

# Junior Family College Night: Class of 2021

November 6, 2019



SHADY SIDE  
ACADEMY





# ACTIVITY

As you head in to the college process, what is one thing you would like your parent/child to know?



# Goals for Tonight

- Establish a clear understanding of the college process overview, timeline, a preview of what's to come
- Lay out Shady Side Academy's college counseling program and how we work with each student and family
- Address your questions



# Tonight's Agenda

- Introductions and Backgrounds
- Philosophy, Mission, Values
- Junior Year Timeline
  - Standardized Testing
  - College Counseling Program
  - College Visits
- Working together throughout the process
- FAQs
- Q&A



# Introductions



Lauren Lieberman



Lucas Frankel



Julie Hertz



Kelsey Williams

Supported by an extended team:

Sophie Lau, Claire Logsdon, Chad Green, Bart Griffith,  
and the entire faculty and staff of the Senior School



# Expertise at Your Fingertips

- Decades of combined selective admissions & college counseling experience
- Read and reviewed thousands of essays
- More than 10,000 applications reviewed in selective admissions committees
- Longstanding relationships in the field
- Hundreds of college campuses visited
- Leadership roles in professional organizations
- Counselors who are leaders in the profession nationally

# So many colleges we've seen!



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BABSON

- Alfred University
- Babson College
- Barnard College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Bucknell University
- Colgate University
- Columbia University
- Dickinson College
- Furman University
- Grove City College
- Hobart & William Smith Colleges



Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology



Trinity College  
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

- Indiana University of PA
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Olin College of Engineering
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. Joseph's University
- St. Lawrence University
- St. Vincent College
- Syracuse University
- Trinity College (CT)
- Tufts University
- University of California – Irvine
- University of California – Santa Cruz



- University of Cincinnati
- University of Colorado – Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Louisville
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- Washington University
- Wellesley College
- Wesleyan University
- West Virginia University



University of Colorado  
Boulder



Visits form the basis for nuanced student conversations and solid college relationships



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# SSA's Mission & Values

- Shady Side Academy's mission is to challenge students to think expansively, act ethically and lead responsibly.
- Guiding Principles:
  - Honesty
  - Kindness
  - Responsibility
  - Respect
  - Safety

**Our vision of guiding families through this process directly aligns with these core values of our school**



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# Junior Year Timeline

## October

- All juniors take the PSAT
- College rep visits

## November

- Junior Kickoff program
- SAT Testing
- Coffee & Conversation

## January

- Deans Panel - Coffee & Conversation
- Individual student meetings

## March/April

- SAT/ACT Testing
- Family Conferences
- College Research
- College Fair
- Financial Aid Info Session
- Campus Visits

## June/July

- SAT/ACT Testing
- College Research
- College Visits
- AP Exam Results
- Reflection

## Junior Year

## December

- PSAT Test Results
- Counselors assigned
- SAT/ACT Testing

## May

- SAT/ACT Testing
- AP Exams
- Solidify summer plans

## September

- College rep visits

## February

- Individual Meetings (cont)
- Family Conferences begin
- College Research



# Junior Year Timeline (1/2)

## Fall

- Take the PSAT (October)
- Junior College Night/"Kickoff Program" (November)
- Formulate individual testing schedule
- Continue involvement, community service, organizations, etc. (All Year)

## Winter

- Standardized Testing - SAT/ACT (mid-year)
- Deans Panel - Coffee & Conversation (January)
- Begin self-assessment and think about college choices
- Utilize Naviance (beginning in January)
- Meet individually with Counselor (January/February)
- Begin to craft college lists
- Think about potential summer plans



# Junior Year Timeline (2/2)

## Spring

- Family meetings with counselor (March/April)
- Visit colleges (Spring Break)
- PCIS College Fair
- Discuss course selection for senior year
- Request teacher recommendations (April/May)
- Testing: SAT Subject Tests (May/June)
  - A note about Subject Tests: not required by the majority of schools but be mindful

## Summer

- Relax, catch up on sleep, have fun!
- Do something with your time (be authentic)
- Visit colleges
- Applications become available approximately Aug 1<sup>st</sup>
- August SAT date

NOTE: The timeline for recruited athletes is often pushed earlier than this and we are here to help



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# The College Counseling Program at SSA

## Programs

- Like this one, throughout the upcoming 20 months

## Communication

- Group emails
- Phone conversations
- Face-to-Face
- Email (specifics of your child/family)
- Student AND Parent surveys and questionnaires
- **Group meetings**
  - Class meetings
  - Small group workshops
  - College Counseling Seminar
- **Individualized meetings**
  - Student meetings
  - Family meetings
- **Highly personalized for each student**
  - Members of the Class of 2019 were accepted at 186 different institutions and are attending 74 different schools in 24 states, plus Washington D.C. and the UK.

Our process is well-thought out and developmentally appropriate. Resist the urge to “get ahead.”

