

# BHS SENIOR PARENT NIGHT

GUIDING YOUR CHILD IN PLANNING FOR THEIR FUTURE!

**BHS Counseling Department**  
**2023 - 2024**

# OUR PURPOSE & PROMISE

We understand what an exciting and challenging time this is for you and your child as you navigate the senior application process.

The seniors have done a great job thus far in planning for their future. Whether it be applying to college, trade school, the military, planning for the workforce, etc. – there are so many options!

Tonight we will review some of the process of applying to college, but also answer some of your lingering questions, so you can best help your child with the process of planning for after high school!

**We can do this, together! – Your BHS Counselors**

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH



# WHAT POST-SECONDARY PATH IS RIGHT FOR YOUR STUDENT?

High School

Professional School  
(Trade/Beauty, etc)

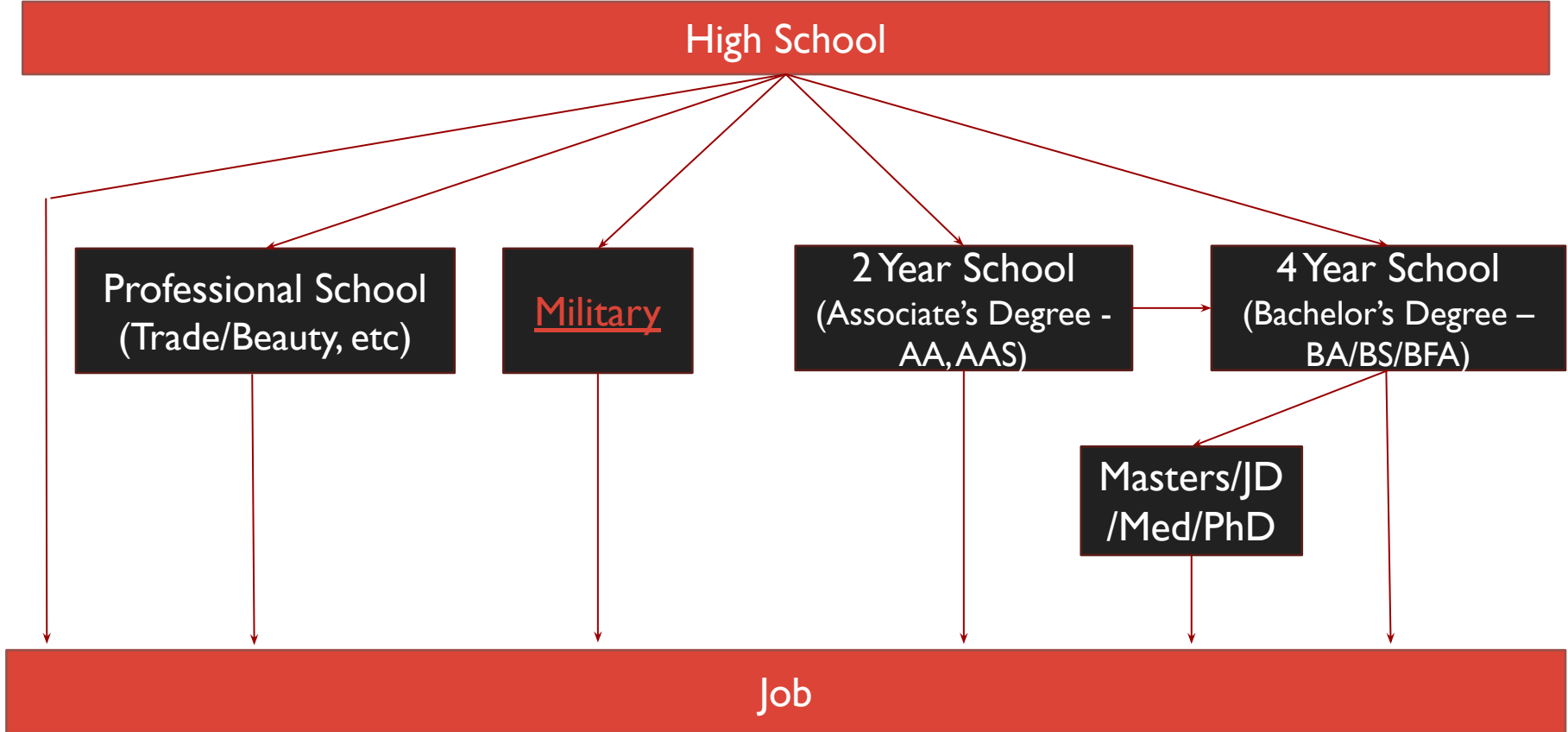
Military

2 Year School  
(Associate's Degree -  
AA, AAS)

4 Year School  
(Bachelor's Degree –  
BA/BS/BFA)

Masters/JD  
/Med/PhD

Job



# TWO YEAR VS. FOUR YEAR APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

## Two Year

- Online application
- Accuplacer (free)
  - Can use SAT scores if you have them.
- SAT scores used for course placement, but not required.
- Official high school transcript
- Some special programs (for ex. Vet Tech, Nursing) may have earlier deadlines, GPA or high school course requirements, and/or an admissions test.
- Option to transfer to a 4-Year school

