



Agenda



Graduation Requirements & College Expectations, Finding College Options

Special Notes: ASCENT/TREP, Early graduates, Selective Service, Student Athletes

Admissions & Application Process

Financial Information

Scholarship Basics

Test scores

Resources

Next Steps: Prepare for Individual Senior Meeting



Graduation Details

Graduation will take place at Wellington MHS stadium on May 22, 2025 at 6:30pm

Cap, Gown, and graduation announcements - ordering will be (mid-Oct) - students will purchase their cap and gown - gowns will be maroon

Graduation Ceremony Planning

Mr. Buffington will be working with a group of students and staff to plan the ceremony - we are establishing traditions and are excited for the opportunity - if you want to be a part of this, tell Mr. Buffington at:

marcb@psdschools.org

Connect with us!

Join the Google Classroom: yxypfyg



Communications!

Check email

- School email a couple times per week
- Personal email (address used in your college applications, etc.)
- College email (when applicable)

Set up your voicemail (and check it)

Respond to text messages

If you are on social media and connecting to colleges, military, etc., check for messages there too!

Be Aware of Deadlines

Senior year is all about DEADLINES –

college apps,

financial aid & scholarships,

changing courses,

ordering your announcements

 completing all your requirements to GRADUATE!

Most deadlines are **NOT** flexible!





Graduation Requirements & College Expectations, Finding College Options



Graduation vs. College Entrance Requirements

PSD GRAD REQUIREMENTS

COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSIONS RECOMMENDATIONS (HEAR)

English40
Math 40
Science30
Social Studies30
World Language10-30
Electives20

^{*}Entrance requirements vary by college

Turn Down the Pressure and Find **YOUR** Fit

Consider location, majors, size, cost, campus life, etc.

Look at admissions requirements

Research

- Xello—School Selector
- Big Future
- College Reps & Fairs
- Visits

Consider costs and your budget









Special Notes:

- *Selective Service
- *Student Athletes
- *ASCENT & TREP





Almost all male U.S. citizens (identified male at birth) and male immigrants, who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service.

Selective Service



Colleges cannot let you enroll if you have not done this.



https://www.sss.gov

NCAA--Athletics in College

Want to play Division I or II, be sure you have:

- ☐ Taken appropriate courses (especially SR English and Humanities)
- Registered at <u>www.eligibilitycenter.org</u>
- ☐ Sent your ACT/SAT scores directly from the testing agency (check with your college to see if required)
- □Send your transcript to NCAA (studentvue → course history → unofficial transcript)
- ☐Paid the NCAA fee (or talked with counselor to get a fee waiver)



NCAA compliance is **your responsibility. Your counselor is here to help.

ASCENT Program = FREE year at FRCC, Aims, Metro, or UNC

PSD will pay all TUITION + BOOKS + FEES (no supplies)

Application comes out in the Spring!

For students who have earned at least **9** College Credits before the end of senior year through:

- AP Testing from grade 9-11 (if on a college transcript)
- FRCC Concurrent Enrollment
- Other colleges

ASCENT does not cover remedial classes

Complete FAFSA/CAFSA (required)

Do you want to become an Educator?

Check out the <u>TREP Program</u> for 2 years of free tuition at FRCC, AIMS, Metro, or UNC**

Application opens in November. See your Counselor or Ms. Ford if interested.



**Subject to change. Books, fees, and supplies are the responsibility of the student in TREP.



Admissions & Application Process: What, When, Where, Why, and How!

We suggest a goal of



To beat almost all deadlines

How Many Colleges?

On average, PSD seniors apply to 3 schools.

- 5-8 schools is common nationwide
- 9-13 is recommended if you are applying to highly selective colleges
- Consider admissions requirements and your financial situation:
 - Reach
 - Target
 - Safety



For Admissions



APPLICATION (ANYWHERE FROM 20-40 MIN OF QUESTIONS)



PAYMENT (USUALLY \$25-50/COLLEGE) COLORADO'S COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES ARE FREE!



HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

For Scholarships



SAT OR ACT TEST (USUALLY ONLY FOR COURSE PLACEMENT OR SCHOLARSHIPS)



ESSAY



LETTER OF
RECOMMENDATION FROM
A TFACHER

WHAT is Needed for most 2-year or Technical Colleges' Applications

What is Needed for most 4-year Colleges' Applications



APPLICATION (ANYWHERE FROM 20 MINUTES TO 2 HOURS OF QUESTIONS)



PAYMENT (USUALLY \$35-100/COLLEGE)



HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS



SAT OR ACT TEST (SOMETIMES EXTRA TESTING AS WELL)



ESSAY



LETTER OR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM A TEACHER



OCCASIONALLY: AUDITION, PORTFOLIO, INTERVIEW (FOR SPECIFIC COLLEGES/MAJORS)



INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR PRIOR COLLEGE(S)



Cum GPA.

Cumulative is an "unweighted 4.0 GPA" that is often used for applications.
In this GPA, A=4, B=3, etc.

5.0 GPA.

"4.0 weighted GPA".

Weighs AP or college-credit classes at A=5, B=4, C=3, etc. before the overall GPA is computed.

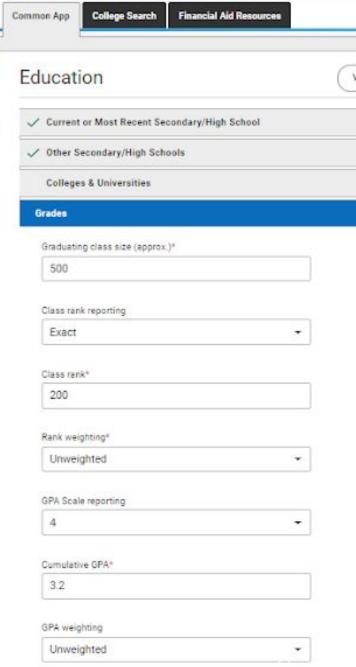
Adj GPA. Based on the 4.0 scale with extra weight given after the GPA is computed at .002/credit for AP or college-credit classes.

ONLY used within PSD for class ranking system

Some colleges recompute their own GPA.

Education— Grades (use your course history in StudentVue)

```
Family
                                      Education
                                      Testing
                                      Activities
   Rank = Fxact
                                        ses & Grades
                                        ege(s) require
□Rank weighting = Unweighted
  If you use your "Cum GPA":
☐GPA scale = 4
☐GPA weighting = Unweighted
  If you use your "5 Point GPA":
☐GPA scale = 4
GPA weighting = Weighted
```



My Colleges

mon Application

Profile

Admissions Averages & Criteria

Colorado State University

- 3.3-4.0 GPA
- 23-28 ACT (Test optional)
- 1120-1300 SAT
- Essay and letter of rec
- December 1 priority deadline

CU Boulder

- 3.66 GPA
- 27 ACT (Test optional)
- 1180-1350 SAT
- Essay and letter of rec
- Nov 15 priority deadline

University of Wyoming

- 3.46 GPA
- 21-27 ACT
- · 970-1235 SAT

Front Range Community College

- Open Admissions (Test optional)
- Rolling Admissions

University of Northern Colorado

- · 3.02-3.8 GPA
- 19-25 ACT (Test optional)
- 1030-1230 SAT
- Rolling Admissions

University of Denver

- 3.71 GPA
- 28 ACT

(Test optional)

- · 1110-1310
- Essay and letter of rec
- Nov 1 Early Decision/Early Action

Colorado Mesa University

- · 3.15-3.83 GPA
- 20-25 ACT
- · 1020-1200 SAT

(Test optional for admission, not for scholarship)

^{*}Applications are accepted at later dates as well, but offer less access to scholarships, etc.

What is Test Optional?