# Communication with Colleges – the SSA Profile



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423 Fox Chapel Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238  
(t) 412-968-3000  
(f) 412-968-3231  
www.shadysideacademy.org

#### ADMINISTRATION

Bartley P. Griffith, Jr. '93  
President

Sophie Lau  
Head of Senior School

#### COLLEGE COUNSELORS

Lauren Lieberman '98  
Director of College Counseling  
llieberman@shadysideacademy.org

Julie A. Hertz  
Associate Director of College Counseling  
jhertz@shadysideacademy.org

Lucas Frankel  
College Counselor  
lfrankel@shadysideacademy.org

Kelsey Williams  
Assistant to the College Counselors  
kwilliams@shadysideacademy.org

CEEB: # 393901

Guiding Principles that act as fundamental points of guidance: Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Kindness and Safety.

ENROLLMENT (PK-12)	1,007
Country Day School	117
Junior School	270
Middle School	193
Senior School	427
Class of 2020	95
Boards	74
Students of Color	37%
Male/Female	54% / 46%

#### SENIOR SCHOOL STATS

Full-Time Faculty	73
Faculty - Advanced Degrees	80%
Faculty:Student Ratio	1:8
Average Class Size	15
Financial Assistance Granted	30%

## 2019-2020 SCHOOL PROFILE

Shady Side Academy is a nationally respected, co-educational private school in Pittsburgh for grades PK-12. The Senior School, located in the suburban Fox Chapel neighborhood of Pittsburgh on a 130-acre college-like campus with six academic buildings, is a college-preparatory school with an optional five- or seven-day boarding experience. With students from 57 different ZIP codes in Allegheny County, 10 other PA counties, 13 states and nine countries, Shady Side is a diverse and unique learning community.

Accreditations: PIAA (Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools), NIS (National Association of Independent Schools), Middle States Association, IASIS (The Association of Boarding Schools), PCS (Pittsburgh Consortium of Independent Schools), NACAC (The National Association for College Admission Counselors), PACAC (Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counselors), and ACIS

#### SENIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The Senior School has a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, where education is viewed as building the skills and habits of inquiry, research, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving.

#### GRADING AND RANKING

Shady Side Academy maintains rigorous standards of grading and awards letter grades as follows:

A+	4.33	C+	2.33
A	4.0	C	2.0
A-	3.67	C-	1.67
B+	3.33	D+	1.33
B	3.0	D	1.0
B-	2.67	D-	.67

A student's grade point average is calculated based on year-end grades. GPAs are not weighted. Shady Side Academy does not rank.

Note: Enrolling in the 2018-2019 school year, all visual arts classes are graded on a portfolio grading scale. There is also the option to take these classes for a grade.

#### COURSE NUMBERING ON TRANSCRIPTS

Because Shady Side Academy offers so few designated advanced classes, we use an internal numbering system on our transcripts. The course numbering system indicates curricular sequence as follows: 100 level - 9th grade or introductory; 200 level - 10th grade; 300 level - 11th grade; 400 level - 12th grade, 500 level - AP or highest level offered.

#### HONORS/ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Shady Side does not designate any courses as "honors" because all courses follow a rigorous college preparatory curriculum.

Advanced Placement courses are offered in three subject areas: math, foreign language and computer science.

#### REPORTING OF DISCIPLINE

Students are expected to act with integrity in all academic and personal matters. Shady Side Academy complies with NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices. Applicable disciplinary issues will be reported to colleges accordingly.

#### STANDARDIZED TESTING

Standardized test ranges for the past two graduating classes combined, 2018 and 2019

SAT (155 Tests)	Mean	Middle 50%
Test Section	676	620-750
Math		
Evidence Based		
Reading & Writing	669	630-720
Total	1345	1240-1460

ACT (175 Tests)	Mean	Middle 50%
Test Section		
ELA	22.1	21-31
English	30.5	26-35
Math	28.3	25-32
Reading	30.0	26-34
Science	28.5	25-33
STEM	28.3	25-32
Writing	6.5	6-9
Composite	29.1	26-33

## 2019-2020 SCHOOL PROFILE

#### CLASS OF 2020 JUNIOR GRADE DISTRIBUTION

	A*	A	A*	B*	B	B*	C*	C	C*	D
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>										
Game Design	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Problem Solving I	0	6	3	8	5	1	3	1	0	0
Robotics	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Web Page Design	0	3	4	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
<b>ENGLISH</b>										
Upper-Form	13	63	63	53	37	27	18	6	3	9
<b>HISTORY</b>										
U.S. History	0	19	22	19	12	15	6	2	0	2
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>										
AP Calculus AB	0	7	4	4	4	1	0	0	0	0
AP Calculus BC	2	6	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Trigonometry and Function Analysis	0	6	12	10	7	8	5	5	0	2
Trigonometry and Intro Calculus	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SCIENCE</b>										
Advanced Biology	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Biology I	5	10	6	8	13	2	6	4	3	4
Physics II (Algebra)	2	2	1	2	3	0	2	1	0	1
Physics II (Calculus)	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summer Research Seminar	2	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b>										
Chinese 4A	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
German 3	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latin 4A	2	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Spanish 3	0	7	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	1
Spanish 4	1	4	3	3	7	2	1	0	1	0
Spanish 4A	0	3	4	0	3	1	0	0	0	0

Highest GPA in the Class of 2020 : 4.2

Note: The classes listed had five or more juniors enrolled

## THE SHADY SIDE EXPERIENCE

#### THINK *Expansively*

40% of students explore a passion project or chosen profession through an **INDEPENDENT STUDY** or **SENIOR PROJECT**.

