

Senior Night Frequently Asked Questions

Should you list the other schools on the “early action” school’s application where it asks where else you are applying?

While it probably doesn’t matter, it may be best to leave it blank if the question is optional. Some schools may make assumptions about how likely you would be to attend if accepted based on how their school compares to the others you are applying to and possibly by the order in which you list them. If you do choose to list the other schools, list them alphabetically.

In the past there was a meeting with the parent, student and guidance counselor that was very helpful. How come that is not done?

We will happily have meetings with parents, but it is also important and beneficial to the students to have one-on-one meetings with their counselor, where they can take ownership of the college application process for themselves. This is why the “junior and senior conferences” are set up in this way. We welcome and encourage communication between parents and their child’s counselor throughout the process. Often the quickest way to answer parent questions and bounce ideas around is on the phone or through email, and we hope you will reach out to us whenever you have questions.

If you are applying to one school “early action” and are not planning to apply to other schools unless you are rejected by the “early action” school, should the other schools be listed on Naviance to receive transcripts, rec letters, etc.?

There is no harm listing additional colleges in Naviance. Even if other schools are listed, transcripts and recommendations would not be sent until the student indicated in Naviance that he/she has submitted their application.

When you use the Common Application, are you applying to all 600+ schools?

No. While over 600 colleges accept the Common Application, students select and apply to individual schools.

If we have two teacher recommendations on Naviance and the college only requires one, how does the Guidance Department know which one to send?

On the Counselor Recommendation and Transcript Request Form, students identify their “primary” and “additional” recommender. If a school on Naviance only allows us to submit one letter, we only submit the letter from the “primary” recommender. If a college requires one but accepts more than one, we will send both.

If teacher recommendations are optional for a particular college, does the Guidance Department send none, one, or two?

We always send recommendations if the college accepts them, even if they are not required. We send both letters when colleges will accept both. Only the letter from the primary recommender (as indicated by the student) is sent if the college only accepts one. The only exception is if the student lets us know he/she does NOT want letters sent, though this rarely happens.

At the presentation, Donna Goodliffe mentioned it was important to show interest in your top choice colleges. If you have already visited the college for an information session and tour, does the college admissions office automatically know that in their system? Also, if you have already visited the college for a session and tour, should you also meet with the reps when they visit WHS? Is this recommended or is it overkill?

Most colleges keep track of students who visit campus, see reps at their high schools, or make other kinds of contacts, and will know this about the student if he/she applies. But the important piece to focus on is meaningful “engagement” with the college. The simple act of visiting a college or meeting the rep at WHS may not matter in the admissions process. Follow up with the people you meet, ask thoughtful questions, and interact with the college in ways to make sure you know it’s a good fit for you. Visiting a college and also seeing a rep at WHS would never be overkill, but consider reaching back out to the admissions representatives you met. An example of meaningful engagement could include thanking them for the visit and sharing something meaningful you may have learned. The personal touch may help the rep remember you better during application review time.

Once Guidance has received all the materials and the teacher recommendations, how long typically should a student expect to wait between the time they click "Application Submitted" on Naviance to the time when the Guidance sends the materials to the college?

How soon after a student enters application submitted on naviance is the transcript sent?

How soon is the Counselor's report sent?

The School Counseling Secretaries check the submitted application list daily. Presuming the teacher and counselor recommendations have been uploaded to Naviance, items are typically sent on the same day. If the application is marked as submitted but one or more recommendation is not ready yet, the items are submitted as soon as the recommendations are uploaded.

Once the transcript request materials have been submitted to Guidance and the necessary steps taken to request a recommendation from a teacher, how will the student know when the teacher has completed the recommendation and uploaded it to Naviance?

How can a student check to see when a teacher recommendation has been sent on Naviance?

You can check directly with the teacher or counselor if a recommendation has been uploaded to Naviance. Some teachers may also manually mark the recommendation as completed in Naviance, but not all teachers do this. A recommendation that is not marked “complete” is not necessarily incomplete. Your counselor is the best person to let you know if items have then been sent to colleges.

If a particular college has rolling admissions and indicates that a student's probability of admission is enhanced the earlier they apply, does Guidance automatically send these transcript packages out immediately or does this request have to be communicated to Guidance?

Students should communicate to their counselor and teachers about rolling admissions applications they are submitting early on. We will do our best to get your materials out as soon as possible. Also understand however, that the advantage in applying early for a rolling admissions school is more in applying in the fall rather than in the winter or spring. There is likely no advantage in getting applications and materials in by October 1 instead of November 1.

How is the teacher notified of the application deadlines?

It is the student's responsibility to notify their recommending teachers of their earliest application deadline, and they must give teachers at least four weeks notice before deadlines to ensure there is enough time to write it.

How is the teacher notified that the application has been submitted?

The teachers do not need to know that an application has been submitted because the Counseling Department sends both counselor materials and teacher letters together.

What does it mean when I hear from my student that WHS “has a relationship” with particular colleges? What is beneficial about this?

We do not have any “official relationships” with particular colleges that give a specific advantage to students. However, we have built very strong relationships with many college admissions representatives, especially with the 100+ that visit WHS every year. We make sure a counselor personally connects with each rep to help maintain these relationships. This, coupled with the kinds of students they interact with at WHS or on their campuses, has helped them see WHS as a quality school with outstanding students year after year. This becomes beneficial as reps are already thinking positively about WHS students they review applications.