Test Optional might mean:

- 1. Students have an equal chance to be admitted with or without a test score. Scholarships can also be awarded with or without test scores.
- Test score is not needed for admissions, but is required for scholarships
- 3. Test score is not needed for admissions, but is increases opportunity for scholarships
- 4. A strong test score makes a student much more likely to be admitted than a student who doesn't submit (even if everything else is the same)

Test Blind:

College will NOT consider your test scores for any admission or scholarship reason, e.g. University of California schools



Self-reporting your grades

Choose SEMESTER grading system:

- ☐ 10-credit class = 2 grades
- ☐ 5-credit class = 1 grade
- ☐ It is more important to reflect the credit than exactly when you took the course

College Application Process

The Student's Responsibility:

- Complete application
- Pay application fee
- Submit essay (if needed)
- Request letters of recommendation and follow-up (if needed)
- Request test scores from testing agency – check college!
- Request Transcript & pay fee to WMHS (Counseling office)

WMHS Responsibility:

- Sends Transcripts
- Sends Letters of Recommendation, if needed, for students not using Common App
- Sends School Profile
- Has Fee Waiver Applications available for students who qualify (if applicable)

How and When** to

College	Application	heur	adlines
Colorado Mesa Univer	Application	01 1 X	h. 2)
Cold	- AIILI V	116	
Unive Front	ocifi(SCOM	es!
University California University	bec.	al da	Jan 15 (Regular)
Colorado, Bo University of Northern Colo	for App	.ion)	March 1

What is Common App?

- https://www.commonapp.org/
- An application platform that is accepted by over 900 colleges for their admissions.
- Through the platform, applicants can apply to multiple colleges at once. So students only have fill out details that most schools require, including name, address and extracurricular activities, one time.
- You choose exactly which colleges to send your complete application to (it doesn't automatically go to all 900+ schools)





Coalition App

Avoid if possible

- □It connects to a platform SCOIR, which we don't have at WMHS
- ☐Most colleges on the Coalition Application have at least one other application option
- ☐Colleges will NOT penalize you for using a different platform to apply!



Colorado Free Application Days!

Submit your applications for colleges/universities in Colorado on October 15-17 to waive application fees (\$30-65 each)

Prepare ahead of time so you can simply hit submit!

* CSU now has FREE app day EVERYDAY for CO residents *

Admission Processes (Options vary by college)

WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

Nonrestrictive Application Plans **Early Action** Regular Rolling Decision Admission (EA) **DEFINITION: DEFINITION: DEFINITION:** Students submit Institutions review Students apply an application by a applications as early and receive a specified date and they are submitted decision well in advance of the receive a decision and render admission in a clearly stated decisions throughout institution's regular period of time. the admission cycle. response date. COMMITMENT: COMMITMENT: COMMITMENT: NONBINDING NONBINDING NONBINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and nave until May 1 to consider their options and confirm encollment.

Restrictive Application Plans **Early Decision Restrictive Early** (ED) Action (REA) **DEFINITION: DEFINITION:** Students make a Students apply to an institution of commitment to a first-choice preference and institution where. receive a decision if admitted they early. They may be definitely will enroll. restricted from The application applying ED or EA or deadline and REA to other decision deadline institutions. If offered enrollment, they have occur early. until May 1 to confirm. COMMITMENT: COMMITMENT:

Students are responsible for determining

and following restrictions.

BINDING

NONBINDING

Letters of Rec: Help colleges understand YOU!

Your academic & personal background, your character, & why you will be successful in your next step.

Hints

- Only ask for what you need and no more
- Ask someone who can speak about you academically
- **Helpful** The same letter can usually be used for college and scholarships
 - Letters are normally sent directly from the teacher to the college to maintain confidentiality.
 - Teachers can say no to your request

About Month due date:

Step 1: Ask the teacher face to face

Step 2: Find out what info they need from you (resume, transcript, the LOR information form, brag sheet)

prior to Step 3: Let them know where and how letters will be sent (common app, UNC's online application, etc)

Step 4: Send a thank you note

Transcript Request Process

Complete Yellow <u>Transcript</u> Request Form (in Counseling Office)

Sign the back stating WMHS can release your transcript to multiple colleges

Submit form & your receipt for \$3.00 per college to Student Services



Deadline: <u>2 weeks</u> before college deadline

Be aware of Thanksgiving and Winter Break!

