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Vermont Commons School is committed to finding colleges and universities that best match each student's academic, social, athletic, geographic,

to



letters of recommendation and providing summer update information with an email to faculty by . Each student is to request two letters of recommendation, one from an English/Social Studies teacher and one from a Math/Science teacher (ideally). Colleges require that you select teachers in your junior or senior year. A thank you note should be sent in the fall!

If the college or university to which a student is applying has individual forms that need to be filled out, assuming the responsibility of giving the forms to the college counselor

Keeping the college counselor informed of acceptances, deferrals, wait lists and denials from the colleges to which they have applied.

Once a student has received news from all of the institutions and a final decision has been made about where they will attend, providing the important common courtesy of notifying the other institutions they are no longer interested.

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Supporting their children through each step of the admissions process as they begin to contemplate the next step in their educational journey after Vermont Commons School.

Listening to your children's ideas and concerns as they enter the college counseling process.

Encouraging your children to engage in and take an active role in all steps of the Admissions

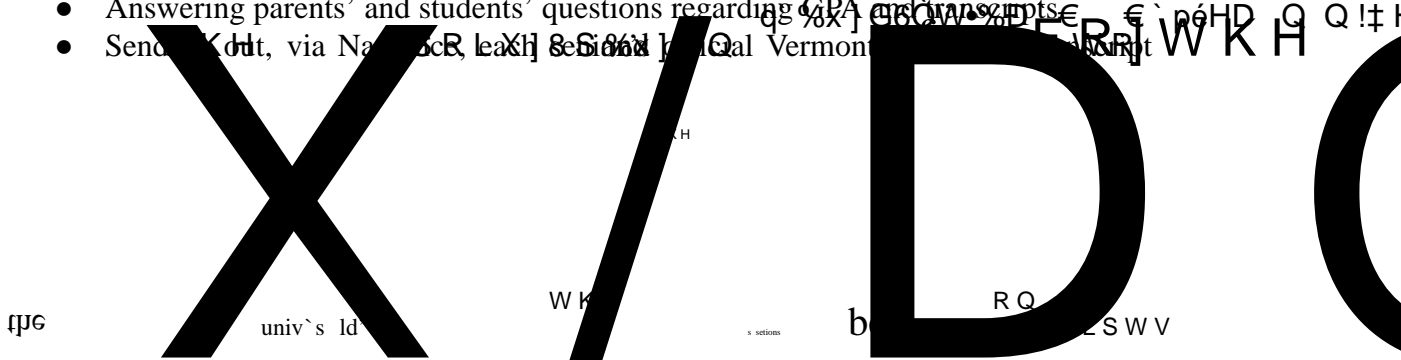
Being aware of your children's applications and standardized testing registration deadlines, submitting scores, and ensuring requirements and due dates are met for the schools on your child's list.

Ensuring that your children are responsible for sending their official standardized test scores to the colleges and universities. Vermont Commons School does not send official standardized test scores to colleges and universities;

If you will be seeking financial aid, make sure to attend the VSAC information evening and/or information sessions VSAC offers regularly. VSAC is a great local resource for Financial Aid, and they have open info sessions on Fridays, but will also schedule an appointment with you. Please regularly access VSAC's website for updates: [www.vvac.org](http://www.vvac.org) and keep in touch with the financial aid offices at the colleges to which your child is applying. We will be offering two "paying for college" events this spring through VCS.

Actively, with your child, pursuing scholarship opportunities. Suggested websites: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) [www.goingmerry.com](http://www.goingmerry.com)

- Updating each student's transcript and academic record.
- Answering parents' and students' questions regarding GPA and transcripts.
- Sending out, via National Letter Service, all official Vermont transcripts.



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Vermont is home to one

average. This information is then available to compare a student's data to past Vermont Commons applicants who have applied to the same colleges and universities via scattergrams. There is a\_

***Guide to Majors*** includes complete information on majors with salary guidelines. It is helpful as students consider different careers and programs.

***The Portable Guidance Counselor*** includes tips, suggestions and guidelines as you navigate the road to college.

***The Price You Pay for College***, by Ron Lieber

***Who Gets In and Why***, by Jeffrey Selingo

The internet provides valuable, timely guides to colleges. Some of the most popular sites are:

<https://collegesearch.collegeboard.org/>

<https://www.unigo.com/college-match>

<http://www.commonapp.org/RNET>



Virtual College Fair or in-person fair hos



- Diversity of student body and faculty
- Availability and accessibility of facilities
- Degree of personal discipline, independence, and initiative required by a student
- Classroom interaction and opportunity of discussion based classes/seminars
- Range of residential options
- Academic Support options

This is frequently the first thing students think about when considering a college; while this is understandable, we encourage students to consider this as one of the factors in their selection process to ensure they are not overlooking a school that may be a match in all other areas. We encourage students to consider location, and then make sure in the process that they don't overlook an outstanding college that may offer you wonderful scholarship opportunities because it's not in New England. A few things to think about in this category in addition to geography are what setting fits you best, urban, suburban, or rural, but with a traditional campus feel? What location may offer you the best opportunities for your major? How do you plan to get back and forth from campus?

The availability and condition of campus facilities is easiest to observe when you are on college visits. The quality of the facilities in a particular academic area may reflect the strength of the program offerings and a college's commitment to that discipline. Looking at the libraries, information technology resources, STEM facilities, dorms and classrooms, and even the grounds can often tell you much about a school's resources, priorities, and management.

