



Westfield HS

Senior College Night

Counselor Presentation for Families

GO Bulldogs!





Agenda

1

INTRODUCTIONS

Who we are and how we can help support you!

3

IMPORTANT STEPS

Downloading & Requesting Transcripts, Deadlines,

2

OPTIONS & TRENDS

Postsecondary Options Review, Current Trends and Statistics

4

HELPFUL TOOLS

School, Naviance, College Access Fairfax, FAFSA, CSS Profile, AI Options.

5

QUESTIONS!!





Post-Secondary Options for Graduates

4 Year College

2 year College

Apprenticeship

Employment

Gap Year

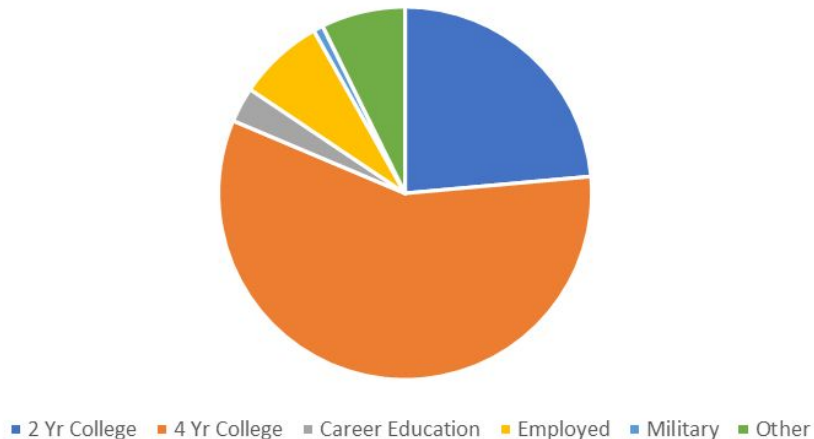
Military





Class of 2023 Stats

Westfield HS Class of 2023 Outcomes



Top Schools 2023 WHS grads:

1. NOVA (127)
2. GMU (79)
3. VCU (43)
4. VT (38)
5. JMU (31)
6. UVA (12)
7. ODU (11)
8. William & Mary (8)
9. CNU & Mary Wash





Northern VA Community College (NOVA)



Certificate Programs (less than 2 years)

- Certificate Programs: Cybersecurity, Culinary Arts, Engineering Technology
- Career Studies Programs: Collision Repair Technology, Social Media, Retail Management

Associate Degrees – and Transfer Pathways

- Advance Program
- Guaranteed Admission Agreements





Current Themes in College Admissions

- Emphasis on simplifying the process
- Covid-19 collides with test-optional movement
- Renewed focus on the core academic record
- Increased selectivity among top schools, providing more opportunities at less competitive institutions
- Direct Admission





Factors in Admission Decisions

Student Perspective:

Students **overemphasize** the importance of:

- Admission Test Scores
- Extracurricular Activities
- Work Experience

Students **underemphasize** the importance of:

