



Westford Academy Counseling Department

The College Application Process

September 12, 2023



AGENDA

TODAY ~ September 12th: The College Application Process

- College list & Deadlines, SAT & ACT, Senior Checklist, Rep Visits
- *Tonight's presentation for parents/caregivers is at 6:30pm in the PAC*

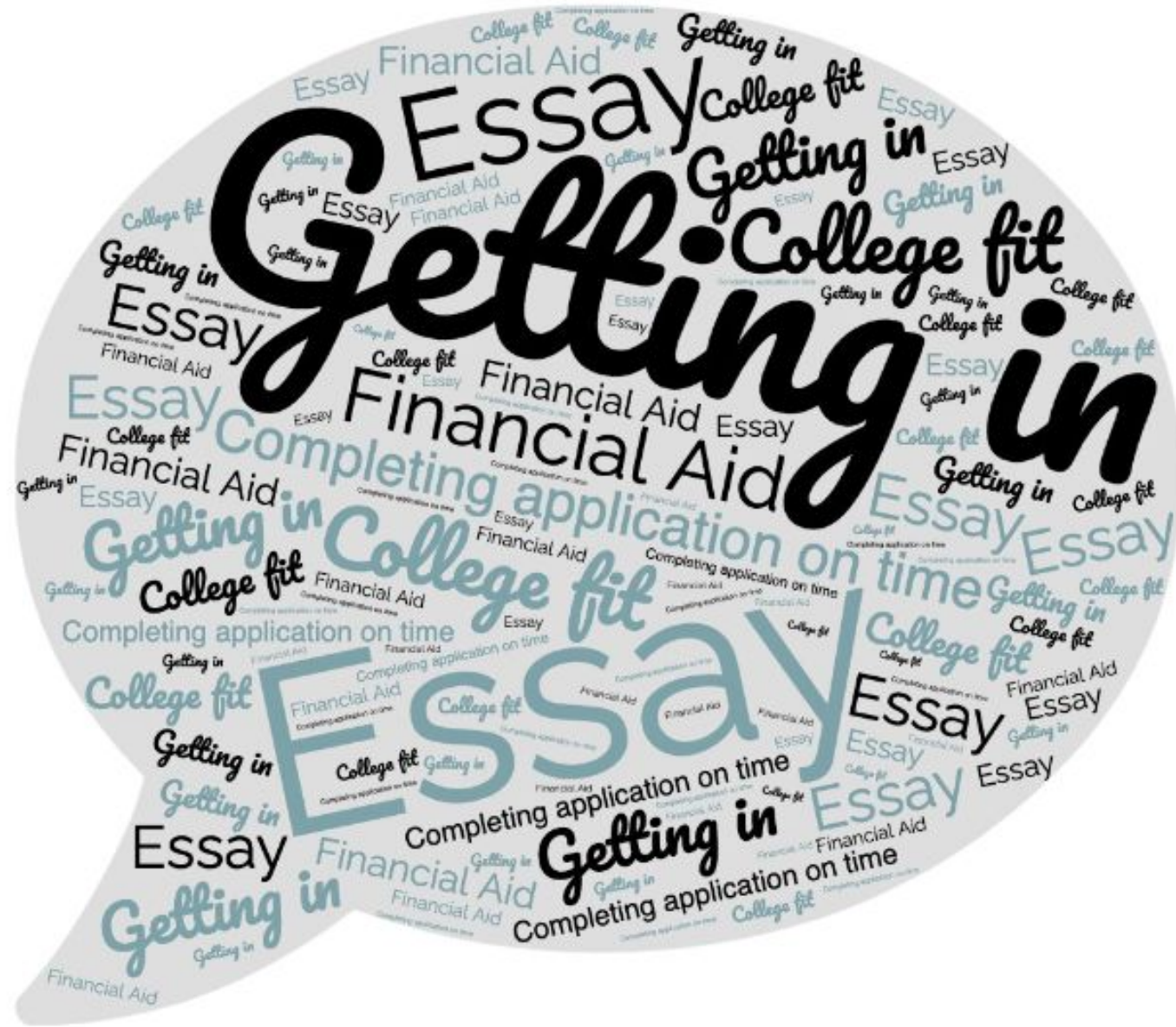
September 18th-20th:

- Senior seminar in English classes to review the CommonApp and SCOIR

October 11th:

- Financial Aid: MEFA presentation in the PAC for senior families at 6:30pm

Senior Class of 2024 Poll



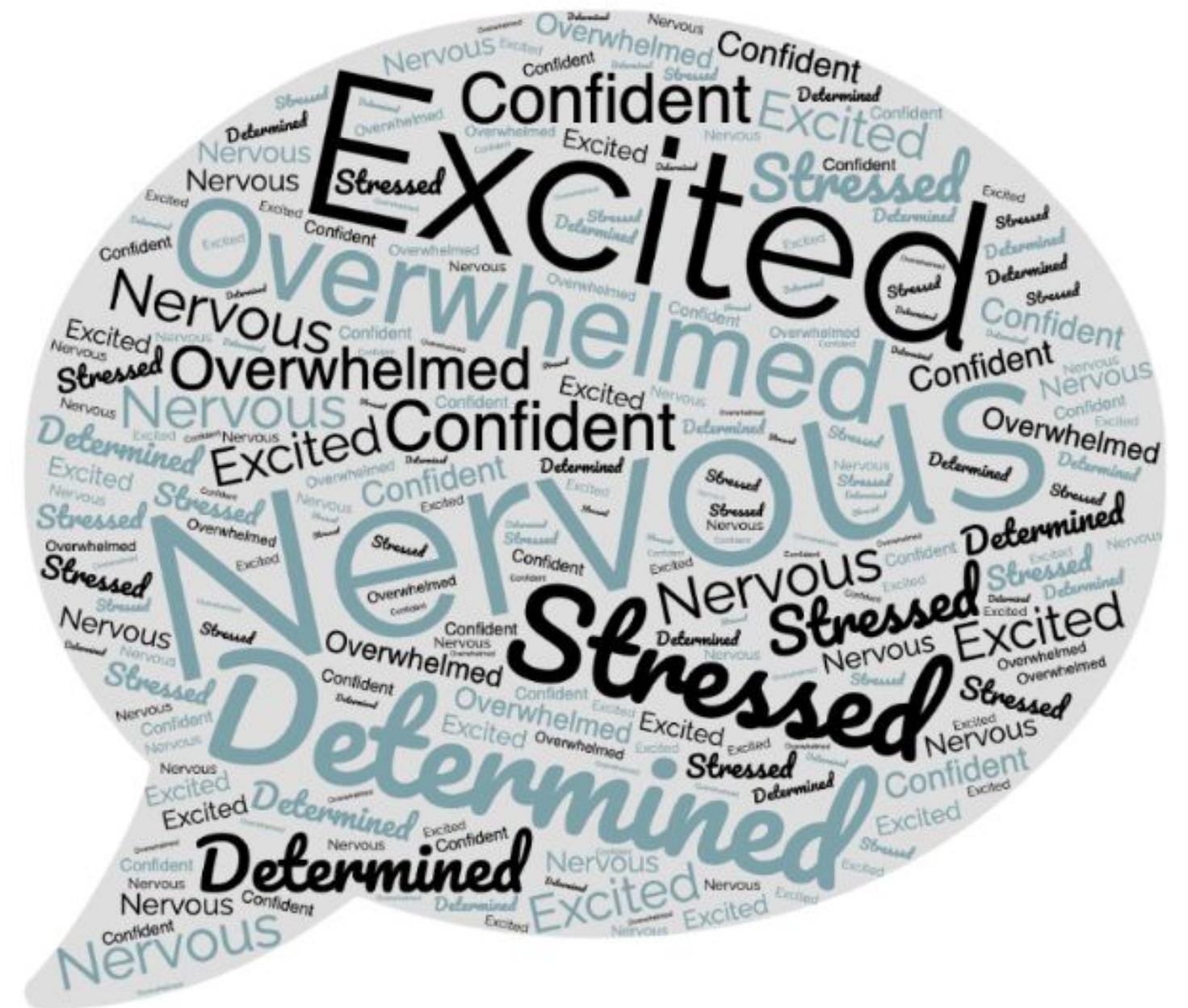
Question #1 - What part of the college search / application process are you most nervous about?

- 27% Essay
- 27% Completing application on time
- 25% Getting in
- 10% Selecting the right college - "college fit"
- 10% Financial Aid