Senior Project topics (small sample):

- Building a motorcycle
- Composing a musical
- Shadowing a cardiologist
- EMT training and certification

#### GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Global travel opportunities include:

- International service projects through the Parkin Fellowships

- Exchange programs in France, Germany, Spain, and China and a biannual theater trip to Scotland

#### SUMMER RESEARCH SEMINAR

Students engage in cutting-edge science and engineering research through local university partnerships.

SSA students are empowered to make choices from a broad array of opportunities.

#### ACT *Ethically*

Students are selected as associates of each academic department, providing an important voice in major curricular decisions and departmental policies.

Students serve as voting members on multiple committees that help shape the future of

the school, including:

- Discipline Committee
- Admissions Committee

#### LEAD *Responsibly*

SSA Farm and Farmers Market teach students about environmental science and sustainability along with sales and marketing skills.

- LEAD@SSA is a student-led leadership conference held annually to develop leadership skills in students.
- Peer-to-peer student mentors lead orientation and help new students transition to SSA.

Disciplinary/education requirements	ENGLISH 4 full years 12 credits	HISTORY 3 full years 9 credits U.S. History research paper	MATH 3 full years 9 credits	SCIENCE 2 full years 2 lab sciences 6 credits	WORLD LANGUAGES Through Level 3	COMPUTER SCIENCE 2 terms 2 credits	ARTS VISUAL AND PERFORMING 3 credits All arts classes are pass/fail
TYPICAL COURSE PROGRESSION	<b>GRADE 9</b> Foundations of Literature and Writing I	<b>GRADE 9</b> Problems in World History	<b>GRADES 9-12</b> Problem-Based Mathematics I	<b>GRADE 9</b> Physics I Chemistry	<b>GRADE 9</b> Chinese 1, 2, 2A French 1, 2, 2A German 1, 2 Latin 1, 2	<b>GRADE 9</b> Problem Solving: Karel & Elementary Graphics	<b>GRADES 9-12</b> Concert Choir Chamber Choir Concert Band Symphonic Band
	<b>GRADE 10</b> Foundations of Literature and Writing II	<b>GRADE 10</b> Patterns of Western Identity	<b>Problem-Based Mathematics II</b>	<b>GRADE 10</b> Chemistry Biology I	<b>GRADE 10</b> Chinese 2, 2A, 3, 3A French 2, 2A, 3, 3A German 2, 3 Latin 2, 3	<b>GRADE 10</b> Interactive Web Page Design Game Design	<b>Jazz Ensemble</b> String Orchestra Electronic Sound Studio
	<b>GRADES 11-12</b> The Art of Persuasion (1 term)	<b>GRADE 11</b> United States History	<b>Trigonometry and Function Analysis (TFA)</b>	<b>GRADE 11</b> Biology I Physics IA Physics II: Algebra Physics II: Calculus Summer Research Seminar	<b>GRADE 11</b> Chinese 2, 2A, 3, 3A French 2, 2A, 3, 3A German 2, 3 Latin 2, 3	<b>GRADE 11</b> Artificial Intelligence Application Development for Mobile Devices 3D Modeling	<b>Music Theory</b> Music Workshop: Guitar or Piano
	50 different one-term English courses offered to juniors and seniors across broad literary themes such as British/European Literature before 1800, the Literature of the United States, Focus on the World/Non-Englishophone Literature, and more.	<b>GRADE 12</b> Economics	<b>CHS Statistics</b>	<b>GRADE 12</b> Physics II: Algebra Physics II: Calculus Advanced Topics in Astronomy	<b>GRADE 12</b> Chinese 3, 3A, 4, 4A French 3, 3A, 4, 4A German 3, 4A Latin 3, 4A	<b>GRADE 12</b> Robotics Computer Architecture	<b>Acting</b> Studio Art 2D Studio Art 3D
		Intro to Philosophy	<b>CHS Calculus</b>	<b>GRADE 12</b> Physics II: Calculus Advanced Topics in Physics and Engineering	<b>GRADE 12</b> Chinese 4, 4A, 5, 5AP French 4, 4A, 5AP German 4A, 5AP Latin 4A, 5A	<b>GRADES 10-12</b> Options above, PLUS: AP Computer Science	<b>Advanced Portfolio Studio Art</b> Architecture Ceramics Digital Photography
		9 upper-level History electives, including Pittsburgh History and Modern Social Justice	<b>AP Calculus AB</b>	<b>Advanced Biology</b> Environmental Science Psychology Organic Chemistry 6 upper-level one-term Organic Chemistry electives	<b>Spanish 2, 2A, 3, 3A</b>	<b>Advanced Topics: Advanced Data Structures and Algorithms</b> <b>Advanced Topics: Machine Learning</b> <b>Advanced Topics in Computer Science</b>	
		5 upper-level one-term Economics and Philosophy electives	<b>AP Calculus BC</b>		<b>Spanish 3, 3A, 4, 4A</b>		
			<b>Multivariable Calculus</b>		<b>Spanish 4, 4A, 5, 5AP</b>		
			<b>7 upper-level one-term Math electives</b>				