Essay



Check the prompt from each college

- ☐ Answer the question
- ☐ Tell a story
- ☐ Come alive
- Share a dimension of yourself NOT elsewhere in the application

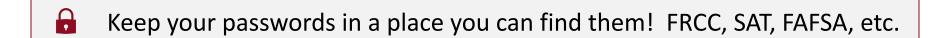


Might use the essay to explain low grades, extenuating circumstances, etc. but it's better to use the "Additional Information" section, if available



Proofread and edit!

Application Helpful Hints



Have a professional email address (FirstLastGradyear@email.com)

Make a google folder and/or email folder for all things related to college

Name/rename your documents so you can find them easily

Ė Use your full legal name

Social media—clean it or close it!

Proofread before you click submit...

Students with IEPs, 504s, or disabilities

- Look for colleges with an appropriate level of support for your needs
- When you visit a college, meet with their disability support personnel (Disability support services, Learning support services, Office of special education programs, Center for students with disabilities, etc.)
- YOU must self-identify and advocate for accommodations or support

Identity and college: Consider your fit

- ☐ Hispanic Serving Institutions
- ■Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- ■LGBTQIA+ friendly campuses
- □Religiously-affiliated colleges
- □Tribal Colleges
- ■Women's Colleges or Men's Colleges

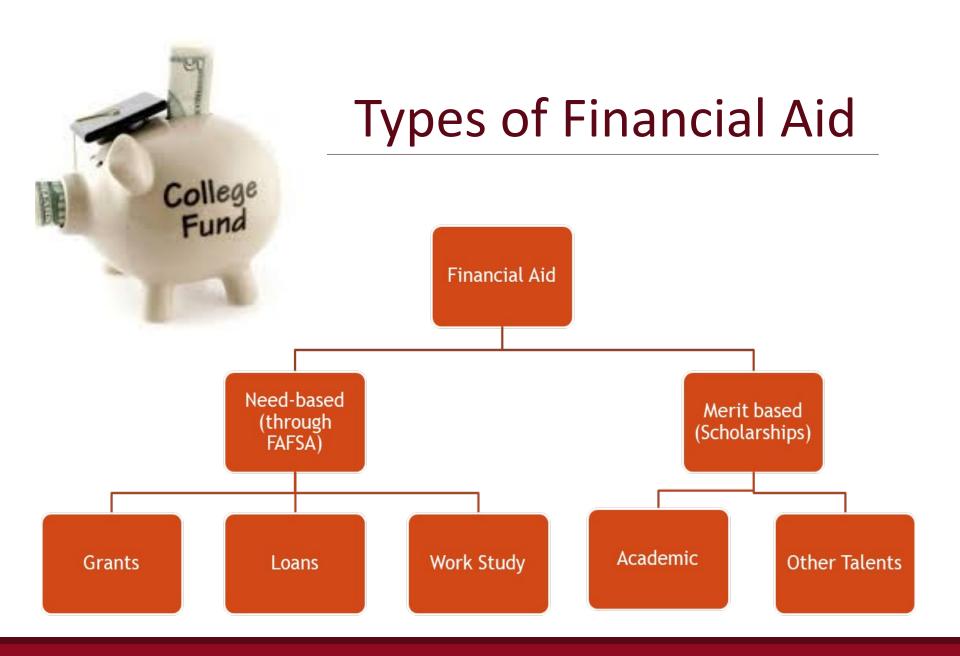




Finish strong!

Colleges, tech schools, gap programs, and the military can all **rescind** their decisions on you if you do not finish in a way consistent with your prior years.





FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)



All student (parents) should file a FAFSA as soon as possible

Set to open December



This is based on 2023 taxes of parents and students.



studentaid.govGo to the website NOW and get your FSA ID

Students who are Undocumented/ Do not have a Social Security Number

- In-state tuition available for students who have attended high school in CO for one year
- You would not qualify for the FAFSA, but the CASFA is available for state aid for colleges in Colorado and works similarly to FAFSA.

YOU SHOULD FILL OUT THE FAFSA



- IT'S EASY.

 The application has been simplified.
- IT'S FAST.

