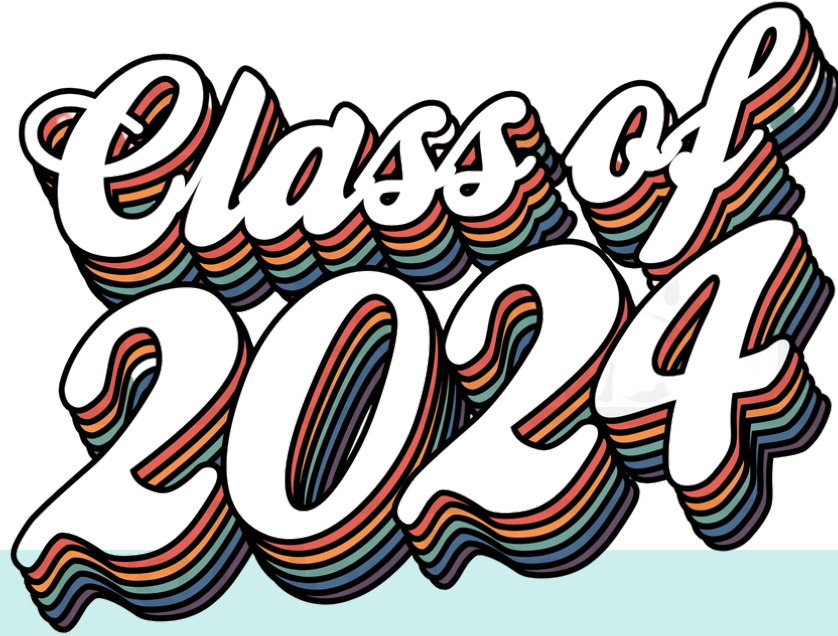


Senior Guidebook

Career Planning & College Application Guide

**For the Class of
2024**

**Wyomissing Area
Junior-Senior High School**



Welcome to Senior Year!

We are excited to partner with you during this exciting time of your life. When we met you as sophomores, we began laying the groundwork for your future planning and preparing for life after high school. As juniors, we met individually focusing on your goals after graduation and developed a To-Do list for those dreams. Now, as we embark on the start of your senior year, it is time to put the planning into ACTION.

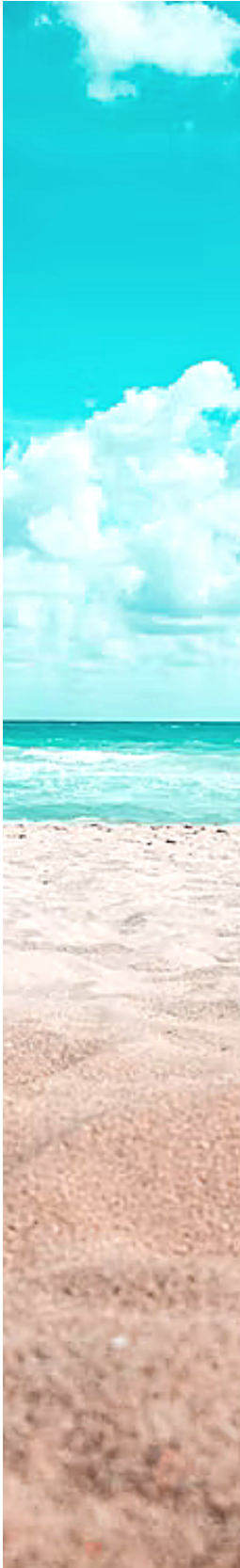
This year, we know that you will experience a full range of emotions as you prepare for the next step – happiness, sadness, excitement, uncertainty... and the list goes on. While we cannot take the emotions out of the process, we can offer support and guidance. Whether your plan is to attend a four-year college, a two-year college, a technical school, enter a trade or apprenticeship program, join the military or seek employment directly out of high school, we are here to help as you go through the decision-making process and put plans into action.

