
Parents' role in the College Application Process

Clarksburg HS, Damascus HS, Northwest HS,
& Richard Montgomery HS

Collective effort

1. Student
2. Counselor
3. Parents
4. College & Career Information Coordinator
5. Select teachers
6. Registrar





Ways to help

- **College Visits**
Traveling for college visits
- **Moral support**
Checking in on progress and application status
- **Application fees**
Fees range from \$20-\$125
- **Signing paperwork**
FERPA release
- **Input on final decision**

College Visits

MCPS allows students to miss 5 school days for College visits with an attendance note handed in prior to the visit.

[Things to consider while touring a college campus.](#)

[Why visit Colleges](#)

[Finding your College Fit](#)



Tip

Plan college visits at least 2 weeks ahead of time to allow students to prepare for missing classwork. Some colleges also fill their visit spots very quickly.

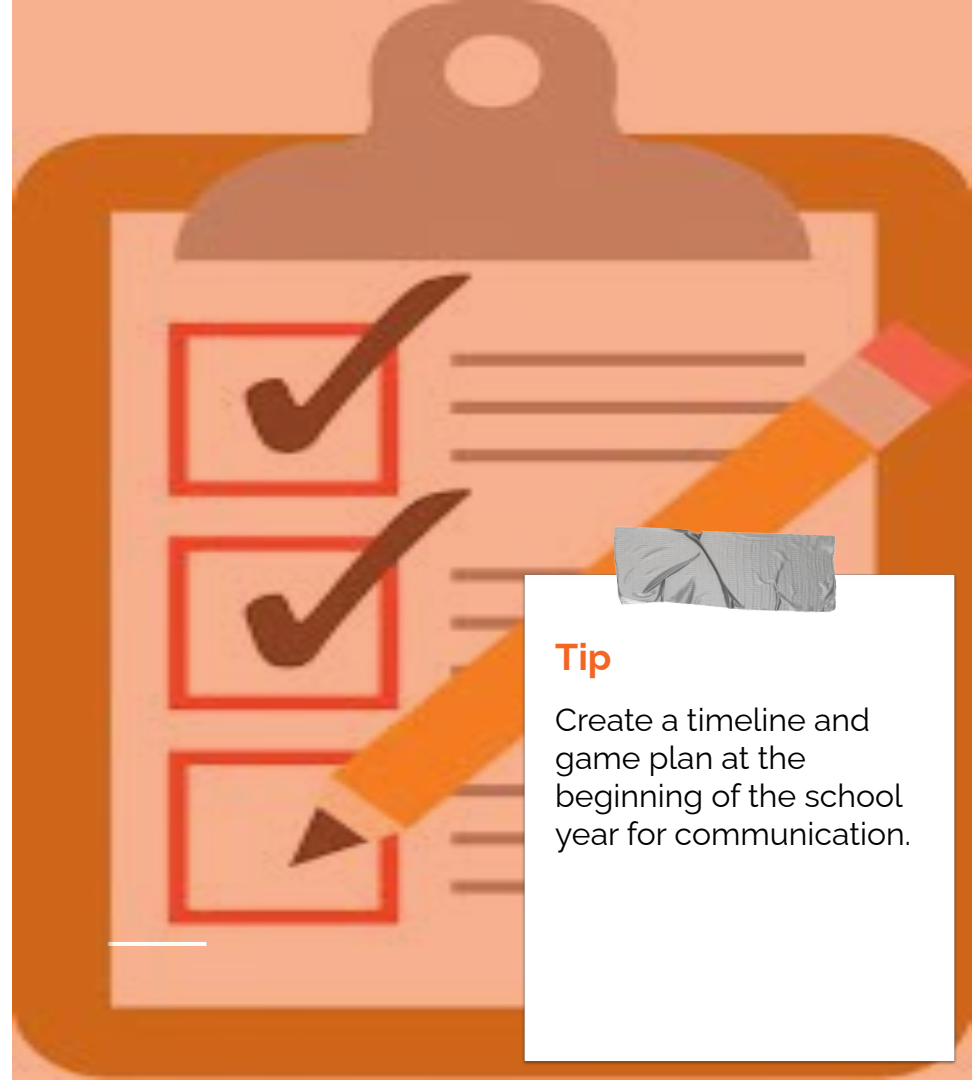
Moral Support

The application process has several important steps:

- The application
- Transcript requests
- Letters of recommendation requests
- Essays
- The signed FERPA
- Submitting test scores

Things to consider:

- Check ins will vary by student
- Some students may need more reminders than others
- You can schedule a meeting with your CCIC to create a to-do-list
- This could be a stressful process for students.



Tip

Create a timeline and game plan at the beginning of the school year for communication.

Application fees

Students who receive Free or Reduced Lunch are eligible to receive application fee waivers:

- On the Common App, students select the fee waiver option and their counselor will get an email to confirm their FARMS status.
- For schools not on the Common App, students should contact schools individually for a fee waiver.
- Fee waivers are also available for the SAT and ACT.
- If your student is not a FARMS student and you need help with fees, reach out to your CCIC for other options.



Tip

Students should narrow down their list to about 10 schools to lower the cost of application fees.

Signing the FERPA

- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy ACT (FERPA) release form must be signed by a parent or guardian.
- The form gives your school permission to release your students transcripts and recommendation letters to colleges.
- The FERPA release may be a paper form, a google form, or in Naviance depending on your school's process.
- This only needs to be signed one time.



Input on Final Decision

- Students may be indecisive while choosing between 2 or 3 schools.
- Some students become laser focused on one school not acknowledging other options
- Provide input based on what you like and dislike about each school.
- Express how much, if any, you're able to put towards their tuition.
- Help review pros and cons from visits and research

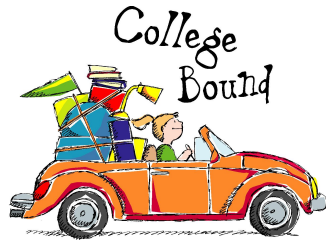


Tip

Sometimes students feel overwhelmed by this decision and may need a break from the conversation.



Counselor Corner



- The process should be student centered and student driven.
- Get comfortable as a 'passenger' in the process... not leading the effort.
- Be ready to provide feedback.
- Let the student complete the application - colleges will know!
- Have honest discussions about finances.
- Encourage the student to talk with their counselors and use the resources available through the College Career Information Center and Naviance.



Tip

Trust your student.

Trust the process.



FOR THE CAREGIVERS



LISTEN

Listen to what they talk about as interests, preferences and goals. Consider what classes and activities they enjoy. You know a lot about your child from years of caring for them. Use this to help

EXPLORE

Considering what you know and hear, help your child find ways to explore and engage with interests. An interest could become a major



EXPOSE

There are many ways to gain exposure to college and college campuses. There are local campuses to visit or visit while traveling. Many colleges offer pre-college programming in summer.

Where to go for what?

Naviance:

1. Transcript requests
2. Recommendation requests
3. College searches

Reach out to CCIC for Naviance username and password reset

Counselor:

- College and/or career advisement
- Schedule concerns

CCIC:

- Naviance help
- College visits
- Overall application help

Registrar:

- Transcript request questions
- Recommendation request questions

College reps:

- Verifying deadlines and college specific information

Last words of advice..

Set up a meeting with your counselor and/or CCIC to make sure your student is on track.

Ask your student if they need any help from you or their CCIC.

Understand that this can be a stressful process.



Questions?