HELLO, SENIORS!
FTCHS College Timeline
“TRUST THE PROCESS”

July-August
- Schedule visits
- Review applications & requirements
- Update “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list in Naviance
- Finalize testing plans

September-November
- Complete profile on Naviance (LOR)
- Request Letters of Recommendation
- Register for final tests
- Final school tours

October
FAFSA Opens Oct 1

December-January
- Complete final applications
- Start seeing responses
- Look into private scholarships

February-March
- Look for admissions responses & financial aid awards
- Follow up with school admission representatives
- Continue researching scholarships

April-May
- Make final decision & commit by putting deposit money down
- Indicate decision (school) on the PHEAA State Grant application
- Update Naviance so your Final Transcripts can be sent

June
- Do your best and prepare for finals
- Make sure you update your contact information in Naviance

Junior year & the summer before senior year should be the time for researching future plans & setting goals

CONGRATS GRADS!!
Where do you start?

- FTCHS Website Counseling Page: https://hs.franklintowne.org/school_counselors
  - Future Planning Page
    - College Planning
    - Alternatives to College
    - Financial Aid
    - Scholarships
  - MS Team: Seniors 2022
  - Check out the Channels
    - Info Sessions
    - College Research and Planning
    - Career Exploration and Presentations
    - Scholarships and Financial Aid
Now What?

• Research and Create your college list
  • This should be narrowed down into 3 categories
    • Reach
    • Target
    • Safety

• Lists should be housed in Naviance
  • Naviance [https://student.naviance.com/franklintchs](https://student.naviance.com/franklintchs)
  • “Colleges I’m Thinking About List”
Applications

• Go to the School’s website and review their application page
  • How are you applying to the school? ** see next slide
  • When is the application due?
  • What is required?
    • Essay
    • Letters of Recommendation
    • Other documentation?

• Start Application
  • Complete on the school’s website
  • Common Application (only works for select schools)
  • FEE WAIVER- all 2022 Seniors are eligible for a fee waiver

• Need Help? Check out the “College Application Process “ Prezi at
  https://hs.franklintowne.org/school_counselors/future_planning2/college_planning
Types of Applications

Regular Decision: Specific school deadlines may vary. Please check the school's website or Naviance for more information.

Early Action: Student applies by early deadline and will receive notification of decision early. This is a non-binding agreement. Deadline is typically Nov 1.

Rolling Admission: Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and may not have a specific deadline. Students are notified of a decision typically 2-4 weeks after they apply.

Early Decision: This is a binding agreement. If admission is offered, students are obligated to accept and pay deposit. Deadline is typically Nov. 1.

Be sure to check the individual school’s website for the most up to date information!
Early Decision vs. Early Action vs. Regular Decision

**Early Decision**
- Apps typically due around Nov.
- Decisions sent out in Dec.

**Pros**
- An early acceptance letter means the stressful process is over sooner!
- Schools know your commitment, so your chances can be (slightly) increased.

**Cons**
- An acceptance is binding, and you must withdraw applications from other schools.
- Beware of senioritis: don’t let your grades slip just because you got in early!

**Do this if...**
- You have one dream school

**Early Action**
- Apps due sometime in fall

**Pros**
- You’ll get an early decision, but it’s not binding
- You don’t need to withdraw your other applications if you’re accepted

**Cons**
- You still have to prepare your other applications, just in case—the Regular Decision deadline falls right after decisions are mailed out.

**Do this if...**
- You love one particular school, but still want to keep your options open

**Regular Decision**
- Apps due between Jan. 1 - Feb. 1
- Decision dates vary

**Pros**
- Later deadlines mean you have longer to perfect your applications
- You aren’t committed to any school, so it’s perfect if you want to keep your options open

**Cons**
- A large, general applicant pool means stiff competition
- You won’t receive a decision until later, so you’ll be on pins and needles for longer!

**Do this if...**
- You like a lot of schools, and want to weigh all of your options
Application Myths

Getting all A's is the most important thing.
Test scores can make or break your chances of getting in.
The more clubs and activities on your resume, the better.
You should ask for a recommendation only from a teacher who gave you an A.
It's a mistake to get creative with your essay.
To make yourself memorable, you need to visit the campus.
Application is “Completed” When the School Receives all Documents

**Students Will Complete**
- Application online
- Transcript request to be sent on Naviance (only if app is completed)
- Letter of Recommendations requests (should be requested early in the school year)

*Please note: Transcripts will NOT be sent if documents are missing!*

**Counselors Will Send**
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation (when completed by teacher)
- Fee Waiver
- Secondary School Report
- Any additional information requested from school
Letters of Recommendation