This book contains very detailed information for post-secondary planning and embodies the idea of life-long learning. We encourage you to read it thoroughly, ask questions as you have them, and to keep the lines of communication open with your school counselor and your family. Remember, the process of moving on to the next step of life requires your active participation, but we all need support and guidance when faced with big life decisions. Please reach out to us as often as needed.

Looking forward to partnering with you this year!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Mayberry
Mrs. Quinlivan

ASAP *or To Do Immediately*



Prior to the Start of the School Year

1. Return blue FERPA card (handed out in homeroom) to Mrs. Tipton. FERPA is the federal law that prevents schools from releasing a student's educational information without written permission. **TRANSCRIPTS AND LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION CANNOT BE SENT UNTIL THIS IS RECEIVED!**
2. Register for a College Application Workshop – either August 2nd or August 16th; 12:30pm–3:30pm both days – This is the best way to get started on applications and receive support with the college essay. Registered students will receive additional information through school e-mail the day before the workshop held at the JSHS. Please contact Mrs. Tipton to register. (Itipton@wyoarea.org)
3. Check senior schedule for accuracy and ensure that you will meet all graduation requirements. **ENSURING THAT GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ARE MET IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT.**
4. Return "Student Self-Evaluation" and "Parent Input Form" that were part of the Junior Conference folder. Copies of these documents can be found in the Document Resource library in Naviance in the folder entitled "Junior Conference." Please return either a picture of a hand-written form or a typed version of the form. **COUNSELOR LETTERS OF REC WILL NOT BE WRITTEN UNTIL THESE ARE RETURNED.**
5. Make sure your resume on Naviance is fully updated. If you have a resume on an external site, please forward it to your counselor and to teachers writing a letter of recommendation. You will continue to update and revise your resume during senior year, but your teachers and your counselor appreciate a complete resume.

Within the First Two Weeks of School

1. Make a Senior Conference appointment. All seniors should schedule this appt to discuss plans for education/training/military/ employment.
2. Register for College Rep visits on Naviance (plan to check weekly for an updated list).

Senior Year Timeline

Confidence is preparation. Everything else is beyond your control. ~Richard Kline

August

- Review your course schedule. Is it rigorous? Senior year is not a year to take a break.
- Continue with college visits & refine final list of colleges (4-8 schools); Is the list balanced academically and FINANCIALLY?
- Brainstorm college essay topics.
- Finalize resume on Naviance.
- August 1st - Sept. 1st - Applications open online - Begin applications.
- **STUDENTS: Attend one of our College Application Workshops. August 2th or August 16th - 12:30pm - 3:30pm -- register with ltipton@wyoarea.org**
- Register for fall SAT & ACT tests (August through December).
- **PARENTS - Attend Senior Parent Night - August 21st @ 6:00pm - JSHS Library**

September

- Schedule Senior Conference appointment.
- **Begin applications if not yet started. Know the deadlines!**
- **Touch base with teachers who are writing letters of recommendation.**
- **College representative visits begin in Counseling Office and continue through November - Sign up on Naviance to attend.**
- **Continue college visits and research (through fall).**
- **Begin looking at scholarship opportunities (Naviance).**
- **Submit Rolling Admission applications ASAP.**

October

- **PACAC College Fair @ Albright College – October 4 – 6 to 8 pm**
- *Begin filing for financial aid – FAFSA –
Opens online October 1st- Submit PHEAA
forms after filing FAFSA ???*
- *Attend Financial Aid Night at Wyomissing-
October ???*
- *FAFSA Completion Sessions at Wyomissing -
October ???*
- **Submit Rolling Admission applications by end of the month.**
- **Request official test scores sent to colleges (via College Board and ACT) if not already completed and if submitting scores.**

The FAFSA Form is being remodeled and will not be available until December 2023. We will reschedule the events and keep you posted as soon as there is more information.

