Senior Guidelines

A. Planning for post high school

1. Research careers, majors, colleges or technical schools
   www.njnextstop.org www.collegeboard.com www.njcan.org (Career Cluster Inventory)
   www.Petersons.com https://collegeboard.roadtripnation.com/
2. Spend time with people in your potential career
   Ask questions, shadow at a job, and consider part time work or volunteering
3. Attend college fairs www.nacacnet.org (See Attached List of College Fairs)
4. Visit schools - Present a note from the school on letterhead.
5. **Review your online profile!!** Please be aware that all online activity (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram) may be viewed by colleges, military branches, and potential employers.

B. Testing HHS code: 310495

1. SAT: Register at www.collegeboard.org
   - List any potential colleges when you register so they receive your scores.
   - Admission ticket must have an uploaded photo on it and a separate and appropriate photo ID.
   - Standby, walk-ins and test center changes are no longer permitted.
2. ACT: Register at http://www.actstudent.org/ List potential colleges when you register to ensure scores are sent.
3. SAT 2 may be required by some colleges. Register at www.collegeboard.org
   - *You must list your college choices **every** time you register for an SAT or ACT test so they receive your scores.*
4. *If you are enrolled in the free or reduced lunch program you qualify for fee waivers for the SAT, ACT and for college applications. To receive fee waivers see your counselor.*

C. Applying to colleges, schools, academies:

1. Determine all deadlines and apply as early as possible.
   - Consider Early Decision and Early Action options (handout attached).
   **Some colleges receive over 17,000 applications and can only accept 1,500 students. Some colleges also stop reviewing applications before their official deadline. **
   ***- Students are responsible for applying before the deadline*.**
2. Update your resume or activities list.
3. Letters of Recommendation (LOR)
   - Provide the teachers and counselor with your resume and request LOR ***as early as possible***.
   - Follow up by writing them a thank you note and personally giving it to them.
4. Safe School: Be sure to apply to at least one safe school in terms of acceptance, finances, major.
5. Apply online through the college website, The Common App, or SendEdu.
6. The Common Application: www.commonapp.org
   - When selecting recommenders provide correct teacher and counselor email addresses.
   - Be sure to "Invite" AND "Assign" recommenders as required by Common App.
6. GPA and class rank is reconfigured at the end of 2nd marking period.
7. Submit a "College Application Form" and resume to your counselor to have your transcript and LORs sent.
   - This should be done ***well before the application deadline***.
   - "Senior Transcript Release Form" must be signed or transcripts cannot be sent.
8. It is your responsibility to check the online application for supplementary forms. ***Be sure to print all supplementary forms and fill in your personal information on the forms before submitting them to your counselor.***

9. Potential Division I or II College Student-Athletes must register with NCAA: www.ncaaeligibilitycenter.org
   It is important to review NCAA Eligibility Requirements regarding courses, GPA, and test scores: http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf
10. Military candidates: www.todaysmilitary.com
    www.goarmy.com www.airforce.com www.navy.com www.nationalguard.com
    www.marines.com www.goang.com www.usmma.edu www.gocoastguard.com
11. ACCC Jumpstart Program – Sign up with your counselor by February of senior year.
    - Complete application and provide to counselor.
    - You will have three meetings with ACCC advisors here at HHS.
      Meetings: 1. General Information 2. Placement Test 3. Scheduling

D. Financial Aid

1. Plan to attend the Annual Financial Aid Night at HHS in November.
2. Prepare to apply for federal student aid. Register for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov
   - One of your parents should also get a PIN.
3. Fill out the FAFSA4caster to get a head start at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
4. Encourage your parent/guardian(s) to complete income tax forms early.
5. Complete the **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after October 1st of your senior year.
   - Submit your FAFSA by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying at www.fafsa.ed.gov
6. Visit www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide for helpful financial aid information.
7. Some colleges also require a CSS Profile available at www.collegeboard.com
8. Stay in close contact with each college's financial aid office.

E. Scholarships

1. www.hammontonschools.org Click on Guidance then scroll down to click on Scholarships.
2. Check the HHS Career Center and listen to morning announcements.
3. Complete the Local Scholarship Form available in April in the Guidance Office.
4. Scholarship search websites:
   www.Fastweb.com www.zinch.com www.collegenet.com/mach25/app
   www.scholarships.com www.finaid.org http://go.salliemae.com/scholarship/
5. Check specific scholarships offered at your college. See college websites.
6. New Jersey Stars Program *(subject to change)* www.HESAA.org 1-800-792-8670
   - A rigorous course of study and graduate in the top 15% required to be eligible.
   - College Placement test scores required.
   - Students must be citizens and legal NJ residents for at least 12 consecutive months prior to graduation from high school.
   - Students must take at least 12 college-level credits each semester, maintain full-time status and a GPA of 3.0.
   - Apply for admission to your home county college and file a FAFSA by the state deadline.

