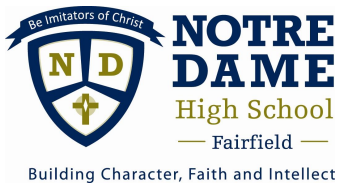# WELCOME

College Planning Presentation

Guidance Staff

Ms. Susan McGowan, Director of Counseling Services — smcgowan@notredame.org — 203-374-2618 ext. 222

Mr. Wayne Mones, School Counselor — wmones@notredame.org — 203-374-2618 ext. 224

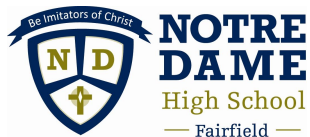Mrs. Allisyn Hyvarinen, School Counselor — ahyvarinen@notredame.org — 203-374-2618 ext. 223

Guidance Secretary

Mrs. Kimberly Daniels — kdaniels@notredame.org — 203-374-2618 ext. 221

Who Sends What?

Student Sends:

Application (Common)
Application Fee
Personal Essay
SAT/ACT Scores

Guidance Department Sends:

Transcript
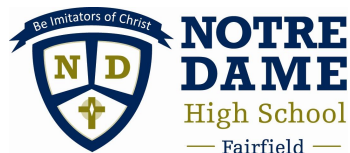Counselor Recommendation
1st Quarter Grades
Mid Year Grades
Final Grades

**All materials are sent through Naviance

Teacher Sends:

Teacher Recommendation

Sent electronically through Naviance

College/University

Be Imitators of Christ
NOTRE DAME
High School
— Fairfield —
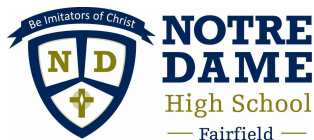Building Character, Faith and Intellect

What is Family Connection?

Notre Dame has partnered with Naviance to provide a variety of tools for achievement through academic, career, and college planning. These tools are located in Family Connection which is a website designed for students and families to access online resources, communicate with school staff, and work on the college application process.

To access Naviance Connection visit Quick Links on the Notre Dame home page. A student account may be created with your guidance counselor or by receiving a registration code from ND.

Admissions Timelines

There are **four** primary types of admissions processes. Some require a commitment form the student, and others do not. Deadlines range from October to May, depending on the college.

Regular Decision - Students who do not have a clear first choice typically apply under RD. Under RD, the university sets an application deadline (Jan 1 - March 15) and replies to applicants around mid- March.

Rolling Admissions - Under rolling admissions, the office makes decisions on applications as they are submitted. Students may apply as early as September and may hear within one month of submitting the application. Students are typically allowed until May 1 to decide which university they will attend.
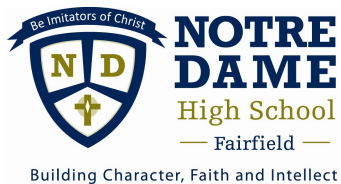
Early Action - The student must submit the application for an early deadline usually November 1st or November 15th. Decisions are mailed to students around December 15th. This allows students the opportunity to hear earlier and decide whether they want to submit additional applications under RD plans. The student is allowed until May 1st which university they will attend.

Admissions Timelines (continued)

Early Decision - The most restrictive process is ED. Under ED, students make a commitment to the university to which they apply. The deadline is usually November 1/Nov 15. Students admitted to ED are REQUIRED to attend that university. Students may not apply to more than one university under ED.

This process requires a signature from parent(s) and a Guidance Counselor. If accepted into your ED school, counselor cannot send transcripts to any other schools.

The benefit of ED is students complete their process as early as December. The downside is the student must make all of their decisions early in the process. A number of colleges also have Early Decision 2, which is also binding, but may have a later deadline.
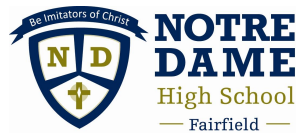
Standardized Testing

Standardized tests are one important factor in the admissions process of most selective colleges and universities. Over the past several years, a growing number of colleges have become test optional. At most colleges, however, testing still plays a vital role in the admissions process. For a list of test optional schools visit www.fairtest.org. Over 1,700 schools are test optional in the Fall of 2023.

SAT: Students usually take the SAT in the spring of their junior year. All students must register through www.collegeboard.org. Most Notre Dame students take the test twice, but others wish to take it three times. Score reports are sent directly from College Board to colleges and universities at the request of the student. Notre Dame High School is NOT responsible to send the test scores because the scores are not considered "official" from the school. If students wish to send their scores on the day of the test, they will receive four free score reports. If not, students will be charged a fee to send at a later date.
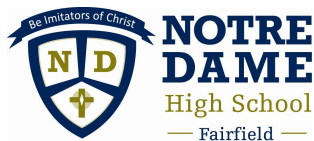
What is a superscore?
The sum of your highest math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing scores. Some colleges superscore across all your test dates, and some superscore across the test dates the student chooses to submit. Please understand the scoring policies of each school to determine which test scores to send to which schools.