# Communication – College Counseling for Juniors group page



SHADY SIDE  
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Julie Hertz   Portals   **Groups Dashboard**

## MY ACCOUNT

**Welcome Julie!**

Profile

Activity

LOGOUT

## S-BOOK DIRECTORIES

## CLASS PAGES

Advisory Program, T01 - 13, Advisory, Term I Advisory Kassling

Groups Dashboard

College Counseling for Freshmen

College Counseling for Juniors

College Counseling for Seniors

College Counseling for Sophomores

SS Archived Class Page Access

SS Faculty/Staff

Catherine

Art K

Computer K

College Counseling for Juniors



# College Counseling for Juniors



College Counseling for Juniors

Home

Resources

Bulletins

Members



Home Page:

Customize

Copy To

Copy From

“True belonging doesn't require you to change who you are; it requires you to be who you are.”  
- Brene Brown

## Bulletins

Manage Bulletins

**Coolidge Scholars Program** Kelsey Williams 10/28/2019 11:08 AM

Students apply for the Coolidge Scholarship during their junior year of high school. The [Coolidge Scholarship](#) is an annually awarded, full-ride, presidential scholarship that covers a student's tuition, room, board, and expenses for four years of undergraduate study. The Coolidge may be used by recipients at any accredited American college or university. Anyone of any background, pursuing any academic discipline of study, may apply to this non-partisan, need-blind, program.

Apps due January 16, 2020.

**Youth Ambassadors Program** Kelsey Williams 10/23/2019 02:04 PM

3-week summer programs sponsored by the US Dept of State for high school students ages 15-18 to go abroad.

## Resources

manage resources

- [College Rep Visits at SSA](#)
- [Researching Colleges](#)
- [Career and Major Exploration](#)
- [Standardized Testing - ACT and SAT](#)
- [Attending a College Fair](#)
- [College Interviews and Campus Visits](#)
- [Resume Writing](#)
- [Athletic Recruiting](#)



# Naviance Student

Welcome, Earl!

Search for Colleges

Type a college name

SEARCH

## Colleges I'm thinking about

### Welcome Class of 2020!

#### Class of 2020:

Welcome to the Naviance Family Connection System! Here you will find a "virtual file box" where you can save information, conduct research on colleges, understand your personal profile in the context of college admission (both Shady Side specific and nationally), and access information and resources for your

Read more

### My Favorites



COLLEGES  
I'm thinking about



COLLEGES  
I'm applying to

College Delivery type

American University



Boston College



Boston University



Bucknell University



Student

N/A

Multiple Deadlines

High

MORE

Student

N/A

Multiple Deadlines

N/A

MORE

Student

N/A

Multiple Deadlines

N/A

MORE

# Naviance/Naviance Student – Historical Data



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University of Pittsburgh :: Pittsburgh, PA :: U.S.

[www.pitt.edu](http://www.pitt.edu)

- General
- Applications
- Analysis
- Admissions
- Academics
- Cost & aid
- Extracurriculars

## Application History

Class	Apply	Admit	Enroll
2020	31	8	1
2019	38	30	11
2018	45	33	7
2017	48	39	8
2016	40	34	7
2015	42	33	8
2014	53	47	7
2013	39	36	8
2012	41	30	6
2011	45	28	7
2010	31	23	4

Quick Name: Pitt ([edit](#))

Counselor Comments for Students   
No comments. [\[add comments\]](#)

### Admissions Contact Information

Phone: +1-412-624-4141  
Fax: +1-(412) 648-8815  
Financial Aid: +1-(412) 624-7488  
Email: [SEND E-MAIL](#)

### International Admissions Contact Information

Phone: N/A  
Fax: N/A  
Financial Aid: N/A  
Email: N/A

## Scheduled Visits [new](#)

No visits scheduled.

## Contacts [new](#)

Heather Abrams  
Breanne Donohue  
Barry Duerr (primary)  
Kate Snyder

## Groups [edit](#)

SSA Application recipients  
7 & 8 year medical programs

This college accepts the recommendations via email

### Application Deadlines

Other (Rolling Admission - Fall) - Jul  
Other (Rolling Admission - Spring) -  
Rolling Admissions

### Admissions Office Address

Alumni Hall  
4227 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15260

Historical data with national and school-specific comparisons on the student side

How you compare with **other students from your high school** who have been accepted to University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus

We've compared the scores of all the students who have been accepted from Shady Side Academy with your scores.

