SOTA SENIORS: COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications

➢ Most four- year colleges can be found on the Common Application, www.commonapp.org, including SUNY schools. Go to www.commonapp.org to create an account and complete your application. You will also need to complete the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) waiver on Common App.The FERPA release can be found under the college tab once you have added a college to your application. Some four-year colleges do not use Common App and will require you to apply directly on their website.

➢ If you are planning to apply **only** to SUNY schools, you may choose to apply using the SUNY Application, www.suny.edu.

➢ If you are applying to a two-year community college, go directly to the college's website to apply.

➢ All colleges will then need to be added to your "Colleges I'm Applying To" section of Naviance (see below), regardless of which application you use.

➢ Please make sure you are paying attention to college application deadlines!

Naviance

➢ Log in to your Naviance account, http://connection.naviance.com/sotarts (you can also access it through the SOTA website). Choose to sign in using **CLEVER** and login using your Google Username and Password to access Naviance.

➢ Add your colleges under the "Colleges I'm Applying To" section. You will also need to indicate how you applied (Common App or Directly to the Institution) and request your transcript be sent.

➢ If you are using the Common Application, you will need to Match your Naviance account and Common App. A bright pink banner will appear on your Naviance account if you still need to match your accounts. To do so, you will need to click "Match Accounts" and enter the email address you used for your Common Application account and your date of birth.

➢ Request your letters of recommendation through Naviance by clicking on "Letters of Recommendation". Please ask the teacher first and give them a copy of your Resume or Brag Sheet before you add them in Naviance. The teacher will then get an email inviting them to complete your letter of recommendation through Naviance.
For recommenders outside of SOTA, please invite them through the Common Application.

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College Visits

➢ SOTA will still be holding visits from college recruiters virtually. All college visits will be held on Wednesdays through at least November 13, 2020. Please check your Naviance account for a calendar of visits for meetings under the **"College Visits"** tab of **"College Home"**. **There is also a calendar for upcoming visits on the SOTA Website. Go to Counselor Corner- Commencement Academy- College and Post-Secondary Recruiting Calendar.**

➢ Students can also search for other virtual tour and visit opportunities under the **"College Events"** section

Transcripts

➢ The Common Application and Naviance have transcript release sections. These sections must be completed in order for counselors to release transcripts.

SAT/ACT scores

➢ Your SAT and/or ACT scores should be sent directly from the testing agency to the colleges you are applying to. You can do this from your College Board (SAT) or ACT Student (ACT) account. Not all schools require SAT/ACT scores, so you do not need to send them to schools that do not require them.

➢ Majority of colleges are now test-optional for class of 2021 please review college website and connect with your counselor about registering for the SAT or ACT

Financial Aid

➢ You may complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) beginning October 1st, 2020 using your parent's 2019 tax information. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. When you complete your FAFSA, you will be directed to complete your TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) for New York State financial aid. If you need help completing your FAFSA, please consider attending one of the FAFSA Fest events going on this fall.

➢ More information will follow in the coming weeks about Virtual FAFSA Fest Events