• After you identify which schools you will be applying to, *RESEARCH HOW MANY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ARE REQUIRED* by each school

• Students should be requesting *NO MORE than 2 letters*
  • If additional letters of recommendation are required for your application, please speak with your counselor first

• You should be requesting letters of recommendation *before* you start your applications

• Before you send the request, please *email the teacher first* asking if they would be able to write you a letter
LOR Process

When considering requesting letters of recommendation, it is important to ask teachers/staff members that will be able to speak highly on your behalf. Remember, this is a request and teachers/staff members may decline if they feel necessary. With this in mind, it is important to note that college admission staff rely on quality not quantity. Please request one letter of recommendation only. If another letter of recommendation is required, please see your counselor.

1. Complete your Letter of Recommendation Profile on Naviance
   - Under "About Me" tab, select "My Stuff" then "My Surveys" then complete the "Letter of Recommendation Profile"

2. Verbally ask the teacher/staff member if they would be able to write a letter of recommendation for you

3. If they say yes, submit the request via Naviance.
   - Under "Colleges" select "Colleges Home", SCROLL DOWN to "Apply to Colleges" and select "Letters of Recommendation"
LOR Process

Requesting Letters of Recommendation

4. Select "Add Request" and fill out the request form. Please choose teachers/staff members carefully. In your Naviance request, explain specifically why you are asking that teacher for a letter. Why do you feel a connection, what history do you have with that teacher? This is a formal request and should be written in paragraph form. Please remember to click submit request when you are finished!

5. Follow up with teacher/staff member to confirm they have received the request and they have the information needed to write the letter (your profile is complete).

6. Allow teacher/staff member about 3 weeks to complete the letter.

7. Once the letter is complete, please thank teacher/staff member for their efforts!

Once the letters are complete, they will be uploaded via Naviance. See your counselor to ensure your letters have been uploaded. Students do not have access to view the letters but, if you would like to read your letter, please ask the teacher/staff member.
FAFSA

- Free Application for Federal Student
- Visit
  - https://hs.franklintowne.org/school_counselors/future_planning2/financial_aid
  - https://studentaid.gov/
- Application opens **October 1!**
  - You do NOT need to have your school application completed to submit your FAFSA
  - FAFSA requires tax info from 2 years ago
  - Complete FAFSA early (possibly before applications are submitted)

- Financial Aid Award Packages are typically sent out a few weeks after acceptance letters and are subject to change
  - Students and Parents can work with FA office to negotiate

- Scholarships
  - Awarded by school or private organizations
  - Students can always search
How do I request my transcripts?

- First, sign into your Naviance account from the FTCHS website: https://hs.franklintowne.org/towne_tech/digital_learning/naviance

- Please make sure that you have submitted all of your application requirements and your letters of recommendation have been uploaded into your Naviance account BEFORE you request transcripts!!
On your Naviance homepage, you can start by selecting “Colleges I’m Thinking About” from the My Favorites menu. You can also reach this list by selecting the “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list from the College dropdown menu at the top of the page.
1. Select the **box** next to the college or colleges you would like your transcripts to be sent to. If you have added to your list, you will have to add the college first and then it will appear on your list.

2. Then click on “**Move To Application List**”
You will then be prompted to answer the following:
1. Indicate your Application Deadline
2. How will you submit your application?
3. Select you have already sent your application
4. Add and Request Transcripts
Steps 2 asks you to:

1. indicate the transcripts you are requesting (initial is required, mid-year can be sent at a later date if needed. Your final transcripts will be sent after you graduate)

2. SAT/ACT scores will be on your transcript but it is best if you send them from CollegeBoard.org or ACT.org

3. Review where you are requesting your transcripts to be sent

4. Request and Finish
Once you have requested your transcripts, the College will now be added on the “Colleges I'm Applying To” list. You will be able to view the progress of your transcripts here. Please remember to give your counselors at least 2 weeks to process your transcripts!
College & Covid 19

• A lot is still changing!

• Things to Consider:
  • Majority of schools are test optional - do not require ACT/SAT
  • Admissions counselors say they will place more weight on what remains: transcripts, grades and recommendations
  • They will also consider how students handled the limitations imposed on them by the pandemic and what they learned from the experience.
  • Cancellation of most extracurricular activities and the inability of students in most cases to demonstrate interest in schools by attending college fairs or visiting schools
  • Read your emails/ stay in touch with admissions
  • Take advantage of virtual opportunities
  • Email your Counselor if you have any questions!