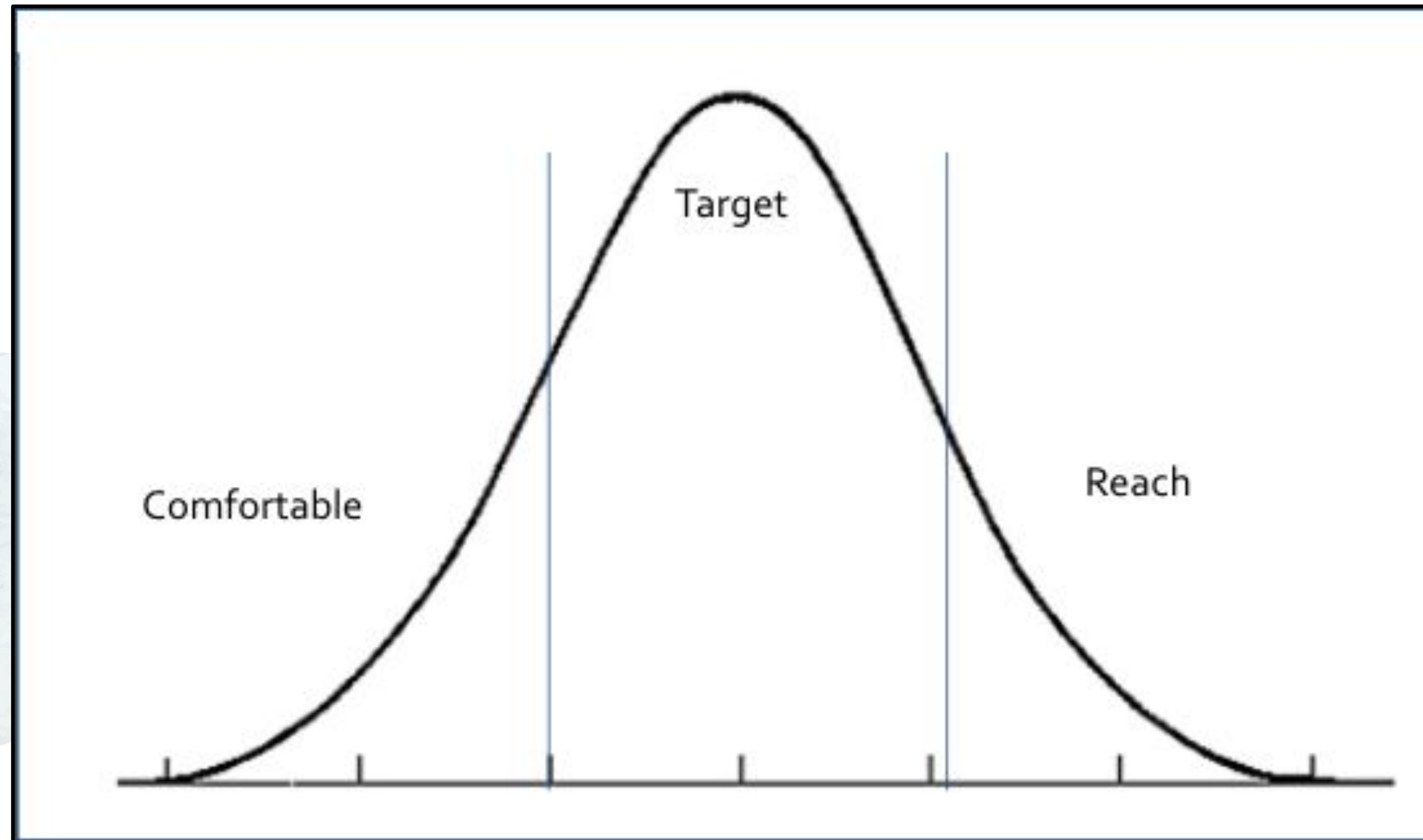
Senior Class of 2024 Poll

Question #2 - How are you feeling about the college application process overall?
(select all that apply)

- 71% Nervous
- 60% Stressed
- 59% Overwhelmed
- 47% Excited
- 26% Determined
- 20% Confident



Let's Review...The College List



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Everyone's Reach

Harvard, Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale,
Brown, Columbia, Georgetown, MIT,
Cornell, UPenn, Carnegie Mellon,
Stanford, Tufts

UVA, UC Berkeley... and others





Almost Everyone's Reach

Vanderbilt, Boston College, NYU,
Northeastern, Middlebury, Bowdoin,
Colby, University of Michigan, Georgia
Tech and others

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Application Plans & Deadlines

Early Action - (non-binding)

Oct 15- Dec 1

Early Decision - (binding)