SAT vs ACT: Which Test is Right for You?

- The SAT & ACT generally cover the same topics

- Both ACT & SAT scores are used for college admissions decisions & awarding merit-based scholarships

- Most colleges do not prefer one test over the other

- ACT includes a Science section

- SAT includes one Math Section on which you may not use a calculator

Compare the SAT and ACT tests

SAT	ACT
Reading, Writing & Language, Math, Essay (optional)	**English, Math, Reading, Science, Essay (optional)**
3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	**2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay), 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)**
5 reading passages	**4 reading passages**
Math covers: Arithmetic, Alg 1 & II, Geometry, Trig & Data Analysis	**Math covers: Arithmetic, Alg 1 & II, Geometry, Trig, and Probability & Statistics**
Scored on a scale of 400-1600	**1 Science section testing your critical thinking skills**
	Scored on a scale of 1-36

https://www.princetonreview.com

Sending Scores to Colleges

- Students are responsible for sending their SAT/ACT scores to colleges from their ACT/College Board accounts.
- Visit Naviance and/or college websites to find out if schools are SAT/ACT optional
- Provide an accurate email address and student information to avoid a delay in receiving scores
- You may select up to four schools to send scores free of charge on the day of the test or up to nine days after the test date for SAT.. five days for ACT
- Our school code is 070057

Common Application

An undergraduate college admission application which may be used to apply to over 900 colleges and universities

Tips for Completing the Common Application

- Create your account using an email address you check often

- Use your legal name when filling out your registration information

- Gather the materials you will need (transcript & activities)

- See your counselor if you need help answering questions

- Answer all required questions marked with a red asterisk

- Complete the FERPA Release Authorization

- Save your work

- Carefully review your application PDF BEFORE submitting

Video https://www.commonapp.org/apply/first-time-students

*** It is the responsibility of the student to complete their Common Application ***

Complete the FERPA agreement on the Common Application

(The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) **a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records.**

1. On the Common Application go to **College Search** and add at least one college.

2. Go to **Common App** tab and add your **High School** under **Education.**

3. **Search for Notre Dame High School or type school code 070057.**

4. The FERPA question is found under **My Colleges tab Recommenders & Ferpa ..DO NOT INVITE ANY RECOMMENDERS SUCH AS TEACHERS & COUNSELORS ON THE COMMON APP.** Teacher Letter of Recommendations are requested through Naviance **only**.

5. The FERPA is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. When you waive your rights, you allow the school to release the requested records (transcript, recommendation letters). Waiving your rights also allows admissions representatives to contact your counselor about the school forms submitted on your behalf.
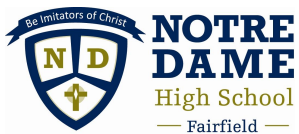
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Financial Aid Information
- FAFSA- October 1st

Before each year of college, apply for federal grants, work-study, and loans with the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form. Your college uses your FAFSA data to determine your federal aid eligibility. Many states and colleges use FAFSA data to award their own aid. After submission, you'll receive your *Student Aid Report*.

- Go to FAFSA website: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- FAFSA is free and online
- Both students and parents must create a FSA ID
- FAFSA will require tax information for BOTH you and your parent/guardian
- Parents can use estimated tax information from last year's tax return
- Applying is easier with the IRS Data Retrieval Tool
- You may list up to 10 schools you are applying to on the FAFSA

Financial Aid Information

CSS PROFILE   College Scholarship Service Profile - October 1st

List of participating schools /https://profile.collegeboard.org/profile/ppi/participatinginstitutions.aspx

CSS application : https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/

Approximately 240 colleges require the CSS PROFILE. The CSS PROFILE is a personalized financial aid application for each college you are seeking aid from. If you have narrowed down your choices and are sure where you are applying for aid or are applying Early Decision, you can register for the CSS PROFILE at any time but at least three to four weeks before the earliest deadline. CSS PROFILE must be completed online.

Cost: $25.00 for initial application (first school report included), $16.00 for each additional report

Register for CSS PROFILE: Connect to College Board Online (http://www.collegeboard.org)

Scholarships

They are not granted on the basis of financial need, but other criteria including achievement or talent. It is important that students research outside sources including civic organizations, corporations, or within their high school. Notre Dame scholarships are listed on Naviance and updated in our ND newsletter. You should never be required to pay in order to apply for a scholarship opportunity.