- Strength of curriculum

Source: NACAC/Harris Poll Study

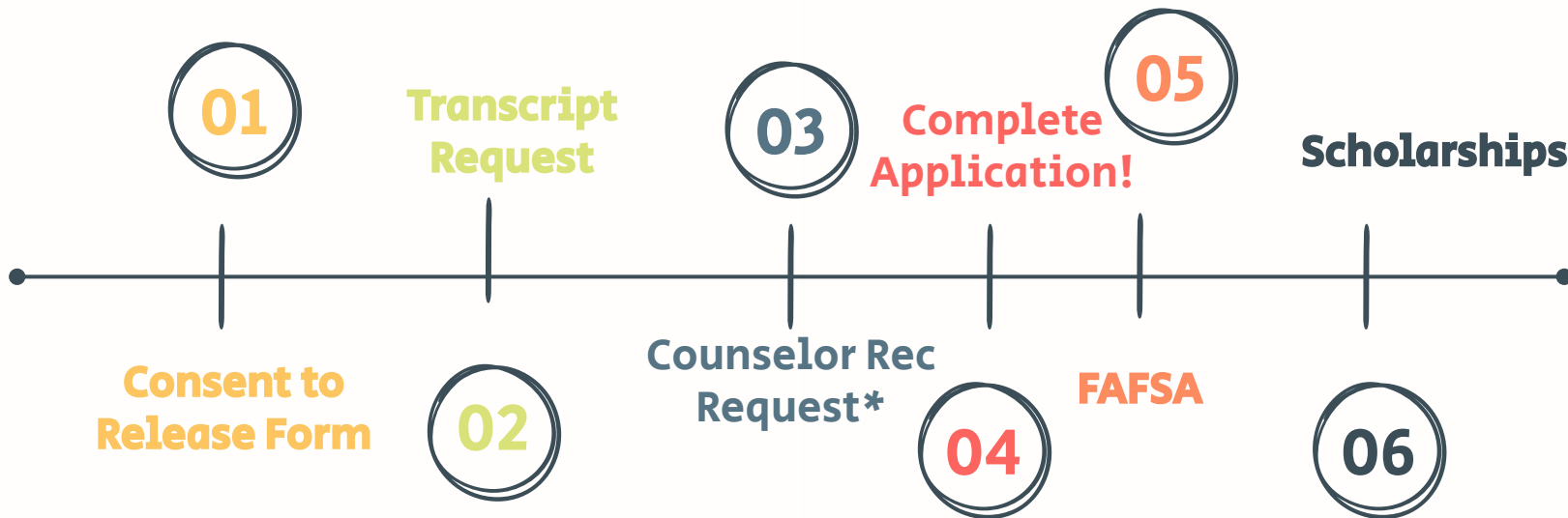


Factors in Admission Decision

	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in college prep courses	185	76.8	15.1	4.9	3.2
Grades (all courses)	185	74.1	18.9	5.4	1.6
Strength of high school curriculum	185	63.8	22.7	10.3	3.2
Positive character attributes	184	28.3	37.5	18.5	15.8
Essay or writing sample	185	18.9	37.3	26.5	17.3
Student's interest in attending	185	15.7	27.6	25.4	31.4
Counselor recommendation	185	11.9	40.0	27.6	20.5
Teacher recommendation	185	10.8	40.5	28.1	20.5
Extracurricular activities	185	6.5	44.3	30.8	18.4
High school class rank	183	5.5	22.4	43.2	29.0
Admission test scores (ACT, SAT)	185	4.9	25.4	38.9	30.8
Portfolio	185	4.9	10.8	24.3	60.0
Interview	185	4.3	8.6	32.4	54.6
Work	185	2.2	30.8	40.0	27.0
State graduation exam scores	185	1.6	6.5	18.4	73.5
Subject test scores (AP, IB)	185	1.1	22.2	25.9	50.8



College Preparation Timeline





Consent to Release

Waiving your rights lets colleges know that you don't plan to read your recommendations.

This helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful. Some recommenders may only write a letter if you have waived your rights

-Common App

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FOUNDED 1870 • 2020

CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS IN SUPPORT OF POSTSECONDARY APPLICATIONS

Instructions for Use: This form is to be used by parents and/or guardians and students aged 18 or older to authorize Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) to release student records and related information to support student applications to colleges, universities, scholarship sponsors, employers, or other similar organizations. This consent form needs to be signed only once. The student, parent and/or guardian will use a separate form, your school's transcript request form, to identify all schools and organizations to which records may be sent.

CONSENT

By my signature below, I authorize FCPS to release to any school or organization identified by me on my school's transcript request form any of my school records or other information about me that is requested by the school or organization in support of my application. This may include, but is not limited to, my transcript, other school records, and any letters of recommendation written by FCPS employees. However, this authorization specifically excludes the release of discipline information.

By my signature below, I also authorize FCPS employees, including but not limited to, administrators, teachers, and counselors, to communicate with and respond to inquiries from the school or organization concerning my application and my credentials.

FCPS may release the required records and information by electronic or other means directly to the school or organization or to a service used by the school or organization to facilitate its application process. These services include, but are not limited to, the National Collegiate Athletic Association Eligibility Center, Common Application, Naviance, and/or Family Connection, Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success, and other services approved by FCPS.

I also understand that I have the right to review or have copies of any records that FCPS transmits to the school or organization. If I have responded yes to the statement below, however, I have waived the right to review or have copies of any letters of recommendation written by FCPS employees.

If an application requires or requests a student's social security number (SSN), FCPS staff members should not enter the student's SSN on his or her behalf.

☐ Yes, I waive my right to review or have copies of any letters of recommendation written by FCPS employees.

☐ No, I do not waive my right to review or have copies of any letters of recommendation written by FCPS employees.

My signature below confirms that I have read and understand this consent form.

Note: Both parent and/or guardian and student are required to sign this form. Parent and/or guardian signature is not required, if the student is aged 18 or over and attending a postsecondary school.