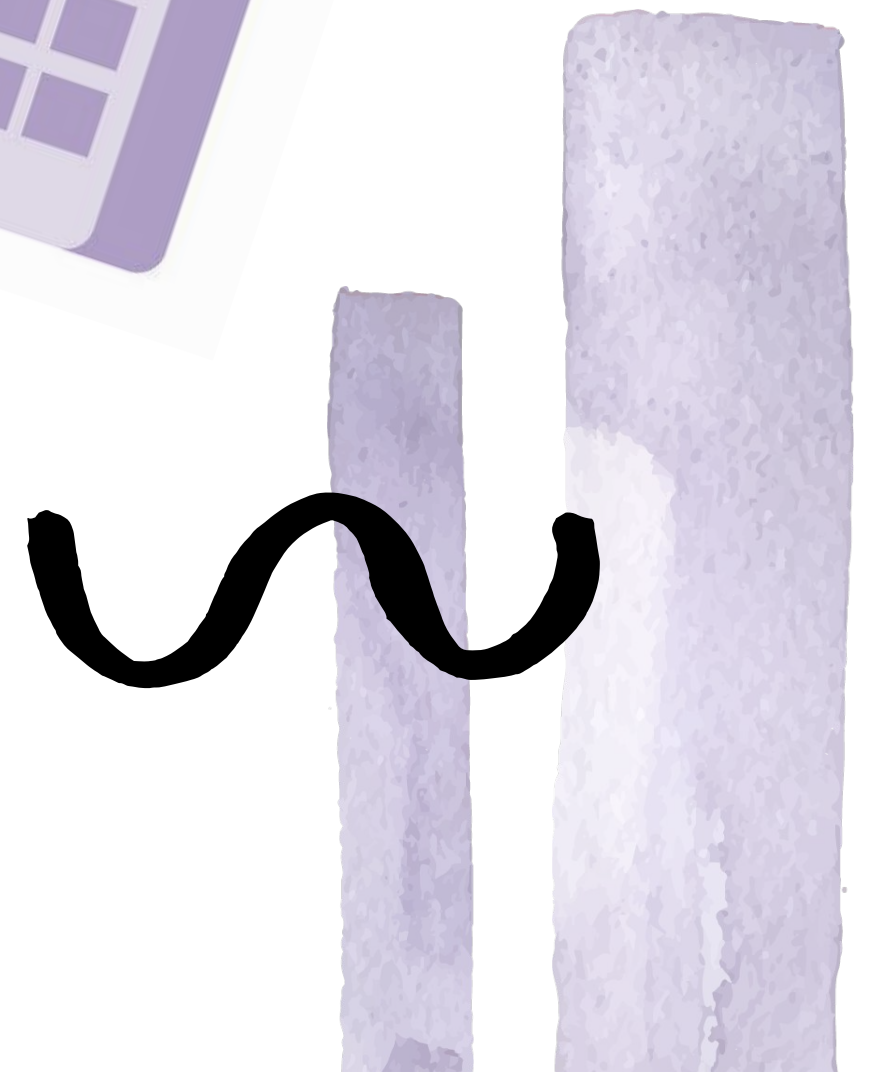
Oct 15-Nov 15

Regular Decision

Jan 1 or later

Q1 & Mid-year Grades

Rolling Admissions



Test Optional

- Huge shift over the last few years towards test optional
 - e.g. UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, Boston University, Boston College, UConn, UNH
- Approximately 80% of schools are now test optional
- Listing of all test optional schools: www.fairtest.org