GPA

FAIR

Your GPA: **3.1**

Average: 3.51

Lowest: 2.34 | Highest: 4.26

SAT

FAIR

You: **1350**

Average SAT: 1378

Lowest SAT: 1110 | Highest SAT: 1590

ACT

FAIR

You: **27**

Average: 29

Lowest: 18 | Highest: 36

OVERALL AVERAGE

FAIR

Some of your scores are below average.

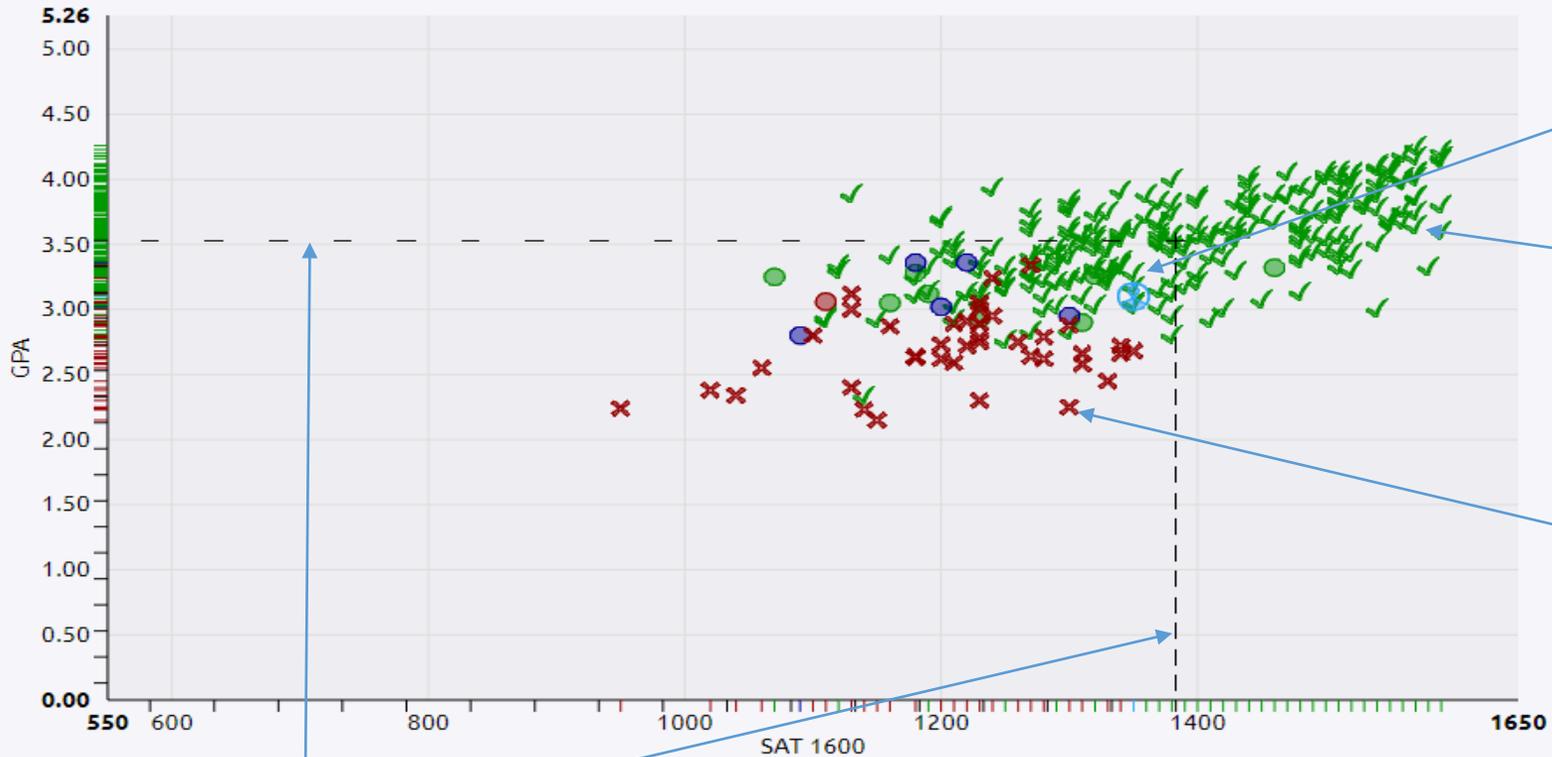
[Compare me with all accepted applicants](#)

Detailed history on the counselor side

# Naviance Analysis (SAT Scattergram)



Comparing Unweighted GPA with SAT (1600 Scale)