Name of Student (Please print) _____

Signature of Student _____ Student ID _____ Date _____

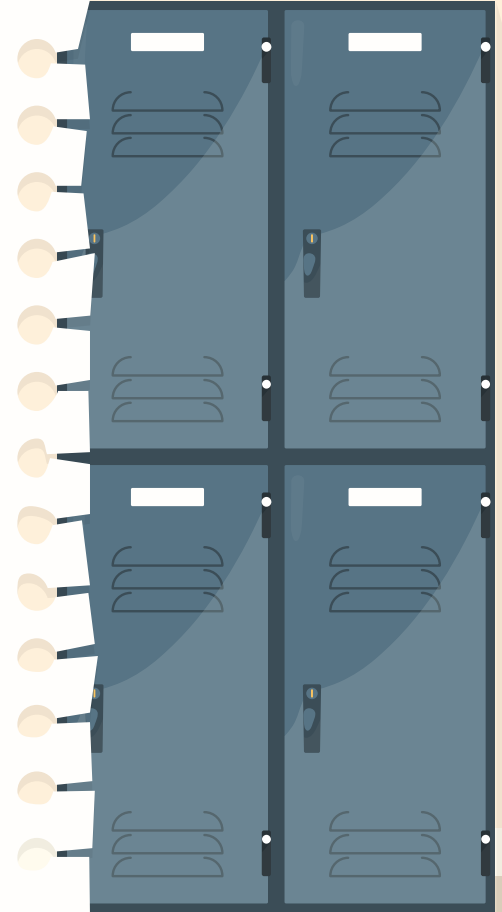
Signature of Parent and/or Guardian (If student is under 18) _____

80-111 (1/18)



Important Steps For Students

- Finalize Your College List (Choose @ least 3 schools; one should be Likely*)
- Submit your Consent Form/Transcript Requests
- Talk to your counselor to request a recommendation
- Use a tracking tool that works for you
- Pay attention to deadlines
- Utilize Naviance & Schoology: Senior Folder





Paying for College/Financial Aid

- Register for an FSA ID, which serves as your FAFSA e-signature.
- If you are attending a college that requires it, complete the CSS Profile
- Watch for Financial Aid events in December or January.
- Complete the FAFSA when it opens in December.





Paying for College/Scholarships

- Consider colleges that offer merit scholarships
Be sure to research any deadline associated with these school-based merit scholarships.
- Search for scholarships on Naviance, the FCPS college & career platform.
- Check out other scholarship websites as well, such as FastWeb and Niche





SAT/ACT & Test Optional

If you choose to send scores, be aware of the following:

- Westfield does not send SAT/ACT scores
- Students can request scores directly through their account @ College Board or ACT

If you don't want to submit your scores or do not plan on taking the SAT or ACT

- Check college websites, Naviance, or FairTest to confirm test optional status





Upcoming Events

FCPS College Fair

Sunday, October 15, 4 – 7 pm

Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University

FCPS Postsecondary Planning Event

Monday, October 16 and Tuesday, October 17

Virtual – from 5 – 8 pm

Sessions offered to help students be better prepared
for whatever's next!





Upcoming Events

College Access Fairfax Paying for College
Saturday, October 28 and Tuesday, November 14
Virtual

College Access Fairfax Scholarship 101
Saturday, November 18 and Tuesday, November 28
Virtual





Counselor Contacts



Subschool 1

Jim Franklin jsfranklin@fcps.edu (A-BEH)
Caitlin Ivey CMlvey@fcps.edu (BEI-CRO)

Subschool 3

Jen Fargo jkfargo@fcps.edu (IL-LA)
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Subschool 2

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Subschool 4

Kaitlyn Huizing knhuizing@fcps.edu (MEM-PAL)
Nicole Shaw ntshaw@fcps.edu (PAM-ROS)

Subschool 5

Ariana Larson alarson@fcps.edu (ROT-TIM)
Bobbi Snyder bjsnyder@fcps.edu (TIN-Z)





College & Career Specialist

Laura Cudahy

Room: G110, Hours: 8am-3:30pm

lqcudahy@fcps.edu

College & Career Exploration

Financial Aid/Scholarships

Job and Volunteer Opportunities

Career Education/Apprenticeships

Military - Gap Year





Helpful Resources

- [College Access Fairfax](#)
- [Naviance](#)
- [FCPS College & Career Google Site](#)
- [Opportunities Handbook](#)
- [Common App](#)
- [Northern Va Community College \(NOVA\)](#)
- [FAFSA](#)
- [SAT Dates & Deadlines](#)
- [ACT Dates and Deadlines](#)
- [CSS Profile](#)
- [Transcript Requests](#)

