digital



Reading & Writing

- 65 minute Reading section
- 35 minute Language & Writing

Math

- 55 minutes WITH calculator
- 25 minutes WITHOUT calculator

How the SAT is structured

Scale 1600 (800 Math & 800 ERW)

Cost is \$60

4 free score reports; \$12 charge for each additional school



ACT

- English (45 min): standard written English & rhetorical skills
- <u>Math</u> (60 min)
- Reading (35 min): comprehension
- <u>Science</u> (35 min): interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, & problem-solving skills
- Optional Writing (40 min)

Scale 1-36 (Each section; includes Composite)

Cost is \$66 or \$91 WITH WRITING

4 free score reports; \$16 charge for each additional school



NCAA Eligibility

- No longer requires SAT or ACT score
- Based solely on core GPA
- Look at Southern Lehigh's list of NCAA-approved courses on the <u>Eligibility Center's Website</u>
- Division I or II athletics
- Register now on <u>www.eligibilitycenter.org</u>
- More information can be found on the <u>SLSD Counseling Website</u>
- SLHS School Code: 390830

PART 3

Other Necessary School Documents

(Letters of Rec, Transcript, School Report, School Profile)

SLHS transcript release form

- Must be completed prior to having any transcripts submitted
- Only needs to be completed ONCE
- Electronically: The <u>Transcript Release Form</u> can be found on the Counseling website under College & Career Planning

Other necessary school documents - LETTERS of REC

- Do you need a letter of recommendation?
 - Check individual college website for requirements
- If yes, think about how many and who makes sense to ask?
 - Consider how well they know you, what major you are pursuing, what year you had them, etc.
- Ask in person
- Complete teacher rec questionnaire in Naviance (About Me >> Surveys)
- NOTE: Please allow minimum 3 weeks for all letters

Counselor Letter of Recommendation

- NOTE: Not all schools require counselor letters
- Ask counselor personally
- Student completes the Counselor Recommendation Questionnaire
 - About me >> Surveys
- Complete the <u>Parent Brag Sheet</u> and EMAIL to counselor
 - Parents Tab >> Parent Forms
- Allow minimum 3 weeks

Other necessary school documents - Self-Reported Academic Record (SRAR)

- Some colleges do not require an official transcript
- students submit the SRAR
- Student inputs entire academic record (transcript) into the college's application
- Your application is not complete until you do this!
- Example: <u>Penn State</u>
- NOTE: there is no need to submit a transcript request in this case until
 AFTER a student decides to attend

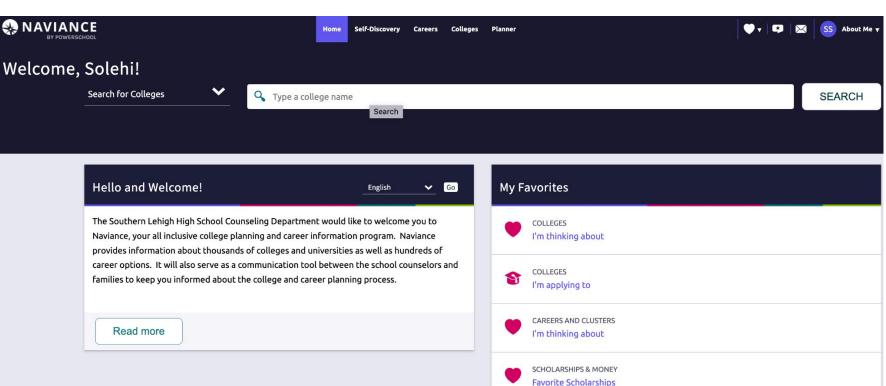
Other necessary school documents

- When you request a transcript in Naviance, the school counselor will send
 - School Profile
 - School Report
 - Letters of Rec (if applicable)
 - Transcript
- NOTE: Everything goes through NAVIANCE