This is Earl

Green Check =  
Admitted

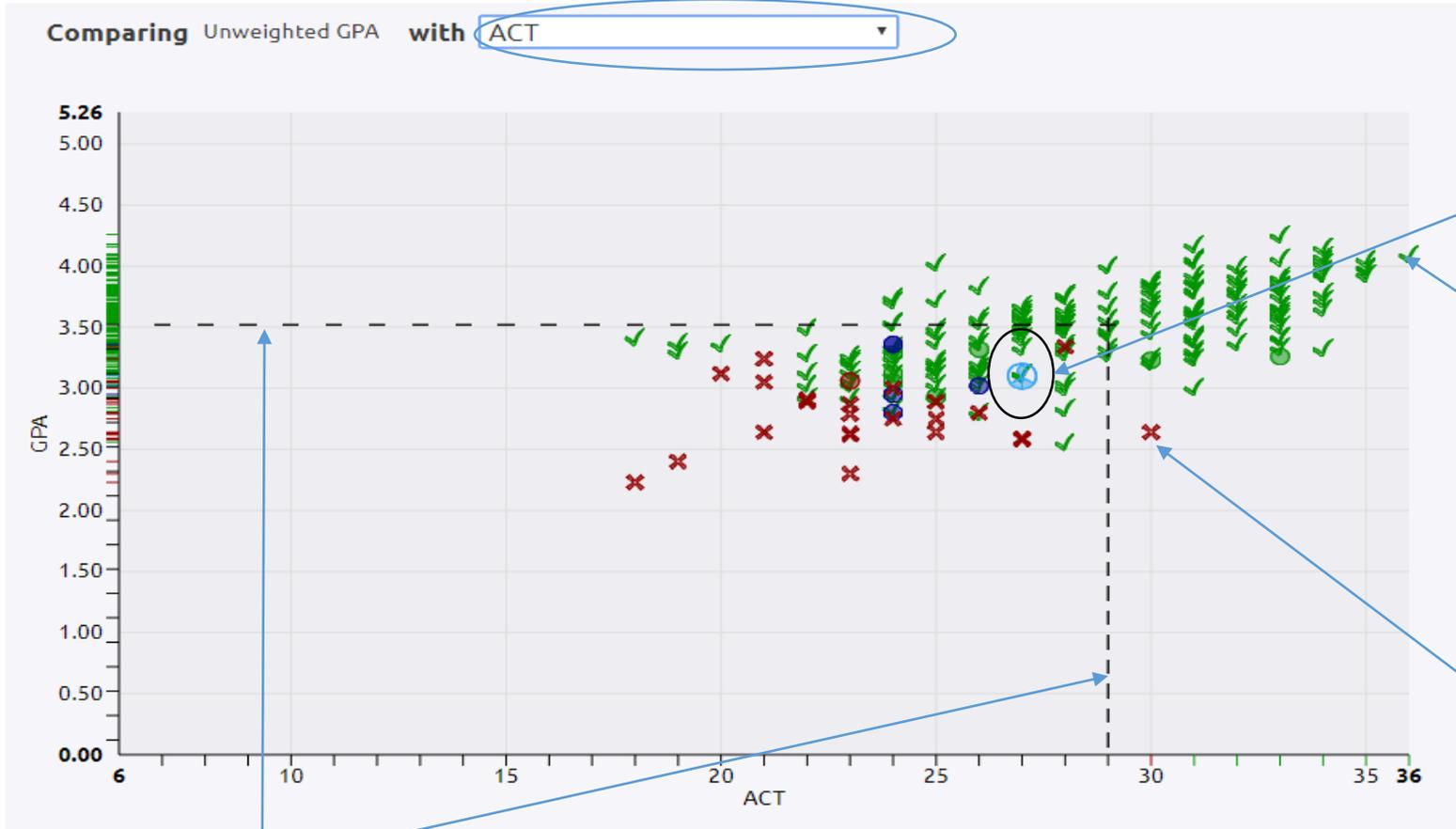
X = Student  
was denied  
admission

School Averages, GPA and  
standardized test results

Legend	Accepted	Waitlisted/Accepted	Waitlisted/Unknown	Waitlisted/Denied	Denied
● You	✓ Regular Decision	● Regular Decision	● Regular Decision	● Regular Decision	✗ Regular Decision
— Average GPA	✓ Early Decision	● Early Decision	● Early Decision	● Early Decision	✗ Early Decision
Average Score	✓ Early Action	✓ Early Action	✓ Early Action	✗ Early Action	✗ Early Action

*Click individual legend icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram.*

# Naviance Analysis (ACT Scattergram)



This is Earl

Green Check =  
Admitted

X = Student  
was denied  
admission

School Averages, GPA and  
standardized test results

Legend	Accepted	Waitlisted/Accepted	Waitlisted/Unknown	Waitlisted/Denied	Denied
👤 You	✓ Regular Decision	⊙ Regular Decision	⊙ Regular Decision	⊙ Regular Decision	✗ Regular Decision
— Average GPA	✓ Early Decision	⊙ Early Decision	⊙ Early Decision	⊙ Early Decision	✗ Early Decision
Average Score	✓ Early Action	⊙ Early Action	⊙ Early Action	⊙ Early Action	✗ Early Action

*Click individual legend icons or headers to hide each type or group in the scattergram.*



# College Kickstart



EARL E ACTION

## 1. Your list of schools

Enter your college name here

Click on the 'Rank' column and drag to reorder the list. If you really love your top choices, click on the heart icons.