## Four Year

- Application to each college (1 of 2 ways):
  - Common Application
  - School specific online application
- Application Fee (BHS student's application fee is waived!)
- Essay(s) and/or Personal Statement
- Official High School Transcript
- Letter of Recommendation from Counselor
- Letter of Recommendation from Teacher(s)
- SAT or ACT scores
- Test Optional schools
- Possible supplements/portfolio/audition for arts

# VOCATIONAL & TRADE SCHOOLS

- **Berkeley College** (*Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, Certificate*)
  - ▶ Business, Nursing, Graphic Design, Health Studies, Justice Studies
- **Lincoln Tech** (*Training Programs*)
  - ▶ Automotive, Skilled Trades, Health Sciences, Culinary, Spa & Cosmetology, Information Tech
- **Eastwick College** (*Associate's, Bachelor's, and Certificate*)
  - ▶ Culinary, Sonography, Practical Nursing, Electrician Apprenticeship, HVACR, Medical Assistant, Plumbing, IT / Network Support
- **Parisian Beauty Academy Paul Mitchell Partner School** (*Training Programs*)
  - ▶ Cosmetology & Hairstyling, Barbering, Manicuring, Skin Care, Teacher Training
- **Universal Technical Institute (UTI)** (*Training Programs*)
  - ▶ Automotive, Motorcycle, Collision Repair, Welding, Diesel, CNC Machining, Marine
- **Bergen Community College** (*Associate's and Certificate*)
  - ▶ Culinary, Exercise Science, Ground Management, Landscaping, Surgical Technology, Radiation Therapy, Computer Animation, Event Planning



# STUDENT & COUNSELOR RESPONSIBILITIES

# COUNSELOR SUPPORT & ROLE

**Your child should be in communication with their counselor with ideas for their post secondary plans. If they have not already done so, please encourage them to reach out to their counselor to set up a meeting!**

Your child's school counselor will be sending EACH college they are applying to a copy of the:

- Counselor & teacher letters of recommendation (2 teachers)
- Transcript
- School Report Form
- Bergenfield High School Profile



# YOUR CHILD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING ...

## 1. The Application

- Student must submit their application through Common App or College website. Student must then log into their SCOIR account and mark a school as “applied” after submitting their application. This must be done for each and every school.

## 2. The Application Fee (BHS student’s application fee is waived, but students need to note this on their Common/other applications)

## 3. Resume (if optional-send one!)

## 4. Student must be in communication with their counselor as they submit applications if they wish to specify which teacher letters are sent to which schools.

## 5. SAT or ACT scores - fees involved

- Scores will be sent directly by **YOUR CHILD** to each college officially through the testing service’s websites below (may require your assistance as there are fees associated with sending).

**SAT:** [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

**ACT:** [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

# WHAT IS TEST OPTIONAL?

When a school says that they are test optional, it is **YOUR** choice whether or not to send your standardized test score to a college.

If you are applying for a specific program (STEM, medical, Honors) deciding to send or withhold your scores is a strategic process)

Many colleges are now test optional. Therefore, a significant number of schools are making their admissions decisions on a holistic review.

For a complete list of schools that are test optional for the 2023-2024 application period please click [here](#).

**\*\*Please keep in mind that some scholarships or merit-based awards may still require standardized test scores.**



# FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

# FINANCIAL AID

## FAFSA (Free App. for Fed. Student Aid)

- **Determines Federal aid - Please fill out ASAP**
- Available December ?
- Fafsa.ed.gov

## CSS PROFILE (College Scholarship Service Profile)

- Determines institutional aid
- Available Oct 1
- Student.collegeboard.org/profile

## HESAA -Higher Education Student Assistance Authority

- State aid
- hesaa.org

## ★REMEMBER:

- ☐ Colleges may have their own separate financial aid application
- ☐ Financial aid deadlines may be different than application deadlines

# FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION

**BHS will be hosting HESAA representative (James T Anderson, the Financial Aid Director from Montclair State) for a Financial Aid night here at BHS on December 5th from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Many colleges offer **merit and need-based scholarships**:

- **Merit** scholarships are awarded based upon being a solid academic student by the college.
- **Need-Based** scholarship is based upon financial need from the college in addition to what a student may receive from the state.

