College Applications Directions

Mrs. Fridline, Director of College Placement

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One-on-one meeting with Mrs. Fridline in Guidance Office

15-minute meeting to discuss your college applications and potential major during your PRT, study hall, or lunch period (no appointment necessary). During August, September, or October. **This meeting is required to release transcript to colleges.**

Create list or spreadsheet with the following columns:

Name of school

Early Action/Early Decision deadlines

Common App school?

Essay required?

ACT/SAT scores sent?

Letters of recommendation required?

Application Fee

Name of admissions counselor/email address

Any other columns that are helpful to you

Naviance Account

Used for college and career research, inventories, request of transcripts and letters of recommendation

https://student.naviance.com/cvcaroyals (Bookmark this page)

Username/Email: CVCA email address

Password: what you chose, reset if forgotten

Financial Aid and Scholarships

Complete the FAFSA during October. Opens October 1. www.fafsa.ed.gov

Complete applications by Early Action deadlines to be considered for university scholarships.

Use net price calculator on any college website to estimate cost of attendance.

Local scholarship list provided by Mrs. Fridline to Seniors in December.

5 Parts to a College Application:

1. Application (either through Common App or on college website)
2. ACT and/or SAT scores
3. Transcript (includes GPA)
4. Letter(s) of Recommendation (if required)
5. Essay(s) (if required)

1. Applications - use Common App or Application on College Website

Common App - www.commonapp.org - online application that allows you to apply to over 700 schools with one application. But first, make sure your colleges accept the Common App.

Application on college website - online application on the college's website. Can be found under Admissions. Usually much shorter than the Common App.

Watch deadlines! **CVCA Seniors should have all applications completed by <u>Nov 1 or Dec 1</u>.**

Early Decision - binding - you are ethically bound to attend if accepted

Early Action - non-binding - applying early means you will hear back early

Regular Decision

Apply to 2-5 colleges.

Apply to 2 schools you are very likely to be admitted, 2 that you may be admitted, and a school that would be a "reach" school for you.

2. ACT/SAT scores - request to be sent from ACT/SAT

Log into your ACT and/or SAT account to request that your test scores be sent to your colleges. If you listed your colleges when you took the tests, you <u>do not</u> need to send them again. Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies.

3. Transcripts - request by listing colleges in Naviance

Click 'Colleges' tab
Click 'Colleges I'm applying to'
Click pink + sign on right hand side of page
Type the name of the college
List type of application. Choose one of the following: <u>Early Decision</u>, <u>Early Action</u>, or <u>Regular Decision</u>
Choose how you are applying: Choose from: <u>Common App</u> or <u>Direct to Institution</u>
Check box if you have submitted your application
Click 'Add and Request Transcript'

4. Letters of Recommendation - Request teachers in Naviance
Give teachers 2-3 weeks advance notice before deadline

Ask the teacher in person and give the teacher a hard copy of your resume
Log into Naviance: https://student.naviance.com/cvcaroyals
Click 'Colleges' Home
Under 'Apply to Colleges' Click Letters of Recommendations
Click 'Add Request'
Choose a teacher from the dropdown menu
Select 'All current and future colleges'
Include a personal note to the teacher, including application deadline
Click 'Submit Request'
Send the teacher a hand-written thank you note

5. Essay(s)

Keep it simple and personal.
Straightforward and real.
Reflection and insight.
A story told by you.
Traits and characteristics about you, not your accomplishments.
<u>Why</u> does this matter to you? Which is far more important than <u>what</u> happened.
Have someone proofread your essay.
2 minute video on writing a great college essay:
http://time.com/money/4219965/write-better-college-essay/
(Points from Money.com, LinkforCounselors.com, and WOW Writing Workshop)

6. Match Naviance and Common App accounts in Naviance

(this step is only for students applying to colleges using Common App)
Create a Common App account on Common App Online: www.commonapp.org
Sign the Common App FERPA waiver on Common App Online
Log into Naviance https://student.naviance.com/cvcaroyals
Click 'Colleges' tab, 'Colleges I'm applying to'
Click 'Match Accounts'
List email address used for Common App account and birthday
Click 'Match Accounts'