✕ Rank	♥ Your List
✕ 1	♥ Villanova University <sup>HS</sup>
✕ 2	♥ University of Miami <sup>HS</sup>
✕ 3	Northeastern University <sup>HS</sup>
✕ 4	University of Wisconsin - Madison <sup>HS</sup>
✕ 5	University of Colorado - Boulder <sup>HS</sup>
✕ 6	Loyola University Maryland <sup>HS</sup>
✕ 7	University of Maryland - College Park <sup>HS</sup>

## 2. Your pro

SAT-ERW

SAT-M

## Recommended Strategy

School/Admission Plan	Admit%	Boost%
Villanova <sup>HS</sup> <a href="#">Early Decision I</a>	29%	NOT REPORTED
University of Miami <sup>HS</sup> <a href="#">Early Decision II</a>	38%	NOT REPORTED
Northeastern <sup>HS</sup> <a href="#">Early Action</a>	25%	NOT REPORTED
Wisconsin <sup>HS</sup> <a href="#">Early Action</a>	76%	
CU-Boulder <sup>HS</sup> <a href="#">Early Action</a>	57%	
Loyola MD <sup>HS</sup> <a href="#">Early Action</a>	99%	NOT REPORTED

**B+**

SLIGHTLY AGGRESSIVE

FIX YOUR MIX  
+ Add 1 Likely

- 0 UNLIKELIES
- 2 REACHES
- 4 TARGETS
- 1 LIKELIES



# College Counseling Seminar for Juniors

- 7-session seminar to be held Tuesdays (mornings and after school) during winter term; also new this year, the option to meet during the school day
- General topics are as follows:
  - Self-assessment
  - Conducting college research
  - Understanding your context to create a balanced perspective and list
  - Making the most of college visits
  - Creating a resume and communicating your activities and engagements
  - Essays and applications
- If you opt in, you commit to attending all sessions
- If you do not opt in, the tools will be shared through individual meetings but in less depth
- Resounding success in year's past! (4<sup>th</sup> year of the seminar)
- Look for an email to register

# Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Affordability



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Federal Student Aid  
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

PROUD SPONSOR of  
the AMERICAN MIND®

FAFSA®  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid



Home



About Us



FSA ID



StudentAid.gov



Help

SEARCH

English | Español

## Get help paying for college

Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



### New to the FAFSA?

Start A New  
FAFSA

### Returning User?

- Make a correction
- Add a school
- View your Student Aid Report (SAR), and more...

Login

### College Scorecard

Information on college costs, graduation, and post-college earnings.

### Deadlines

Information about your deadlines.

### School Code Search

Find your college's school code. Also find detailed information about your college.

### FAFSA Filing Options

### Announcements

- Heads Up! The new 2017-2018 FAFSA is almost here! To upload this better-than-ever version, FAFSA on the Web will be unavailable: Sunday, September 25, from 4:55 a.m. through 3:25 p.m. ET and Friday, September 30, from 10 p.m. through 1:30 a.m. ET, October 1.

### Thinking About College?



Use FAFSA4caster to see how federal student aid can help you pay for college!

◀ Visit Student Home

Visit PROFILE for Professionals ▶

## CSS / Financial Aid PROFILE®



Use PROFILE to Apply for Financial Aid.

Welcome to PROFILE. By filling out one form, you can apply online for nonfederal financial aid from almost 400 colleges, universities, professional schools, and scholarship programs.

Apply for Financial Aid

Useful Resources

U.S. Department of Education  
**Net Price Calculator Center**

◀ Back to CATC

Q. Do you want to know how much it will cost for you to attend college?

A. Enter the name of a college to find its net price calculator.

# Financial Aid, Scholarships and Affordability



SHADY SIDE  
ACADEMY

- Does the ability to pay (or not) have an impact on admissions decisions?
  - The ability to pay may have an impact on admission decisions
  - *“Need-blind”* vs. *“Need-aware”*
- How can I estimate how much colleges will expect me to pay?
  - Financial aid estimators and the Net Price Calculator
- How does merit aid work?
- Who is the best person to help me figure all of this out?
  - *“Make a friend in financial aid!”*

Keep your eyes open for additional information and programming about financial aid and scholarships



# Tonight's Agenda

- Introductions and Backgrounds
- Philosophy, Mission, Values
- Junior Year Timeline
  - Standardized Testing
  - College Counseling Program
  - College Visits
- Working together throughout the process
- **FAQs**
- Q&A

# FAQ– Early plans and other key terms



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- ED, EA, REA, Rolling, EDII, Regular Decision – what does it all mean?
  - What are the implications of each?
- Score choice, Common App, College Board, ACT, what are the other terms I need to know at this point?