November

- Early Action/Early Decision deadlines!
- **Continue applications**
- Search for scholarships

December

- Make sure all Regular Decision transcript requests are completed by mid-December.
 - **Write thank you notes to teachers who wrote letters of recommendation.**
-

January

- Regular decision deadlines!
- **Avoid senioritis! Many colleges will ask for 1st semester senior grades.**

February - April

- Continue to look for scholarships. Many scholarship applications are due during this time frame.
- **Update your counselor about college acceptances.**
- **Review Financial Aid packages sent by colleges.**

May

- May 1st- Deposit deadline at most schools!
- **Follow through with college requests to complete orientations, placement testing, and any required paperwork for Federal Loans - pay close attention to e-mails and online college portals to avoid missing deadlines.**

June

GRADUATION !! MAY 31, 2024

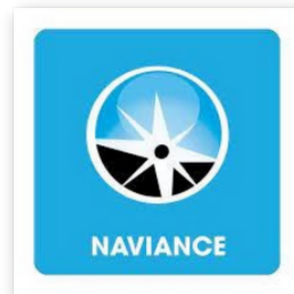
Making a Connection is Critical

Whether your goal is college, trade/technical school or the military, it is important to make a personal connection to the institution. Each year, approximately 100 representatives visit Wyomissing to meet with student applicants. Often, this representative is the person who will make a decision about your application.

Spending a class period in a small meet-and-greet allows you to make that critical connection!

Registration Steps:

- Sign into Naviance
- Navigate to the "Colleges" home page
- Scroll to find "College Visits."
- Click "Show More" to see the entire list of colleges visiting Wyomissing Area. These are updated regularly, so we recommend checking often.
- Click "Register."
- Screenshot your registration confirmation to show your teacher for that class period.



Military Information:

- If you are interested in joining the military, speak to representatives from various branches of service.
- Military recruiters visit periodically during lunch.
- Discuss your interest with your parents and other trusted adults.
- For more information, check out www.todaysmilitary.com or www.military.com or see Mrs. Tipton for recruiter info.





Employment

To meet the changing demands of labor and industry, local businesses have reached out with generous employment opportunities for high school graduates planning to enter the workforce after graduation. Last year we had more interest in new graduates than ever before, with opportunities that included full-time wages, medical benefits and advancement potential for qualified and successful candidates. In addition, companies provided certification trainings as an extra incentive.

As seniors, our students will continue to prepare for the workforce. In English classes, they'll hone and finalize the resumes they began in 10th grade. They'll work on cover letters and practice interviewing, so those job-seeking skills are polished and confident. When employers reach out, our students will be ready to put their classroom learning into practice.

[Students can access all of these employment opportunities in the Employment folder in Naviance.](#) This information is updated regularly. And as new opportunities are shared with us, we will send out information and reminders via Schoology, so please review those updates when we share them with you.

If you have any questions about these opportunities, please contact Mrs. Tipton in the Counseling Office.

The Application Process

How Do I Apply?

- **Common Application** – Group of approximately 900 colleges that all use the same application system; fill in the base part of the application & a common essay one time; Some colleges require extra pieces as well (supplements). www.commonapp.org
- **Stand Out Admissions Network** – Group of 150 colleges (some also on Common App) that use the same application system; standoutadmissions.org
- **PASSHE Application** – Common application system for the PA State System Schools (Millersville, Kutztown, Shippensburg, Bloomsburg, Edinboro, East Stroudsburg, Indiana University of PA, Clarion, Cheyney, West Chester, Lock Haven, Slippery Rock, Mansfield); passhe.edu
- **School Application** – found under the admission tab of the college website
- **VIP Application**– Often mailed or e-mailed by the college directly to you for a particular reason (visit, special demographic, etc.); often waives the application fee.