## National Scholarships:

- [Fastweb.com](http://Fastweb.com)
- [www.goingmerry.com](http://www.goingmerry.com)
- [Bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://Bigfuture.collegeboard.org)
- [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com)
- [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- [www.scholarshipmonkey.com](http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com)
- [www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

# LOCAL & OUTSIDE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Scholarships provide financial assistance in pursuit of higher education. They typically require an application which might include an essay, transcript or recommendation letter.

There are two categories of scholarships:

1. **LOCAL scholarships are offered by Bergenfield businesses, organizations, and individuals. Donors have their own process which will be explained in more detail beginning in March.**
2. **OUTSIDE scholarships refers to any scholarship from an external organization outside of our pool of local donors, these can be found independently or emailed out from the School Counseling Department. Some sites to check out for outside scholarships are found in Naviance. Ask your counselor for more info.**

If your child has applied to an OUTSIDE scholarship and a transcript or letter of recommendation is required, have your child contact their counselor.

# NJ STARS

## What's **NJ Stars**?

The New Jersey Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship (NJ STARS) Program is an initiative created by the State of New Jersey that provides New Jersey's highest achieving students with free tuition at their home county college.

New Jersey residents, who rank in the top 15.0% of their class at the end of either junior or senior year of high school are potentially eligible for the NJ STARS Program. Students must also complete a rigorous high school course of study. For further information please visit [www.HESSA.org](http://www.HESSA.org)

**Counselor will notify student/family if they qualify.**



# VISITING COLLEGES



# COLLEGE REP VISITS @ BHS

Since mid September, BHS has been offering in person college information sessions to meet with college admissions, vocational or military representatives – get more information and ask questions! These are the reps who will read the student's application for admission!

- **TIP:** It helps to do some research online regarding the school, and have a few questions prepared for the representative.

Students have been given explicit directions on how to sign up to meet with these reps on SCOIR through their events and deadlines tab.  
If they still need help, have them email their counselor!

# COLLEGE FAIRS & TOURS

- All colleges/universities offer in-person tours as well as open house events. Visit each schools' website for details and registration.
- Seniors are permitted three excused absences for college visits. A permission slip must be filled out prior to visit and proof of visit required upon return.
- Colleges and universities continue to post links and invites to their **virtual** events on their school websites.

# SAME DAY ADMISSIONS

A select number of schools will be participating on site at BHS for same day admissions. Students have been given detailed instructions on how to view admissions requirements and sign up if they qualify. The following schools are scheduled:

- **St Thomas Aquinas - October 30, 2023**
- **Ramapo College - November 1, 2023**
- **Seton Hall University - November 3, 2023**
- **Caldwell University - November 6, 2023**
- **Fairleigh Dickinson University - November 8, 2023**
- **Montclair State University - November 13, 2023**
- **NJIT - November 15, 2023**
- **Monmouth University - November 16, 2023**
- **William Paterson University - November 20, 2023**
- **Drew University - November 21, 2023**

# SENIOR FALL COLLEGE TRIPS

New this year we are offering our students a chance to visit college/universities during the school day.

Starting in October until December.

The counseling office will be sending out dates and details of the trips via Scoir/email once dates are confirmed.

Please reach out to your child's counselor if you have any questions/concerns/suggestions.

# PLAYING SPORTS IN COLLEGE?

- Students planning to play a college sport, must notify their counselor as soon as possible.
- To ensure you are eligible for Division I or II, please apply at the NCAA Eligibility Center link below.
- Unsure if you want to be a student athlete? Click the link below for more information!

[Eligibility Center](#)

# COUNSELOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Your school counselor is here for you!

Ms. LaPorta: [llaporta@bergenfield.org](mailto:llaporta@bergenfield.org) (A - Francisco)

Mrs. Massey: [dlmassey@bergenfield.org](mailto:dlmassey@bergenfield.org) (S.Fernandez - Nasher/Payano)

Mrs. Yoskowitz: [myoskowitz@bergenfield.org](mailto:myoskowitz@bergenfield.org) (Navarro - Toribio)

Ms. Valera: [evalera@bergenfield.org](mailto:evalera@bergenfield.org) (Torres - Zaballa/ML Students)