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2023

SAT

Dates

October 7

- Late Registration September 26

November 4 - Register by October 5

- Late Registration October 24

December 2 - Register by November 2

- Late Registration November 21



2023 ACT Dates


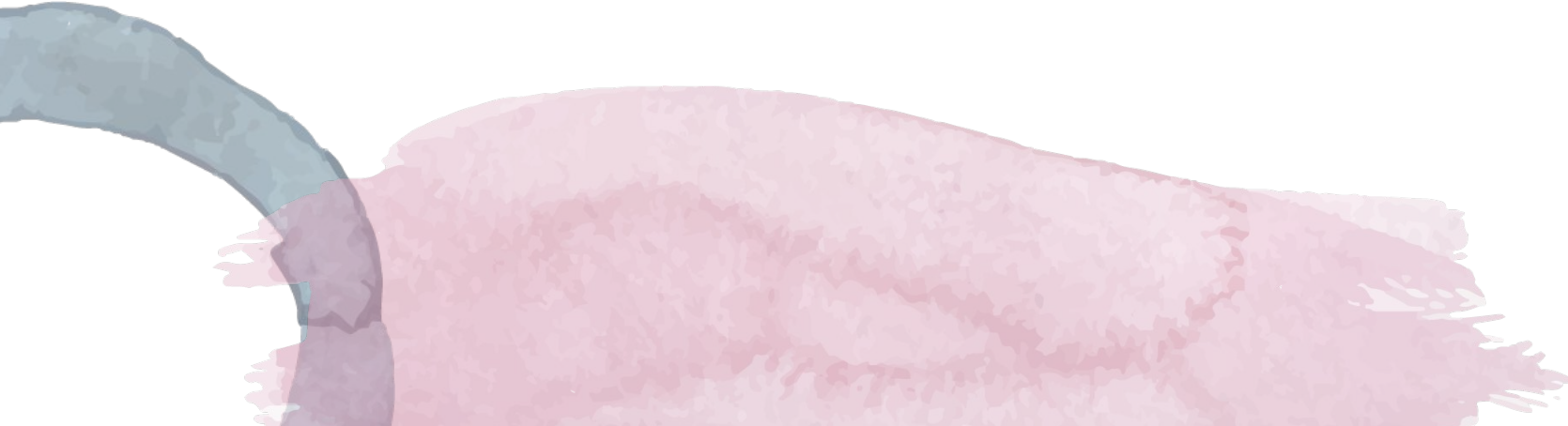

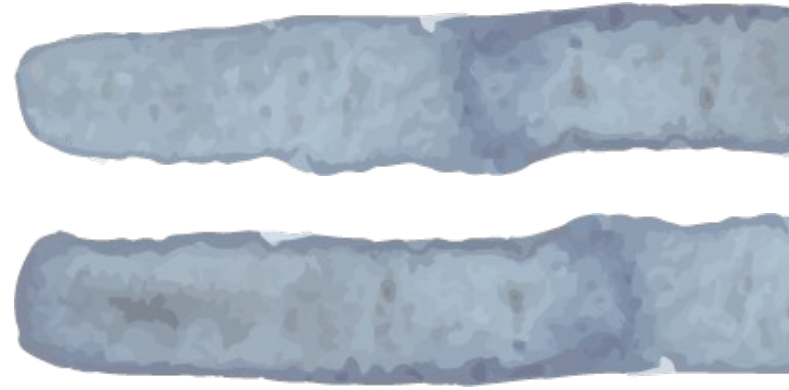

October 28th - Register by 9/22

- Late registration 10/6

December 9th - Register by 11/3

- Late registration 11/17

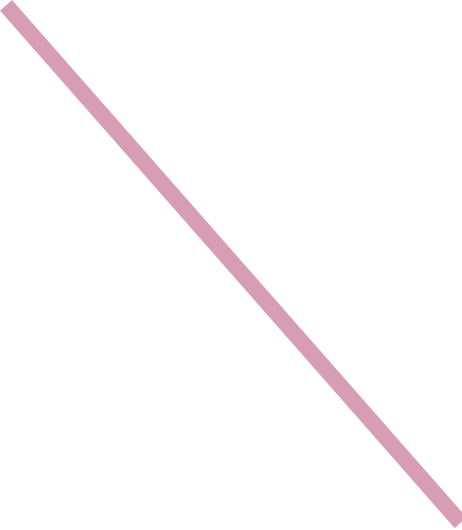
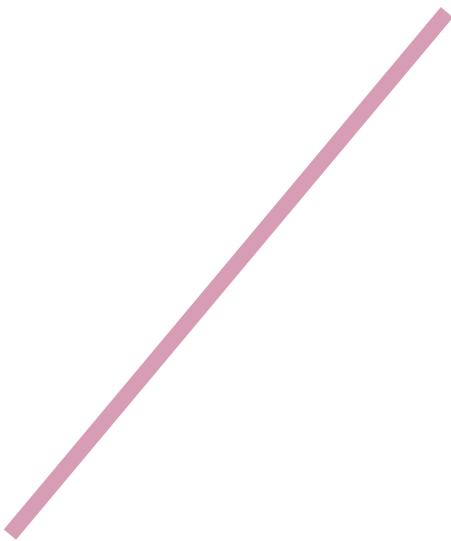




STUDENT

PARENT

COUNSELOR

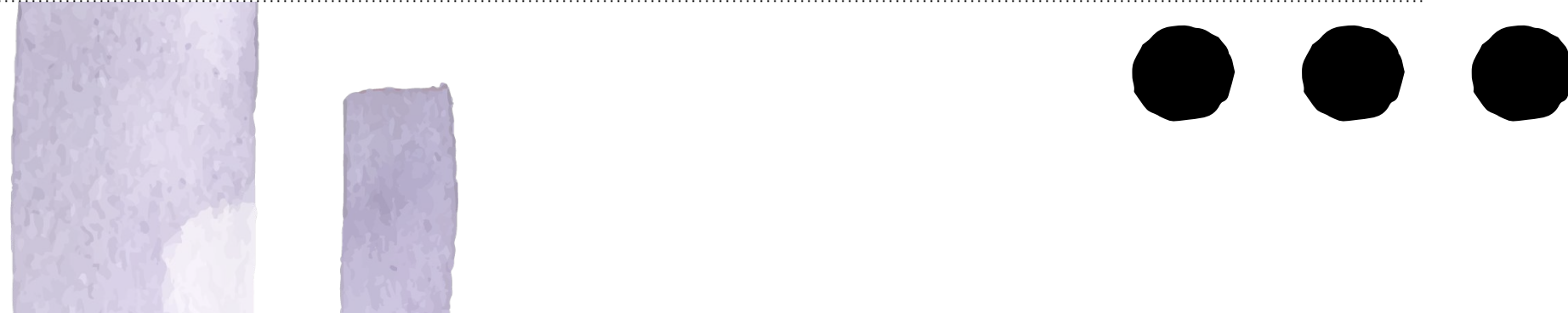


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College Rep Visits



- Rep visits will be offered on open dates from **September 18 - November 14** both in-person (during school hours) and virtually
 - All rep visits **offered virtually** will be **OUTSIDE** of the school day at either **2:00 pm, 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm** on open dates
 - You are limited to 8 visits during the school day.
 - See email and Google Classroom for more information
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Rep Visits on SCOIR

Book visits under
'upcoming events' in
SCOIR



Upcoming Events

Sep 18
Mon

College Visit
Skidmore College

8:50 AM

Sep 18
Mon

College Visit
Binghamton University

10:00 AM

Sep 18
Mon

College Visit
Purdue University (Main Campus)

11:00 AM

The background features several decorative elements: a teal line with a purple circle in the top left; a black square outline in the top left; a blue line with a pink circle and a black squiggle in the top right; a purple brushstroke with three black dots in the bottom left; and a pink brushstroke with a blue line in the bottom right.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

(to schedule meeting)



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Senior Data Sheet: MORE IS MORE!

- In Scoir
- We use this form to write your counselor statement

Moving Colleges in SCOIR

Move colleges to “applying tab” by dragging or click “add a college”

The screenshot displays the SCOIR 'My Colleges' page. At the top, there are navigation links for 'College Search', 'My Colleges' (active), and 'My Profile'. On the right, there are icons for a calendar, messages, notifications, search, and a user profile. Below the navigation bar, there are three main tabs: 'Following (8) Schools you like', 'Applying (1) Applications in Progress', and 'Applied (0) Submitted Applications'. Each tab has an 'Add a College' link. The 'Following' tab lists several colleges: Albright College, Drexel University, High Point University, Immaculata University, Pennsylvania State University (Brandy...), Washington College, and West Chester University of Pennsylvan... The 'Applying' tab shows Temple University with 'Early Action Nov 1' and 'Tasks complete 0/5'. The 'Applied' tab shows an 'Enrolling' status with 'Where are you planning to attend?' and an 'ACCEPTED' button. A vertical sidebar on the left of the 'Following' tab has a 'Not Interested' button and a 'View' button. An arrow points from the 'Add a College' link in the 'Applying' tab to the 'Add a College' link in the 'Following' tab, with the text 'Drag college box over to new column here'.