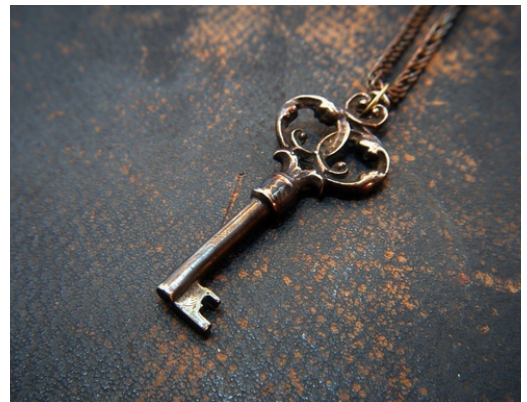


Important Info for Applications

- School Address: 630 Evans Avenue, Wyomissing, PA 19610
- High School CEEB Code: 395410
- Date of Entry (9th grade): August 2020
- Date of Graduation: May 31, 2024
- Graduating Class Size: 132 (this fluxuates)
- Counselor A-K: Bridget Mayberry, bmayberry@wyoarea.org, -x2118
- Counselor L-Z: Dana Quinlivan, dquinlivan@wyoarea.org, -x2129
- GPA Scale: 4.0 (weighted)
- Course Scheduling System: Semester
- Course credit Value
 - Full-year course = 1.0
 - Semester course = .5
 - Quarter course = .25

The Four Components of a **COLLEGE APPLICATION**

1. **STUDENT APPLICATION** - includes application and essay (or personal statement) and supplements (additional essays, short answer questions, etc.)
2. **STANDARDIZED TESTING** - if required by the college or if choosing to submit scores.
3. **TRANSCRIPT AND COUNSELOR DOCUMENTS** - this includes counselor forms and letters of recommendation)
4. **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM TEACHERS**



Communication is Key

Counselors and teachers do not know where to send transcripts and letters of recommendation without the student communicating that information.

Please note that Naviance does not notify the counselor or the teachers when a student adds a school - *the student must communicate that information to the teacher and counselor in a timely manner via e-mail.*

Students are responsible for initiating all required application components.

Student Application

- 1.** Create accounts on commonapp.org or specific school websites. In Naviance, use the “Colleges I’m Thinking About List” or “Colleges I’m Applying to” to help organize the type of application. See “Requesting Counselor Letters” in this packet for more information about these lists.
 - 2.** Some colleges give the option of choosing between different application platforms. When given the choice, choose Common App.
EXCEPTION: For Pitt and Penn State, we recommend using the Penn State or Pitt app directly.
 - 3.** Work with your English teacher on essay, personal statement, and/or supplements.
 - 4.** Fee Waivers: Students who qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch should speak with their counselor about waiving application & testing fees.
 - 5.** Most applications require you to list senior year courses.
 - 6.** E-mail Mrs. Tipton (ltipton@wyoarea.org) for a copy of your transcript. You will need to answer questions about your GPA and rank.
 - 7.** A change made to senior year courses requires resending a transcript with a student’s written explanation of change. Acceptance to a college is conditional; colleges can/will reverse decisions for unsatisfactory grades or changes in courses.
 - 8.** Work with your English teacher on essay, personal statement, and/or supplements.
-

Choosing A Deadline: *When Should I Apply?*

1

Rolling Admission

No deadline so the earlier the better; applications open between August 1st – September 1st; Applicants are notified within 4–6 weeks of acceptance.
** Note that most schools do not notify students prior to mid-October.

8

Early Action

Definitive deadline usually between November 1st – November 15th (some colleges use October 15th and others are as late as December 1st so always check the specific college); no advantage for early submission; non-binding; decisions released mid-December

15

Early Decision

Definitive deadline usually between November 1st – November 15th (*again always check the specific school*) No advantage for early submission; decisions released mid-December.

** BINDING – If accepted, you must attend!

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Regular Decision

Definite deadline between January 1st – February 1st (*deadlines can vary by a month to six weeks – always check the specific school*); no advantage for applying early; will hear of acceptance in mid-late March.

Priority

Typically, rolling admission schools guarantee a response by a certain date if received by a certain date; often exists at large, public, rolling admission schools.

Restrictive Early Action

Usually offered by a private college that only allows you to apply early action to one private college; Students can still apply early action to public colleges and rolling admissions schools.