 It takes most people just 23 minutes to complete.
- MORE PEOPLE QUALIFY...

for student aid than you think.

#CollegeOpportunity | StudentAid.gov

Types of Aid:

Grants

- Funds do NOT have to be repaid
- Are for the highest need
 - Students must qualify for free/reduced lunch almost always for grants
 - Plus many other students qualify depending on their family's situation and the college's cost

Loans

- MUST be repaid
- Available from the government and form private sources (federal Stafford loans, federal PLUS loans, federal Perkins loans, institutional loans, private loan programs)

Work- Study

- Students earn money by working part-time on campus
- Sponsored by college/government
- Say "Yes" to the question on the FAFSA that asks if you are interested in work-study eligibility (it's not required if you do qualify)

COF

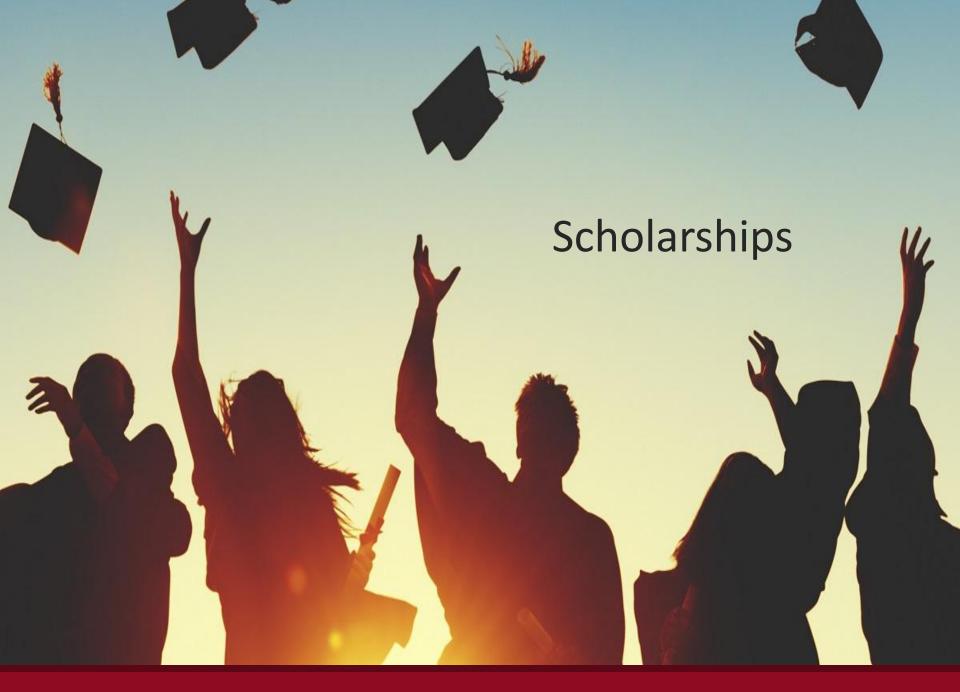


Provides a tuition stipend to eligible undergraduate students. The stipend pays a portion of your total in-state tuition when you attend a participating college

You already applied to COF if you have ever applied to FRCC. Pay attention to reminders to "Authorize funds" to the college you attend--usually a quick process in your college portal.

PUBLIC COLLEGE PRIVATE COLLEGE

\$116 \$58
per credit hour per credit hour



Scholarships







Colleges

Admissions-based (automatically considered when you apply)

Foundation (requires separate application usually found in the college's portal that you can access after applying)

Websites:

FastWeb
Big Future (College Board)
Scholarships.com
Community Foundation of
Northern Colorado,
Raise.me
Boettcher
Daniels

WMHS

PSD Senior
Scholarship
Application
Teacher, Counselor,
Principal Nominated

Common Scholarships for PSD Seniors:

Esteemed Scholarship CU Boulder



Green & Gold Scholarship: Colorado State University



Colorado Mesa University



Scholarships from organizations/donors

PSD Senior Scholarship Application

- · 30+ local donors who offer award to PSD seniors
- Application in mid-December, due in January

Quest Bridge



(essentially a full-coverage award at a highly selective college)