SCOIR College Search My Colleges My Profile

Application Documents sort by Deadline

Following (8) Schools you like
Add a College

Albright College Reading, PA
Drexel University Philadelphia, PA
High Point University High Point, NC
Immaculata University Immaculata, PA
Pennsylvania State University (Brandy... Media, PA
Washington College Chestertown, MD
West Chester University of Pennsylvan... West Chester, PA

Applying (1) Applications in Progress
Add a College

Temple University Philadelphia, PA
Early Action Nov 1
Tasks complete 0/5 Docs sent 0/1

Applied (0) Submitted Applications
Add a College

Enrolling
Where are you planning to attend?
ACCEPTED

Not Interested View

Drag college box over to new column here

Update Application Date & Deadline

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The screenshot shows the SCORIR application portal interface. A modal window titled "How are you applying?" is open, allowing users to update their application type and deadline. The modal includes a list of colleges on the left, a central form with buttons for "Early Action" (November 1) and "Rolling" (February 1), and a section for "Method" with buttons for "Common Application", "College Website", and "Other". A "Common ID" field is also present. A text box on the right states: "Type/timeline options are unique per college. Not all schools have the same deadlines and options." The modal has "Cancel" and "Save" buttons at the bottom right.

SCORIR

How are you applying?

This information lets your counselor know to send your transcripts and other supporting documents.

Type

Early Action
November 1

Rolling
February 1

Method

Common Application

College Website

Other

Common ID

Enter ID

Type/timeline options are unique per college. Not all schools have the same deadlines and options.

Cancel Save

Not Interested View

Albright College
Reading, PA

Drexel University
Philadelphia, PA

High Point University
High Point, NC

Immaculata University
Immaculata, PA



Pennsylvania State University
Media, PA

Temple University
Philadelphia, PA

Washington College
Chestertown, MD



Resume

- Upload to Scoir or fill out Activities & Achievements Section in Scoir
 - WA Counseling website has templates for activities and resume
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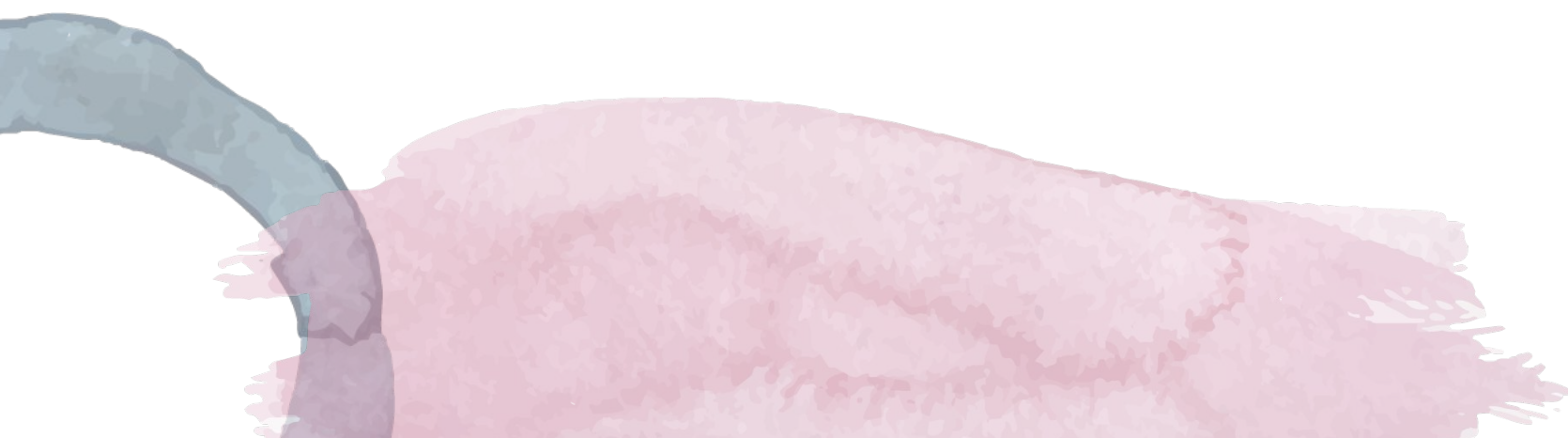