May 1st = DEPOSIT DEADLINE

At Most Colleges & Universities

**Sometimes colleges have other deadlines if you're applying for
SCHOLARSHIP MONEY**

DO YOUR RESEARCH!

Standardized Testing

1. Please note that many colleges have decided to allow students to apply *without* standardized test scores due to the pandemic.
2. Some colleges are still requiring scores for merit and scholarship money purposes or more selective majors/programs. Always consult the admission page for each specific college and /or your major or college.
3. All students have a COLLEGE BOARD account set-up in 10th grade English class. PLEASE do not make a duplicate account. If you do not remember your username or password, please contact Mrs. Tipton (lтиpton@wyoarea.org).



Students qualifying for free or reduced lunch or for whom the test fees would be a hardship should contact their school counselor.

Students who qualify for a fee waiver may contact Mrs. Tipton: (lтиpton@wyoarea.org)

Registering for Standardized Testing

SAT Fall Test Dates & Deadlines

- August 26, 2023 - Register by July 28 - Late Reg: August 15
- October 7, 2023 - Register By Sept 8 - Late Reg: Sept 26
- November 4, 2023 - Register by Oct 6 - Late Reg: Oct 24
- December 2, 2023 - Register by Nov 3 - Late Reg: Nov 21

Register online at collegeboard.org

ACT Fall Test Dates & Deadlines

- September 9, 2023 - Register by Aug 4 - Late Reg: August 18
- October 28, 2023 - Register By Sept 22 - Late Reg: October 6
- December 9, 2023 - Register by Nov 3 - Late Reg: Nov 17

Register online at act.org

Submitting Scores

- Colleges require that students submit test scores DIRECTLY from collegeboard.org or act.org
- **Wyomissing does not include test scores on transcripts.**
- Colleges prefer to see the whole score history rather than the score from one test day.
- There may be a FEE attached to sending scores. If you qualify for free or reduced lunch and/or the fee is a hardship, please see your counselor.
- Please allow 2-3 weeks for colleges to receive scores. This means that scores for Early Action/Decision needs to be requested by mid-October. You can request that scores be sent prior to the release date for October tests.

Requesting Letters of Recommendation

The ASK: Initial requests should have been made in person at the end of your junior year. If you did not do so, please see the teacher in person as soon as the school year begins.

Your RESUME

- Complete your resume on Naviance. Teachers require your resume and some ask for additional questionnaires. Please be courteous and professional by returning these promptly to teachers.

Being Courteous

- A teacher's primary responsibility is teaching. Give teachers 3-4 weeks' notice prior to an application's deadline. Teachers often complete letters on their own time. Letters will not be sent prior to the end of the second week of school. This allows teachers to focus on starting the school year.

Inviting Teachers on Naviance

- Go to the "Colleges" tab, and in the "Apply to College" box, click "Letters of Recommendation."
- Click "Add Request".
- Select the teacher you are asking. Select "Choose Specific Colleges." Pay close attention to how many letters of recommendation a school will accept when making the teacher requests. Write a note to the teacher including your NAME and thanking them for their time and for writing this letter.
- Follow-up by email with the teacher after the Naviance request - you want to make sure he/she has received it and knows where and by when to send the letters.

Requesting Transcripts and Counselor Documents

1. All transcript/counselor letter requests must be made at least three weeks prior the application deadline. More advance notice is preferable during peak application time (September-December). YOU MUST FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE REQUEST PROCESS EVEN IF YOUR COLLEGE HAS A SELF-REPORTED TRANSCRIPT MODEL (EXAMPLE - PITT AND PENN STATE). ALL COLLEGES TO WHICH YOU APPLY MUST BE LISTED IN NAVIANCE USING THE STEPS BELOW.

2. Most colleges require that counselors submit letters of recommendation and evaluation forms. Please note that counselors will not submit letters until students have returned the "Student Self-Evaluation" and the "Parent Input Questionnaire" that were part of the Junior Conference folder. Copies can be found in the Document Resource section of Naviance. Forms may be handwritten or typed.