- Open to all students, regardless of citizenship, currently attending high school in the United States.
- Finalists typically come from households earning less than \$65,000 annually for a family of four, and often less.
- Strong academics:
 - ★ Mostly A's in challenging courses
 - ★ Top 5-10% of graduating class
 - ★ SAT >1260 or ACT>27 (if taken)
 - ★ Strong writing, intellectual spark, determination
- Application available now online: <u>www.questbridge.org</u>,
 - Usually due late September

Boettcher Scholarship—



(up to a full ride or full tuition/fee scholarship in Colorado)

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a graduating Colorado high school senior who has lived in Colorado for your full junior and senior years of high school;
- Apply during the fall of what is your final year of high school, even if you are considering taking a gap year after graduation;
- · Graduate from a Colorado high school; and
- Be a citizen, legal permanent resident, or lawfully present (including through Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)) in the United States –OR--Meet the requirements and have applied or started the process of applying for citizenship, legal status or lawful presence.

For students who exhibit:

- Superior scholastic ability
- Evidence of leadership and involvement
- Service to community and school
- Outstanding character

Apply directly online at www.boettcherfoundation.org

Include your counselor's name/email as "Recommender" right away!

Daniels Fund Scholarship up to \$25,000/year anywhere

Selection Criteria:

- Strength of character
- Leadership potential
- Commitment to serving their communities
- Academic performance or promise
- Well-rounded personality

Finances: AGI of \$85,000 or less. Income can be higher for multiple dependents.

Earn a minimum Grade Point Average of 3.0 in high school (on an unweighted 4.0 scale), AND earn a minimum SAT Math score of 490 and a minimum Evidence-Based Reading & Writing score of 490, or a minimum ACT score of 18 in each category (writing score not required). Super scoring is not accepted.

Do I need to test?

Check your colleges for test expectations for:

- Admissions
- ☐ Your possible Major(s)
- ☐ Scholarships



Military

☐ ASVAB test required



Upcoming SAT/ACT tests

Test date	Test type	Registration deadline
October 5	SAT (www.collegeboard.org)	Sept 20
October 26	ACT (www.actstudent.org)	Oct 7
November 2	SAT	Oct 18
December 7	SAT	Nov 22
December 14	ACT	Nov 22

- Register directly at collegeboard.org or actstudent.org
- Cost \$55-65/test. See your counselor for a fee waiver if you qualify for free/reduced lunch
- Locations vary by test (NOT available at WMHS). Students often find test seats open at CSU, Loveland, Greeley, Denver, Cheyenne, etc.

Getting Scores to Colleges:

 Many colleges will require that scores be sent directly from the testing agency (~\$12/score sent)



Counseling Office and College & Career Center



College
Representatives
meeting with
PSD students
(in-person or
online)



WMHS
Application,
Essay, &
Scholarship
Workshops



Announcement Emails



College
Application
Checklist

Check Google Classroom & your school email!

Interested in joining the military?

- High school diploma (not GED) is required by most branches
- Prep for ASVAB
- Prep for physical test
- Investigate the career options in each branch
- Investigate scholarship, military academies, and ROTC options
- Tattoos, prior drug use, legal convictions, and physical/mental health conditions may affect enlistment options

Upcoming important dates:

- ■Coast Guard visits WMHS September 19 9:15am
- ■ASVAB will be offered at WMHS in November (date TBD)

Stay tuned for visits from additional branches of the military





College Application Workshops @ WMHS

Keep an eye on Google Classroom for upcoming dates and locations of workshops.

Workshops may include:

Financial Aid

Scholarships

Application Support

Colorado Free Application Day

Transcript To-Dos

- Make sure you are on-track for on-time graduation
- Make a plan with your counselor to make up any outstanding credit (don't forget your College & Career Readiness Measure)
- Review your Quarters 2-4 schedule to make sure you have what you need to be set up for your postsecondary goals







Want to take FRCC classes this spring? Registration starts in October, but first you must talk with your counselor, apply to FRCC, get advising, and apply with PSD. Ms. Ford can help.

