

Flower Mound High School COUNSELING CENTER

Post-High School Presentation

Finding YOUR Best Match



This power point will be posted on the FMHS website.

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Consider your options

- College/University
- Junior/Community College
- Career/Technical School
- Military
 - Enlistment/ROTC Scholarship/Academies
- Apprenticeship Programs
- Gap Year
- Workforce



Make your senior year count

- Senior year – an opportunity to strengthen skills and broaden experiences – in school and out
- Colleges pay particular attention to the senior schedule and performance
- Attendance – clean up any absence fails
- Review your transcript and make sure you have met all graduation requirements and there are no errors.

Basic Timeline

<i>Junior</i>		<i>Senior</i>	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
Take PSAT	Take ACT/SAT	Retake ACT/SAT?	
	Explore colleges	Apply to colleges	Accept offer
	Research money	Apply for money	

Find the school that fits YOU

Things to consider:

Your interests/what you want to study

Location: distance from home, weather, etc.

Chance of being admitted

Cost of attending (tuition, room/board, books/fees, travel)

Setting

Public/Private (don't fear the price tag)

Size

Social life/extracurricular activities

Campus atmosphere

--Don't be swayed by a school's reputation or status.

--Don't attend a school because of friends.

Top Factors that Influence Admissions

The top factors in the admission decision:

grades in all classes, grades in college prep courses (AP & Honors), strength of curriculum, standardized test scores (ACT/SAT).

Among the next most important factors:

the essay, extracurricular activities/volunteer work, demonstrated interest, counselor and teacher recommendations (when required by the school), and class rank.

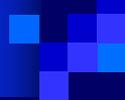
Be careful with social media.

Set up a professional email.

(firstname.lastname@gmail.com)

Class Rank

- While students in the top 10% of their class are required to have their rank posted, those outside the top 10% can choose whether or not they want to have their rank posted to their transcript.
- For those of you wanting to remove your rank, the opt out window will open May 15 and close on May 30. It will open again from September 15-30. You will opt out of rank through your Skyward account.
- Keep in mind that once you remove your rank, you cannot add it back.



How does the Foundation High School Plan (FHSP) impact admissions?

For a Texas university you need:

FHSP, ONE Endorsement and DLA (Algebra 2).

The number of endorsements you earn will not influence you being admitted to a university.

Outside of Texas you need:

A valid high school diploma and to have met the colleges' admission requirements.

Things to do Now

- Take Entrance Exams
- Gather Information
- Narrow Your Choices

*View the College Planning Guide for Juniors

<https://www.road2college.com/parent-of-11th-graders/>

Take entrance exams (ACT/SAT)

- Some schools consider test scores an optional piece to the application; do your research

- Register and view test dates here:
 - ACT: www.act.org
 - SAT: www.collegeboard.org

- Always take your picture ID on test day and arrive early.

Gather Information

- **FMHS Post-High School Handbook**
 - (currently under construction but will be posted to the Counseling page of the FMHS website)
- **Choices360**
 - Log in through the LHub; each student has an account
- **FMHS Counseling Website**
 - <https://www.lisd.net/domain/3027>
- **College admissions representatives**
 - Lunch visits on the FMHS campus
- **Counseling newsletters**
- **Local/Virtual College Fairs**
- **Campus Visits— 2 days in 11th & 12th grades**
- **Online tools:**
 - College Essay Guy: www.collegeessayguy.com
 - Road2College: www.road2college.com

Narrow Your Choices

- By the end of summer after junior year, your list should be finalized.
- College list:
 - 1 “sure bet”, and if desired, add
 - 1-3 “good bet” schools, and if desired, add
 - 1 “dream school” (a reach)

It is not just about where you can get in. Where will you be successful? Find a good fit.

College Admission Terminology

Types of college applications:

Common Application www.commonapp.org

Over 900 schools, one application.

Apply Texas www.goapplytexas.org

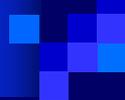
Any Texas public university, as well as participating community and private colleges.

School's Application

For schools who are not on CommonApp or ApplyTX, apply using their application.

Coalition www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

More than 150 school, one application.