College Application Process: Early Decision and Early Action

Typical college application processes (varies with college):

1. **Rolling Admissions** - You apply and receive an admissions decision within two to six weeks from the time you applied.
2. **Regular Admissions** - You apply by a midwinter deadline, hear from colleges in April, and make your decision and notify colleges by May 1.
3. **Early Action (EA) Application** - You submit your application in early fall (usually by November 1). The college lets you know whether or not you are accepted by January but you have the right to wait until May 1 before responding. This gives you time to compare colleges before making a decision, as **an EA application doesn't commit you to enrolling if accepted.**
4. **Early Decision (ED) Application** - You submit an application in early fall. Sometime between mid-December and early January the college notifies you whether you have been admitted, deferred to the pool of regular applicants for a spring decision, or denied admission. **This is considered binding so it's essential that you be certain about wanting to enroll at that college.** By applying under an ED plan, you make a commitment to attend that college if you are accepted, and surrender the right to wait until May 1 to make a decision. This commitment is taken very seriously and reneging on your agreement after being offered ED admission could result in other colleges refusing to admit you.

Considerations when applying early:

-If you have found your "ideal" college, an early application lets the college know of your intense desire to attend their institution.

-You are considered in a smaller pool of applicants, prior to the onslaught of spring applicants.

-You avoid the time and expense of submitting multiple applications as well as getting notified early.

-If applying under ED, you must be ready to make a binding commitment. Do not use ED if you have not yet explored all your options.

This information was taken from Susan Biemeret's article, Early Decision Explained, *Next Step Magazine*, September 2007.

2017 Spring College Fairs

Career Council College Fair
Friday, February 10th from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Location: Riverwinds Community Center, 1000 River Winds Drive, Thorofare, NJ
www.collegefair.info

FOCUS on Your Future College Fair
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 pm
Location: Camden County College, Blackwood Campus, Joseph Papiano Gymnasium
www.ccsca.org

2017 Rowan College at Gloucester County Spring Open House
Thursday, March 23rd from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Location: RCGC, Physical Education Center, 1400 Tanyard Rd, Deptford Township, NJ
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-rcgc-spring-open-house-tickets-30052628220

CASCA College Fair
Wednesday, April 5th from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Location:The Richard Stockton College of NJ, Sports Center, 101 Vera King Farris Dr, Galloway, NJ 08205

New Jersey National College Fair
Wednesday, April 26th: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 21st: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Meadowlands Exposition Center at Harmon Meadow, 355 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ
https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/new-jersey/

PACAC Main Line Regional College Fair
Monday, May 15th 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Location: Villanova University, 800 E. Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, Pennsylvania
www.pacac.org

SAT Registration

www.sat.org/register or www.collegeboard.com

Test Date	Normal Deadline	Late Registration	Online Score Release
October 1, 2016	September 1, 2016	September 20, 2016	October 27, 2016
November 5, 2016	October 7, 2016	October 25, 2016	November 29, 2016
December 3, 2016	November 3, 2016	November 22, 2016	December 23, 2016
January 21, 2017	December 21, 2016	January 10, 2017	February 23, 2017
March 11, 2017 *	February 10, 2017	February 28, 2017	April 13, 2017
May 6, 2017	April 7, 2017	April 25, 2017	June 8, 2017
June 3, 2017	May 9, 2017	May 24, 2017	July 12, 2017

* = No SAT Subject Tests

November and May Tests are administered at Hammonton High School.

SAT with Essay Fee: $57.00 SAT (no essay): $45 Late Fee: $28 Standby Fee: $46

Fee Waiver is available from your counselor if you are a free or reduced lunch student.

ACT Registration

www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 10, 2016	August 5, 2016	August 6–19, 2016
October 22, 2016	September 16, 2016	September 17–30, 2016
December 10, 2016	November 4, 2016	November 5–18, 2016
February 11, 2017	January 13, 2017	January 14–20, 2017
April 8, 2017	March 3, 2017	March 4–17, 2017
June 10, 2017	May 5, 2017	May 6–19, 2017

ACT Fee (no writing): $42.50 ACT Fee (with writing): $58.50 Late Fee: $27.50 Standby Fee: $51.00

Fee Waiver is available from your counselor if you are a free or reduced lunch student.