Casey Vavrina (our FRCC Rep)

Phone: 970-204-8421

casey.vavrina@frontrange.edu





Topics include:

- Options
- Getting In
- Applying Overview
- Application Details
- After Applying

- Financial Aid (FAFSA)
- Net Price Calculator
- Cutting Costs
- Next Steps

WMHS SR/Parent College Planning & Financial Aid Night

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th AT WMHS

7:00 PM (~ 1 HOUR)

FOLLOWING BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT

College Fair Week in PSD: September 23-27

MON September 23 In-State College Fair at Rocky Mountain HS

6pm -7:30pm

TUES September 24
Out-of-State College Fair
at Poudre HS

6pm -7:30pm



Why attend college fairs?

- Learn more about schools you might want to attend
- Network with college admissions professionals colleges keep track of who attends!
- Can't make it to visit a school? College fairs "bring" the school directly to you

WMHS College, Career & Military Fair

October 1

3:00pm-5:30pm



Fall Senior SAT at Wellington MHS

October 29

9am-12pm

Why take the SAT?

Improve your score

Use for College & Career Readiness Measure





FREE

Oct. 15-17, 2024

Application Days



October 15 - WMHS Application Event

All Colorado public colleges and universities & some private CO institutions waive application fees for all in-state students



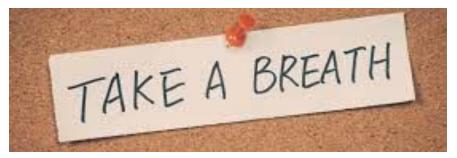


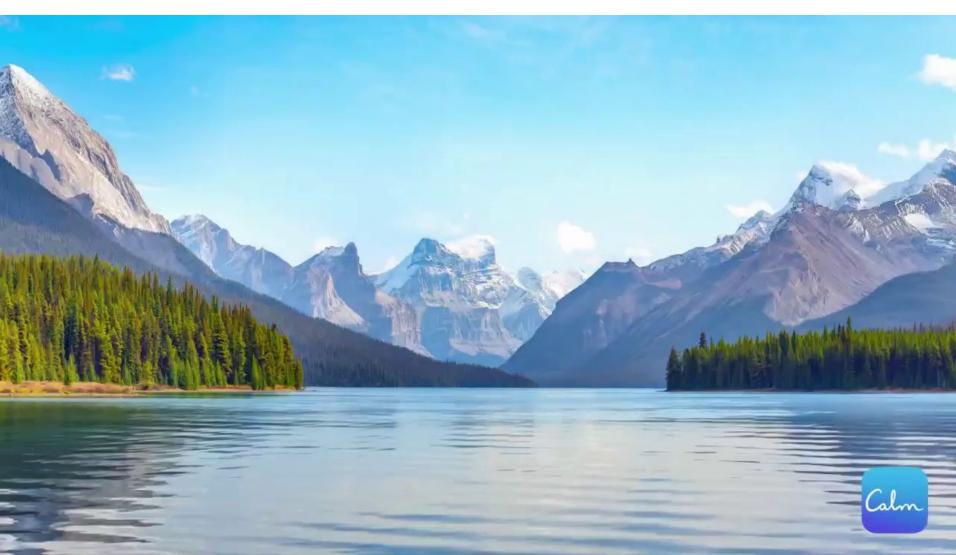
To Do...1st quarter

- Start checking SCHOOL EMAIL for important college updates
- Research prospective colleges
- Have a candid family discussion about financing plans
- Set up visits at colleges you are considering
- Take or retake the SAT, ACT, ACT with Writing, (as needed for your colleges/scholarships)
- Apply to your college(s) in the next 2 months

To do... soon

- Explore the scholarship and financial process for each college, make a calendar so you don't miss any deadlines
- Apply for FAFSA starting in December
- Apply for Scholarships as they are available





What's Next? Small steps!



- Step one: Attend parent/guardian night (after Back to School Night) at 7pm in the auditorium on Sept 5th
- Step two: Attend your individual senior meeting with your counselor to review your progress towards graduation and get all your questions answered

Senior Meetings Scheduled: September 9-13