The transcript request is not finished until ALL of the following steps have been completed.




- 1.** On the “Colleges I’m Thinking About” page, check all of the schools to which you are applying and click “Move to Application List.” If you did not put schools in this list prior, please do so now.
- 2.** Make sure to select the correct deadline and application type for each school (Early Action, Regular Decision, Rolling, etc.)
 - Type of application: Common App or Direct to Institution (for any school that does not use Common App or for which you are not applying via Common App)
 - Suggestion: Group as many schools as possible into the Common App
 - Suggestion: For Pitt and Penn State, even though Common App is an option, we recommend applying Direct to Institution through the Penn State and Pitt websites. This helps you avoid unnecessary steps later.
- 3.** Click “Add and Request Transcripts”. Select “Initial Transcript”
If applying to schools via Common App: On the “Colleges I’m Applying to” page, click “Match Accounts.” Please note you must first sign the FERPA waiver in the Common App prior to being able to match. For help with matching, please link to the video entitled “Matching Common App” on the bottom of the Naviance Homepage. **IGNORE THIS STEP IF YOU HAVE NO COMMON APP SCHOOLS.**
- 4.** THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP: Come to the Counseling Office to complete the transcript request card. In person completion of this card triggers the internal processes in the Counseling Office. Transcripts and Counselor Documents will not be sent if you fail to complete this step.

THESE STEPS ARE REQUIRED EVERY TIME YOU ADD A SCHOOL TO NAVIANCE. NAVIANCE DOES NOT UPDATE COUNSELORS WHEN NEW SCHOOLS ARE ADDED.

THE ABOVE STEPS MUST BE FOLLOWED EXACTLY TO ENSURE THAT YOUR DOCUMENTS ARE SENT ON TIME. MISSING ANY OF THE ABOVE STEPS WILL DELAY MATERIALS LEAVING OUR OFFICE.

This is how the "Colleges I'm Applying To" page should look:

+ = extended profile available + REQUEST TRANSCRIPTS REMOVE

College	Type	Deadline	Transcripts	Office materials	Submission Type	Application
<input type="checkbox"/> + Duquesne University	RD	Regular Decision 1	December requested	Pending		Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> EDIT MORE
<input type="checkbox"/> Lehigh University	ED	Early Decision 1	November requested	Pending		Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> EDIT MORE
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Maryland-College Park	EA	Early Action 1	November requested	Pending		Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> EDIT MORE

Submission Type Explanation:

CA with line through it means it's a Common App school, but you are not using Common App (direct to institution). see *Duquesne University* above

Computer Screen with a CA in the middle means you are using Common App. (*Lehigh*)

Computer Screen that is blank means it is not a Common App school (direct to institution).

Postage Stamp means the school does not receive electronic transcript, so we will mail documents.



College Athletics

- Students planning to participate in a Division I or Division II sport at the post-secondary level should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse – ncaaclearinghouse.org
- Please request an initial transcript through Naviance under “Colleges I’m Applying To” and e-mail Mrs. Tipton to notify her just as you would with transcripts for a college.
- Send SAT or ACT test scores directly to the NCAA Clearinghouse. NCAA does not accept test scores from Wyomissing Area.



HOW WILL I PAY?

A BRIEF BREAKDOWN OF FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships

- **Do not need to be paid back.**
- Private – WAEF; Community Scholarships; Fastweb.com; scholarship search on Naviance – requires student to do research and complete scholarship applications
- Merit Scholarships – offered by colleges for students meeting certain academic requirements (usually GPA and test scores); typically, no application process needed – student automatically qualifies if he/she meets the requirements
- Performance Based – athletic, performing arts, etc.
- Please consult the scholarship listing in Naviance often (under the Colleges tab). Scholarships trickle in slowly in early fall but by mid-fall, there are many scholarship opportunities listed. Scholarship deadlines are firm and are the responsibility of the student to seek.

THE BULK OF SCHOLARSHIPS BECOME AVAILABLE FOR APPLICATION BETWEEN OCTOBER-MARCH OF SENIOR YEAR.

FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Parents & students must file application on fafsa.ed.gov beginning October 1st, the academic year *prior* to enrollment; must be refiled yearly.

Types of aid that students/families can receive:

- Grants – money given to families (typically based on need or some special skill/characteristic); do not need to be repaid.
- Work-Study – part-time employment on campus for student as a way of earning money to pay for college costs.
- Loans – All students can qualify for a Federal Student Loan regardless of parental income; repayment typically starts 6 months after leaving college.
 - a. Subsidized Loan – government pays interest on loan while student is enrolled in school (need-based)
 - b. Unsubsidized Loan – student is responsible for interest on loan even while enrolled in school
 - c. In the 2021-2022 school year, students qualified for the following amount of loan money:
 - Freshman Year – \$5,500
 - Sophomore Year – \$6,500
 - Junior Year and beyond – \$7,500

HOW WILL I PAY?

CONTINUED ...

PHEAA – Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency

- **PHEAA** awards grant money to PA residents for attending PA schools (or a school in a reciprocal state) – need-based
- Complete after filing the FAFSA application -- May 1st- deadline to apply

Private Loans, etc.

- Need to be researched by the family/student; banks, credit unions, etc.

Please note that some schools – particularly private schools – require completion of the CSS profile (<https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>) in addition to the FAFSA in order to get a complete financial picture.

**MRS. MAYBERRY AND MRS. QUINLIVAN ENCOURAGE YOU TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE
FINANCIAL AID OFFICE
AT YOUR INTENDED SCHOOL FOR SPECIFIC FINANCIAL AID QUESTIONS.**

Upcoming Events

Please Plan To Attend

Event	Date	Time	Location	Who Should Attend
College Application Workshop #1	August 2	12:30 pm to 3:30 pm	JSHS	Seniors
College Application Workshop #2	August 16	12:30 pm to 3:30 pm	JSHS	Seniors
Senior Parent Night	August 21	6:00 - 7:30 pm	JSHS Library	Parents & Guardians only
Senior Class Assembly	September 6	1:10 pm to 1:51	JSHS	Seniors
PACAC College Fair @ Albright	October 4	6 - 8 pm	Albright	Student & Parents
Financial Aid Night	TBD	See explanation below		Student & Parents
FAFSA Completion Session	TBD	The FAFSA Form is being remodeled and will not be available until December 2023. We will reschedule as soon as there is more information.		Student & Parents Students can do this alone with a signed parent permission form, parents' SSNs, and parents' prior year's completed tax forms.

To Register for College Application Workshops:

- Email Mrs. Tipton at ltipton@wyoarea.org

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

Common Application – <https://www.commonapp.org/>

Coalition Application – <https://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>

PA State System of Higher Education – <https://www.passhe.edu/students/Pages/explore.aspx>

College Board (SAT Registration) – <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

ACT (ACT Registration) – <https://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>

Financial Aid Resources – <https://studentaid.gov/>

<http://www.mysmartborrowing.org/#intro>

<http://www.pheaa.org/>

Test Optional Schools – <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

Virtual College Fairs – <https://www.strivescan.com/virtual/>

Virtual College Tours – <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>

Military – <https://www.todaysmilitary.com/>

<https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/asvab>

<https://www.todaysmilitary.com/education-training/rotc-programs>

NCAA Eligibility Center – <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Naviance – link via the JSHS Website; Students tab

- Naviance is the hub for college/career information provided by the Counseling Office.
- Document Resource folders
 - College Planning Information/Articles
 - School Specific Information (Open House Info/College Specific Scholarships and Programs)
 - Military Information
 - Employment Information (including apprenticeship and training programs)
- Career Tab:
 - Review results of previously taken Career Inventories
 - Road Trip Nation – watch career related videos
- College Tab:
 - Super Match College Search
 - Curated list making based on college interests and data from previous Wyo Area students

Counseling Department Twitter Page – @WyoHSCounseling – Follow for updates/reminders.