# FAQ– Early Plans and other key terms



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- Early Decision – November deadline, BINDING decision
  - Early Action – November or December deadline, NON-Binding
  - Restricted Early Action- EA with restrictions about where else you can apply early
  - Regular Decision – typical January deadline
  - Rolling Admission – the earlier you apply, the better
  - Others (priority, first notification, etc.)
- 
- The Common Application, The Coalition Application, School-specific apps
  - FAFSA – Main financial aid form
  - The College Board – PSAT, SAT, Subject Tests, AP Tests
  - Test-Optional – not all schools require SAT or ACT
  - Score Choice – the ability to choose what scores are sent to schools



# FAQ: College Visits

- Do I need to visit every college I think I might want to apply to?
- How many schools do most families see? And when?
- What does the visit entail?
- Is it ever too many?

- 
- Plan carefully
  - Schedule directly with Admissions Office
  - Possible activities may include:
    - Campus Tour
    - Information Session
    - Open House Events
    - Department or Faculty Meeting
    - Attend Class
    - Interview
    - Overnight Visit (recommended for seniors)

# FAQ: How do admission decisions really get made?



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- Is it true that the [X] is the most important part of the application?
  - Transcript, test scores, essays, teacher recs, demonstrated interest, etc.

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## Holistic review...

Grades in college prep courses  
Strength of curriculum  
Admission test scores (SAT, ACT)  
Grades in all courses  
Essay or writing sample  
Student's demonstrated interest  
Counselor recommendation  
Class rank, if reported  
Teacher recommendation  
Extracurricular activities  
Interview

According to the NACAC State of College Admission, 2015

# FAQ: How can I begin to make myself the best possible college applicant?



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- Do I need an independent college counselor?
  - Do I need a tutor for SAT/ACT every week for the next year?
  - Do I need to “demonstrate interest” and what does that look like?
  - What else should I be doing?
- 
- Be engaged, stay engaged
  - Think critically, take time to reflect
  - Ask questions
  - Read
  - Talk as a family about the purpose and value of college
  - Be the best possible student and community member you can be
  - Communicate and read your email
  - Trust and build partnerships

# FAQ: What should we make of the recent college admissions news?



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- Varsity Blues admissions scandal of 2019
  - College athletic recruiting
  - Independent counselors and outside “help”
  - Ethics and values
- NACAC policy changes this year
  - ED incentives
  - Ongoing recruitment post-May 1 and transfer
- Stay grounded in the realities of SSA
  - Strong support
  - True partnership



# Next Steps and Thank You!

- Begin to talk about upcoming college visit plans
  - Visit broadly!
- Begin to talk about family values and expectations around college financing
- Register for upcoming SAT and ACT (winter)

I want to tell my  
parents/son/daughter...



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I want to tell my  
parent(s)/son/daughter...

# Q&A

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook! "Shady Side Academy College Counseling" and Instagram @SSACollegeCounseling



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# Appendix A: SAT vs ACT

SAT	VS	ACT
Content-based test	Type of Test	Content-based test
Reading: 1, 65-min section; Math: 1, 25-min section (no calculator) & 1, 55-min section (w/ calculator); Writing & Language: 1, 35-min section; Essay: 1, 50-min section (optional)	Test Format	English: 1, 45-min section; Math: 1, 60-min section; Reading: 1, 35-min section; Science: 1, 35-min section; Writing: 1, 40-min essay (optional)
reading, relevant words in context, math, grammar & usage, analytical writing (optional)	Content Covered	grammar & usage, math, reading, science reasoning, and writing (optional)
Questions are evidence and context-based in an effort to focus on real-world situations and multi-step problem-solving	Test Style	straightforward, questions may be long but are usually less difficult to decipher
Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing are each scored on a scale of 200-800. Composite SAT score is the sum of the two section scores and ranged from 400-1600.	Scoring	English, Math, Reading, and Science scores will each range between 1-36. Composite ACT score is the average of your scores on the four sections; ranges between 1-36

SAT	VS	ACT
no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers	Penalty for Wrong Answers?	no – you do not lose points for incorrect answers
yes – you can choose which set(s) of SAT scores to submit to colleges	Score Choice?	yes – you can choose which set(s) of ACT scores to submit to colleges
questions increase in difficulty level as you move through that question type in a section (except reading passage questions, which progress chronologically through the passage)	Difficulty Levels	difficulty level of the questions is random
arithmetic, problem-solving & data analysis, heart of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry; formulas provided.	Math Levels	arithmetic, algebra I and II, functions, geometry, trigonometry; no formulas are provided
with private schools and schools on the east and west coasts; however, every four-year college in the US accepts SAT scores	Tends to be more popular?	with public schools and schools in the Midwest and south; however, every four-year college in the US accepts ACT scores
seven times per year: January, March or April, May, June, October, November, December	Offered when?	six times per year: February, April, June, September, October, December (note that some states offer the ACT as part of their state testing requirements; these tests are not