- **High school transcript**
- **Standardized test scores**
- **One or more essays**
- **One or more letters of recommendation**
- **Proof of eligibility for the scholarship (for example, proof of membership in a certain group)**

ScholarshipOwl –https://scholarshipowl.com
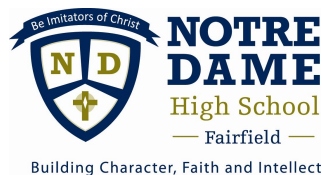**FastWeb –** http://fastweb.com/
School Soup – http://www.schoolsoup.com/
College Prowler – https://collegeprowler.com
CAPPEX – http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/
CollegeBoard Scholarship Search
–https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
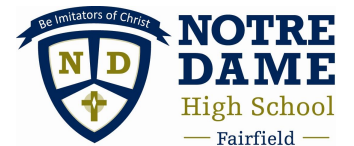**Going Merry -** https://www.goingmerry.com/

Letters of Recommendation

- Each School Counselor will complete a letter of recommendation for their student
- Students are expected to complete the Student Questionnaire BEFORE the letter is completed (see attached)
- Ask the teacher(s) in person if he/she is willing to write a recommendation before requesting through Naviance
- It is the student's responsibility to give the teacher ample time (two weeks) to complete the letter before the college application deadlines
- Once completed, the teacher will upload your letter to Naviance. Students have the ability to check the status of their letter

*****If the student adds additional schools to their college list he/she MUST request their transcript through Naviance AND notify the Teachers again!!!

Student Questionnaire for Letter of Recommendation

Complete this form and share them with your counselor and teachers when you ask them for a letter of recommendation. This provides more insight into who you are outside of the classroom.

Keep in mind, the more specific the details you can give, the more personal and effective your recommendation will be.

Student name : _____
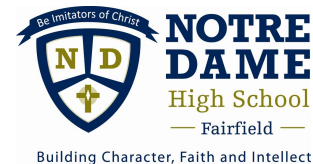
Students email address: _____

Counselor: _____
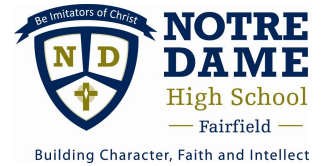
Date: _____

List your Extracurricular activities. Include what grade(s) you have participated (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th) and any leadership positions, honors and awards received.

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

_____   _____

Describe yourself in three words:

_____   _____ _____

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What are some of your distinctive or unique qualities or skills?

Describe an academic accomplishment that you are most proud of and why.

What events, experiences and/or people in your life have had the greatest influence on making you the person you are today?

List your major activities outside of school. Consider clubs, sports, activities, community service, hobbies, and family responsibilities.

What are your plans after high school?

What colleges have you visited (in person or virtually) and what were your impressions?

What colleges are you considering applying to?

Please share any additional information you would like the counselor to include in your letter of recommendation. What excites you about the future?
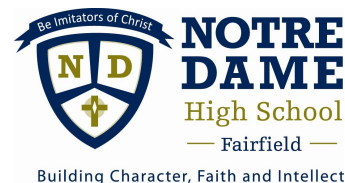
Common Application Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

2. The lessons we take from obstacles can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?

3. Reflect on a time when you challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?

4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.

6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that is makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?

7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Junior Checklist

- ❏ Remind your child to stay on track academically
- ❏ Encourage student to continue volunteer, work, and extracurricular activities
- ❏ Schedule parent/student meeting with counselor -
- ❏ Create Naviance account to explore college choices
- ❏ Sign -up to take the SAT/ACT in the spring
- ❏ Research colleges and schedule campus visits if possible. List should be a combination of reach, target/probable & safety(academic credentials exceed school's range). Virtual tours are helpful as well to identify schools of interest.
- ❏ Student -Athletes should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center if you are an athlete planning to play a sport in college.
- ❏ Research schools if there are special requirements for music, art or performing arts majors
- ❏ Create Common application (summer)
  - ❏ Letters of Recommendations from teachers
  - ❏ Build your resume/portfolio
  - ❏ Plan your college essay

Senior Checklist ✔

- ❏ Create your Common Application Account **and** Naviance Account ..please use same email/passwords if possible

- ❏ Finalize your college list.. virtual/in person tours (safety, target & reach schools)

- ❏ Be aware of college deadlines (EA, ED, Regular Decision)

- ❏ Complete Student Questionnaire Form/Resume

- ❏ Write your College Essay to include in the Common Application

- ❏ Fill out Common Application /College Applications

- ❏ Request transcripts/Teachers Letters of Recommendation through Naviance

- ❏ Match Common Application with Naviance

- ❏ View List for College Representative visits in Google Classroom Page - Class of 2023 - **Join code for students: k5bkfnp**

- ❏ SAT/ACT please send official scores from College Board/ACT accounts (fairtest.org)

- ❏ Fill out the FAFSA (October 1st) & CSS Profile ** Please check college websites for their Financial Aid Deadlines

College Planning Checklist

Application Process	College Name:	College Name:	College Name:
Application Deadline			
Essay required/completed			
Application Fee			
Transcript Request			
Number of Recommendations Needed			
Are test scores required? Test scores sent			
FAFSA Complete			
CSS Profile required			
Date application was submitted			
Teacher letter requested in Naviance			

Important Websites

SAT   www.collegeboard.org

ACT   www.act.org

Naviance   https://connection.naviance.com

Khan Academy   https://www.khanacademy.org/

Common Application   www.commonapp.org

FAFSA   https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid

CSS Profile

                             https://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile

Notes/Questions