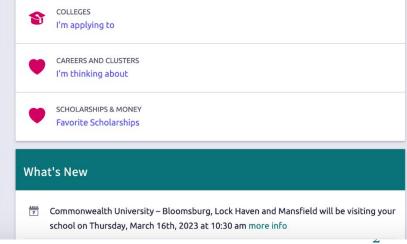
Game Plan Recap

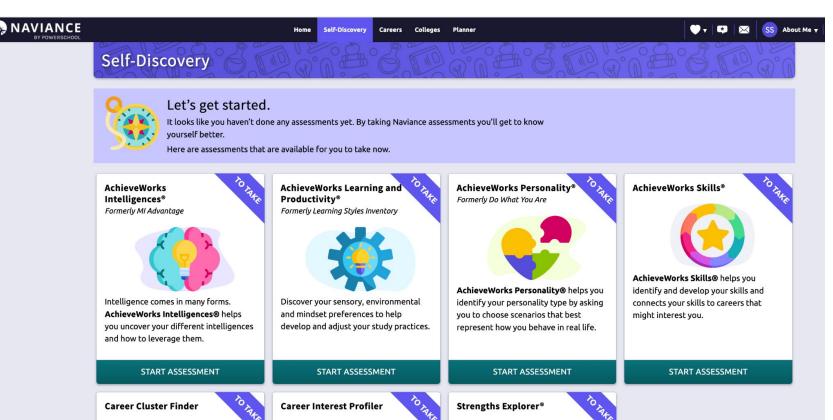
- Research & decide where you want to apply
 - Naviance Personality Profile & Career Interest Profiler to explore careers
- Visit!
- Be organized! List requirements & deadlines for each school
- Ask for letters of recommendation if applicable
- Take standardized tests if applicable
- Plan challenging & appropriate senior year schedule
- Begin applications officially August 1st
- NOTE: Refer to <u>College Application Process</u> handout (School Counseling website >> College & Career >> College)