College Admission Terminology

Regular Decision (often a CommonApp school):

- Apply by a specific date (may have multiple options)
- Regular Decision—Usually in Jan.; school response by Apr. 1
- Early Action—Usually Nov. 1; school response in Dec. (not binding)
- Early Decision—Usually Nov. 1; school response in Dec. (binding)

Rolling Admission (often a state school):

Applications usually open Aug. 1; school response in 3-4 weeks

College Admission Process

- Start a college planning folder and/or create a spreadsheet to get organized
- Visit colleges, their websites, virtual tours— Schedule campus visits with admissions and financial aid offices
- Update resume of all activities, awards, and jobs (Choices360)
- Write, Re-write Essays— available now
- Take SAT or ACT (Have official scores sent)
- Apply using Common Application or Apply Texas
- Apply and search for scholarships; complete FAFSA
- Beat deadlines--plan for October 31

Tips for the College Application

- Read instructions carefully - If you are given an option of electronic or paper, choose electronic.
- Use Common Application or Apply Texas
 - www.commonapp.org
 - www.goapplytx.org(If given a choice, choose CommonApp.)
- Ask someone to review the application before submitting it.
 - FMHS School Code (CEEB Code): 442434

How to Order Transcripts

- Official transcripts are sent electronically from the FMHS registrar's office.
- Request official transcripts by going to the Counseling page of the FMHS website. Click on the Transcript Requests tab. Students are allowed 5 free and 1 final transcript at no charge (processing fee will be applied). Any requests beyond the first 5 will require a processing fee and \$5.00 fee for each transcript. (Common App are free—do not request these on our website)
- SAT/ACT scores are **not** included on your transcript. You will need to have OFFICIAL scores sent directly from testing agency.

Recommendation Letters

- Choose someone carefully. Teacher letters should be written by junior year core teachers. Use the same teacher(s) for each college.
- Give person writing letter at least a 3 week notice (Aug./Sept. will need more time).
- Complete the Counselor Recommendation Packet (available in the counseling office or on our website) before requesting a letter from your counselor.
- Follow up with a thank you note.

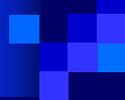
College Essay

- Stay on prompt (prompts are available now)
- This is a chance for the school to get to know you— if describing an issue/event or another person, make that a small part of the essay; let the college know how the above affected you.
- This is an opportunity to include things that a transcript might not convey.
- Have someone else proofread the essay but make sure it is your voice—college admissions officers can tell right away if it doesn't reflect you. Mr. Werts is offering an essay writing workshop this summer. Information was emailed out on Friday, April 8.

How to Pay for College

- Fill out the FAFSA form whether you will qualify or not
 - This is used for college scholarships and even NCAA purposes.
- Talk to a financial aid officer at the university
 - Check on when applications are due for scholarships. Not all admissions and scholarship applications have same deadlines. Select “I want to be considered for scholarships” on the college application.
- Check the FMHS website for additional scholarship information.
- FAFSA opens Oct. 1st – we will have a workshop to help with completing the application.

If you plan to NOT fill out FAFSA, you will need to opt out in Skyward when filling out when completing back to school forms.



Financial Aid/Scholarships

Research Prior To & Apply During Senior Year

Federal:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

Complete FAFSA when it opens in October.

School:

Financial Aid/Scholarship tab

Each school will have a Net Price Calculator

Need & Merit based—research as you look at schools

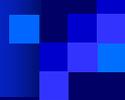
Private:

Counseling website & Choices360

82% of free money comes from FAFSA or the college

Scholarship Success

- Search for scholarships weekly – Choices360 and the Counseling page of the FMHS website
- *Apply, Apply, Apply- The more you apply for the better your chances of receiving one*
- Plan ahead- it takes time to get transcripts and letters of recommendation
- Be organized- Keep your resume' up to date and meet deadlines
- Follow directions- Correctly Fill Out Forms!
- Proofread
- Beat deadlines

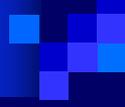


What can Parents do to Help?

- Be a weekly visitor to our website
- Talk with your child about what they may be thinking about doing after graduation. Be open to all options.
- Offer support and encouragement
- Educate yourself about the college process
- Help keep track of important dates and deadlines
- Attend Parent Nights, College Nights, Financial Aid Nights
- Monitor your child's stress level
- Ask Questions

Upcoming dates/events

- Plan for summer: work, summer programs (check the counseling page of the FMHS website), volunteer, internship, etc.
- College Essay Workshop with Mr. Werts
 - <https://forms.gle/cqfyhzsEDV4vWWMQHA>



Beware

Be aware of scams! There are many organizations that may receive your mailing addresses and/or email addresses. Some ask you to send money for some kind of special recognition (honor cords, certificates, or your name in some publication). Also be wary of organizations “guaranteeing” a scholarship. Never pay for someone to help you find money.