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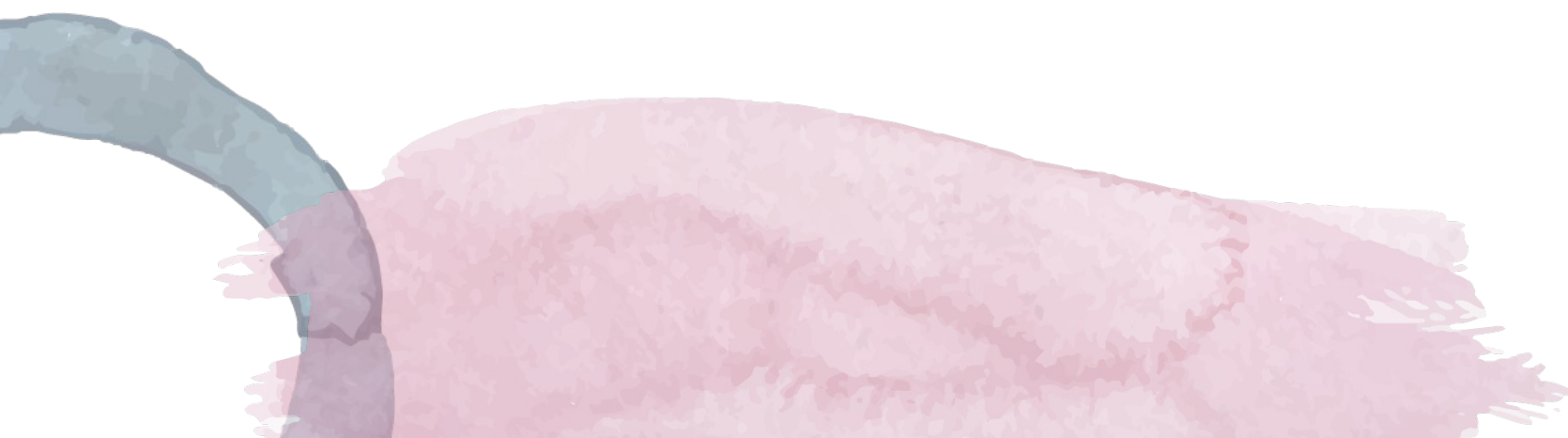
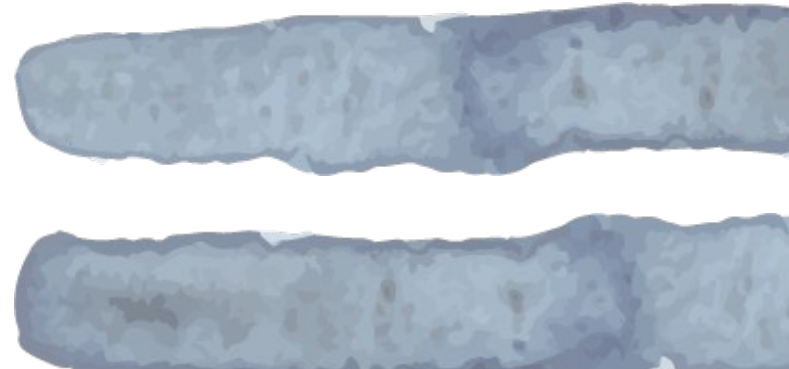



SENIOR MEETING


(Student & Counselor)



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What will we discuss...

- Application timeline
 - Review college list
 - Recommendations
 - Review transcript
 - Go over CommonApp
 - Any other questions you may have
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Recommendations

- **Re-connect** with the teacher(s) whom you asked for **letter(s) of recommendation** in the spring to be sure everything is in place that is necessary to secure your letter and let them know your earliest deadline.
 - All school records are sent through Scoir - **do not include** counselor or teacher emails in CommonApp
 - See Guide posted in Google Classroom
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WA SCHOOL RECORDS







Transcript Processing Fee & FERPA

- One-time processing fee of \$8 submitted for all applications and alumni transcripts
 - Pay through MySchoolBucks or CASH to Mrs. Vernalia.
- **We are unable to send transcripts to colleges until this fee is paid.**
- FERPA Release Authorization & Waiver Release signed in Scoir



What does WA send??






- Official Transcript with Senior Courses
 - School Profile
 - Letter(s) of recommendation
 - Counselor statement
 - Sent by college's deadline
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What the student sends...

