



Dear Rising Seniors, Class of 2020!!

There are many college selection and application steps that you can take this summer, to spread out the workload and reduce stress.

- **Summer College Readiness Workshops**
 - These workshops will occur throughout the summer and will address all of the steps in the college selection and application process. You can pick and choose and sign up through your Naviance/Family Connection account.
 - The workshop schedule is posted on the B-CC homepage and is posted in Naviance on your Home page under What's New and College Workshops.
- **Complete your B-CC self-reflection** found in your Naviance account: About Me, Surveys. Your counselor will use this information to help with the counselor letter of recommendation. It's not a formal essay but it is expected that it will shed light on what you value about yourself and wish to convey to colleges. (workshop item)
- **Counselor College Meeting**
 - Schedule a meeting with your counselor to discuss your post high school plans. These meetings can be scheduled at the end of your junior year or during the summer. Parents are welcome.
- **College List**
 - Work to finalize your list of schools. Naviance or Big Future can help.
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/how-to-finalize-your-college-list-admissions-college-application>
- **Letters of Recommendation**
 - BEFORE you leave school this year, it is important to ask TWO teachers to write a letter of recommendation for you. The process is: ask face-to-face first, then use Naviance to enter an online request. Most colleges require a counselor letter of recommendation and a teacher letter of recommendation. Many allow more, for example, another teacher or a letter from an extracurricular sponsor. The requirement is clearly stated on each school's website. This process will be covered in a workshop.
 - To receive a counselor letter of recommendation, you must complete the B-CC Self Reflection Survey found on Naviance, the About Me tab, surveys. Complete this survey before you have your Counselor College Meeting. This process will be covered in a workshop.
- **Resume**
 - You will find it very helpful to create a resume. Many colleges allow/some require you to attach a resume to your application. You can also use your resume as a collection of data to make it easier to fill out applications. You will need a resume for many scholarship applications.
 - We will have a workshop on resume writing.

- **College Essay(s)**
 - An important college process goal is to have at least one completed college essay when you return to B-CC in the fall. You can accomplish this in many ways:
 - Many 11th grade English teachers assign and support the writing of an essay at the end of junior year.
 - Ms. Mahoney is holding three four-day essay writing workshops throughout the summer. Enrollment is first come first served; you must sign up.
 - Ms. Mahoney will do the same essay motivators, twice, for the summer College Readiness Workshops. A few weeks later, these motivators will be followed up with Essay Critique sessions with B-CC English teachers.

- **The Common Application**
 - The Common Application is open for you to create an account and begin your application. If you begin before Aug 1 (which is a good idea), you might be prompted to confirm the information you entered prior to Aug. 1.
 - More than 750 colleges use the Common Application.
 - We will have a workshop on the Common Application and linking it to Naviance.

- **The Coalition Application**
 - The Coalition Application is open for you to create an account and begin your application.
 - Currently 140 schools accept the Coalition Application.
 - **The University of Maryland accepts ONLY the Coalition App.**
 - We will have a workshop on the Coalition Application and the UMD Coalition page.

- **Standardized Testing** PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES.
 - If you use the summer to prepare, the early SAT dates are August 24 (register by July 24) and October 5 (register by Sept 5).
 - The ACT will be offered on 7/13 (register by 6/14) and 9/14 (register by 8/16).
 - IMPORTANT: If you plan to apply to the University of Maryland (priority deadline Nov 1) or Early Decision or Early Action to other schools, these are the LAST testing dates that insure score delivery to the school to coincide with the application deadline.

- **Mrs. Parmelee**
 - I work during the summer in support of your college selection and application process. Call me at 240-740-0427/0420 or email me at Patricia_B_Parmelee@mcpsmd.org to make an appointment. Or take pot luck and swing by.

Best wishes to all of you for a fun and productive summer. I hope to see you.