Naviance

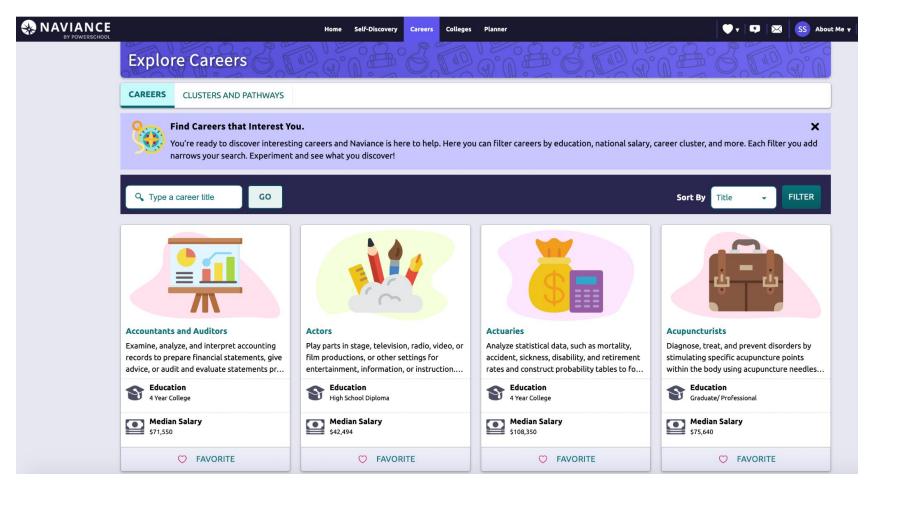


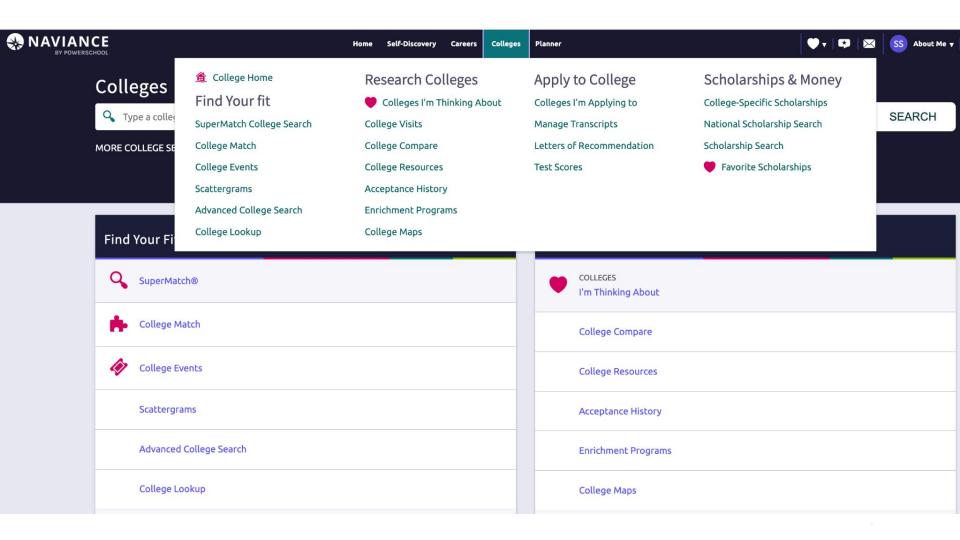


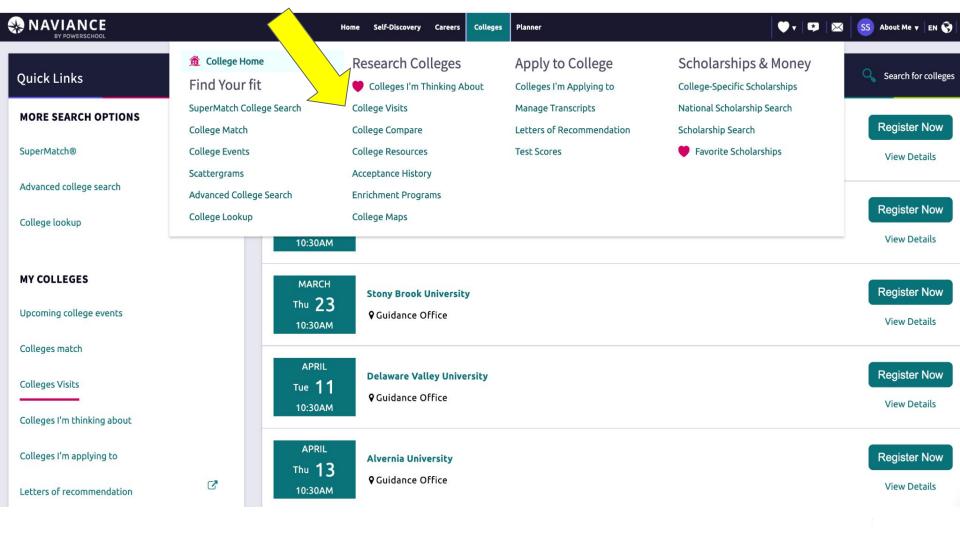


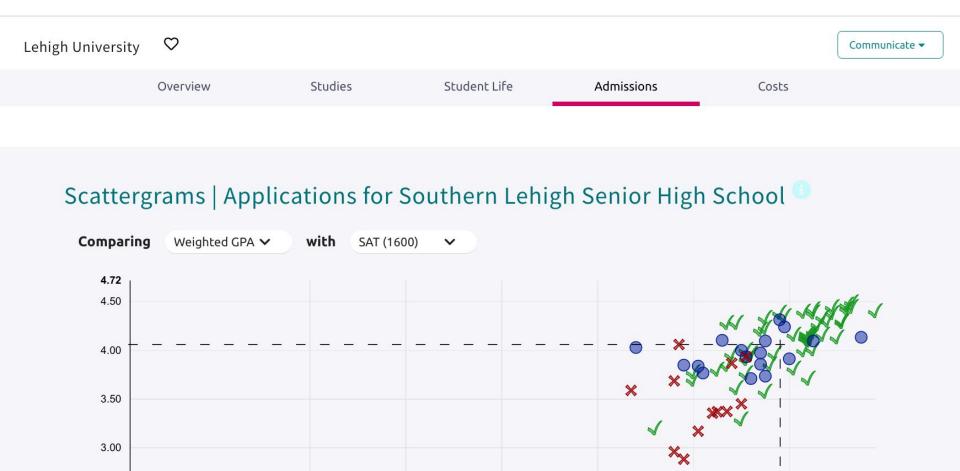




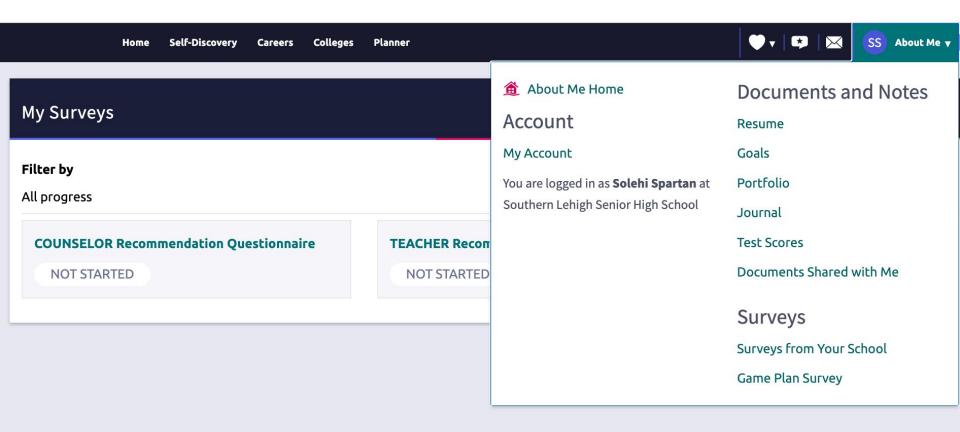








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Junior Meetings

- 30 minute meeting with student, parent/guardian(s) & school counselor
 March 20th April 21st
 - We will meet with ALL juniors (even if parent/guardian is unable to attend)
 - Review graduation credits, courses for next school year, & postsecondary plans
- Info about how to schedule appt was mailed and sent via blackboard
- Or, click HERE

Upcoming Events

- March 28: ASVAB at SLHS
- August 16: College Application Jump Start
- September 28 (tentative): College Admissions Panel @SLHS

October 5 (tentative): Financial Aid Night @ SLHS