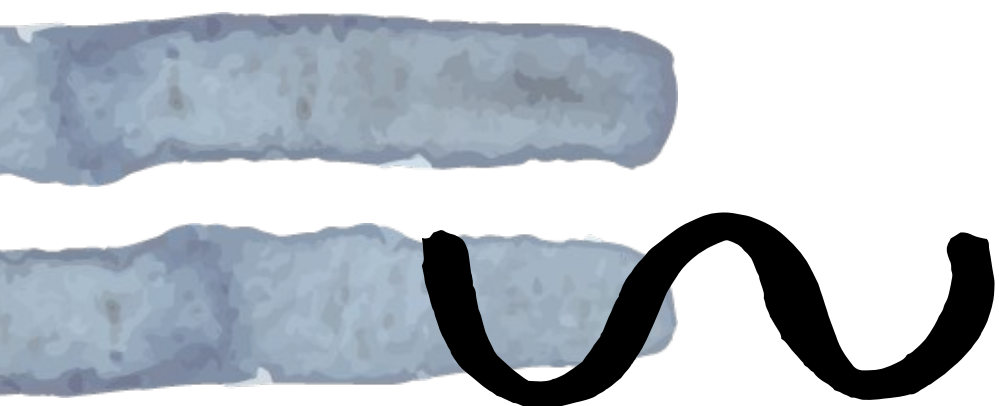
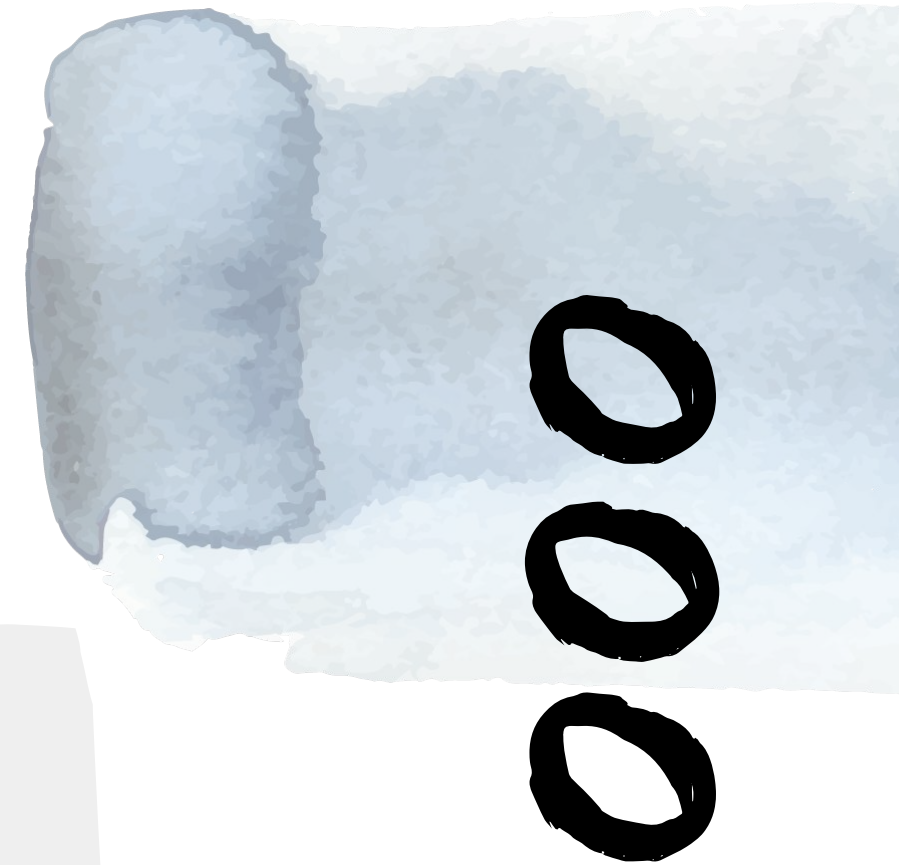


- Completed Application, including essay(s) and fees
 - If using Common App, this will also include the school specific questions
 - Official test scores to be sent to each college, if required, directly from the testing company (SAT or ACT)
 - Complete Financial Aid forms (FAFSA and/or CSS Profile)
 - with parental help!
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After you apply...

- Set up applicant portal
- Decisions - Admit, Defer, Waitlist or Deny
- Decide and deposit by May 1st



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Financial Aid Seminar

Financing Seminar hosted by MEFA/WA

- October 11 @ 6:30pm in PAC





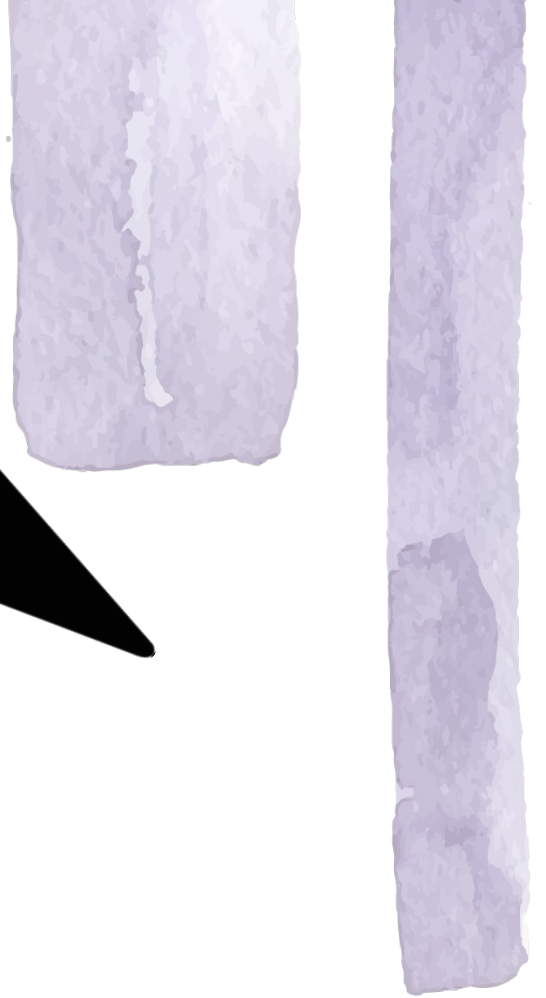
Resources



- **Monthly newsletters**
 - **Instagram: @wa_counseling**
 - **WA Website**
 - College Planning
 - Financial Aid Information
 - **SCOIR**
 - **College Essay Guy**
 - Posts on Google Classroom
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We will ALL survive this process!

It will be June before you know it!