A campus visit for a tour, information session, and an interview is one of the most helpful ways of learning about a college. It allows a student to see and feel the vibe of the campus, observe the facilities, students and the campus culture, and get a sense

they are working on their college

- Ask questions and learn about the college's academic programs, study abroad, internships, and special programs, etc.
- Share more about yourself and your interests, passions, accomplishments with the college rep
- Provide context for decisions you have made about your education (i.e., switching schools, focusing on one

It is common for college-bound students to take both the ACT and SAT the Winter/Spring of



students to write a thank you note to teachers that have taken this extra time for them and to extend the courtesy of



Once you and your counselor have met in the early fall of senior year and finalized your college list, you can add the colleges that utilize the Common App to your account (after you have matched Naviance to Common App). Supplemental Questions required by a particular school will now be available for you to review and complete on the Colleges Tab.

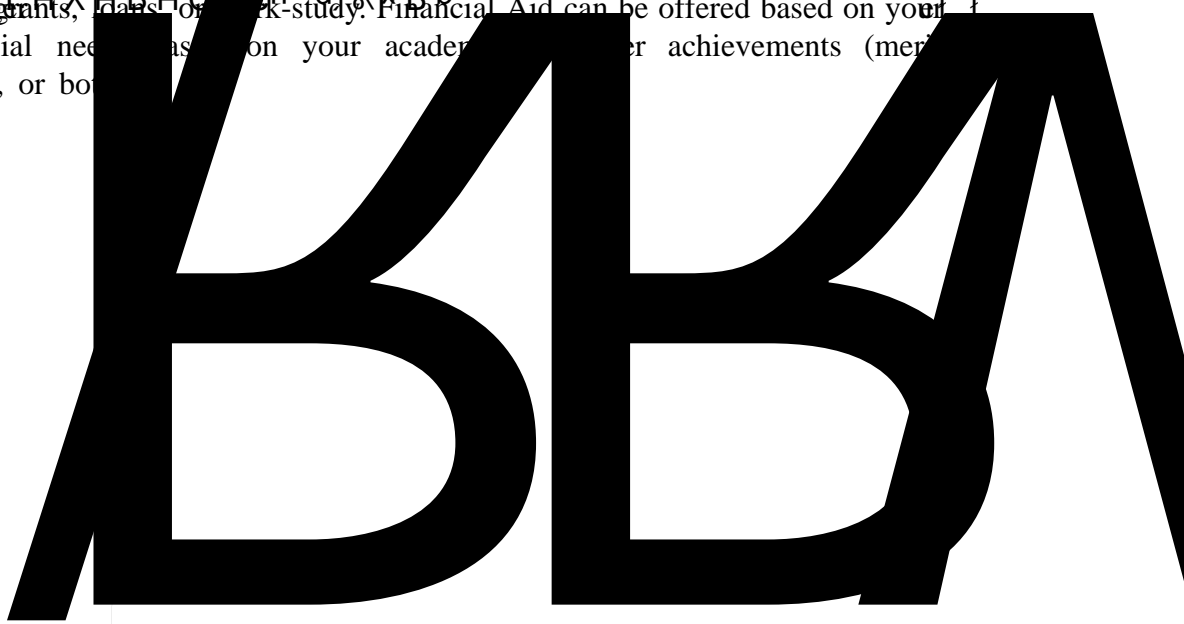
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have an acceptance and give them confidence through the process.

There are a few highly selective institutions that have implemented Single Early Action or Restricted Early Action: this plan limits you to submitting one early action application. If you apply to one school under EA with this policy, you are indicating a strong interest in attending that school, even though the decision is not binding.

This means that students are notified on a rolling basis shortly after submitting their application (4-6 weeks). The rolling dates may extend beyond the typical college application dates, but it is advantageous for a student to apply earlier in the event that a particular program is in demand. Since students are admitted on a rolling basis, once a program is full, the school will no longer admit more students.. Depending on a student's junior year grades, students wishing to apply to colleges with rolling admission may be best served by either applying immediately in the Fall of Senior Year. Students applying to rolling admissions schools will often be notified of their admission decision more quickly, and do not have to wait until the end of March for a decision. Students still have time to make their decision based on the same timeline of traditional admit programs (May 1st).

What is Financial Aid? Financial Aid is assistance given to you to pay for college costs, including tuition, books, room and board, and other expenses. Financial Aid can be offered based on your family's financial need, based on your academic achievements (merit aid/scholarship), or both.



to have financial aid ‘likely’ schools on your list. This may include a state school in your home state, or an institution where you would be a highly desirable candidate. It may be a school outside of some of your top geographic locations. We encourage students to keep an open mind here as there are some wonderful merit possibilities at great schools that could dramatically change your cost of attendance.

The Financial Aid application process is separate from the admission application process, and has its own forms to be completed and deadlines to be met. The Financial Aid application process is up to the family to complete. We have a wonderful resource in the Burlington area, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), that offers free workshops and assistance with completing the forms.

There are links on Naviance to Vermont Student Assistance Corporation [www.vsac.org](http://www.vsac.org) that will lead you to further information about the financial aid application process. Each fall, VSAC hosts information sessions throughout northern Vermont, and parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend. Vermont Commons also will host a FAFSA Information Session each Spring, and will publicize the times and locations of these programs.

Each Vermont Commons student is encouraged to apply for scholarships to help offset the costs of attending college. There are links on Naviance where students can search for scholarships for which they may be qualified. Check out: <http://www.schoolsoup.com/>, <http://www.fastweb.com/> and [www.goingmerry.com](http://www.goingmerry.com)

Once each student has a Naviance account (late February), please check the list on the Naviance “home welcome page” for important dates. These dates are posted to the Vermont Commons Community Calendar and will be updated on the CoCo Google classroom. You are encouraged to post them in your personal calendar! They will also be on your “welcome page” on Naviance.

Students and parents, you are always welcome to schedule a time to meet with the college counselor to discuss college counseling questions and the application process. Family meetings will be in March, with plans for a second optional meeting in late August.

Juniors, your planning process begins in earnest in early Winter 2023!

I am here to support you!