

# **BEYOND BATTLE MOUNTAIN High School**

A guide to planning the next step in your education



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## Greetings from the Battle Mountain High School Guidance Center!

*At BMHS we do not think of your graduation as an end of your education but a beginning.*



Did you know that college graduates make more than **ONE MILLION dollars MORE** than high school graduates over a lifetime?

Did you know that there are over **3,600 two and four year colleges** in the United States?

Choosing a college or career means researching, evaluating, making decisions, and learning some things about yourself and that takes time.

For some of you, college has been a dinner table conversation for many years. For some of you, college is an unknown territory. We are here to help you on your journey. Remember, contrary to what you see in the movies, college is SCHOOL and the best preparation for college is challenging yourself at Battle Mountain.

We have provided this book as a way to jumpstart your brain and get you thinking about life *Beyond Battle Mountain*. As you can see in the bibliography at the end of this book, there are entire books written on every subject. Visit the Guidance Center to check out a book or the BMHS website for more information and links to great websites. [www.bmhs.eagleschools.net](http://www.bmhs.eagleschools.net) Don't have a computer at home? We have a line of computers for students to use to search options. Come by and see us!

There is no such thing as the perfect college or program. There are many schools where you will fit in and get a great education and/or career. Remember -the vast majority of students successfully gain admission to their favorite college and are happy with the choice they made.

As the college search and application process can often be overwhelming, our goal is to help you approach it in stages. This can make your journey to higher education easier, more informed, and more exciting.

Let's venture ***Beyond Battle Mountain High School!***



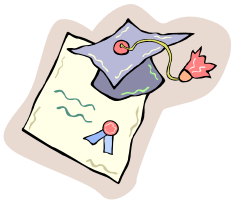


# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings from guidance	i
What are my options?	1
College in Colorado	2
CCHE Admission Eligibility Index	3
Interested in colleges outside Colorado?	4
Go to a college fair!	5
Visit colleges	6
Do my grades count?	7
What about college testing ?	8
So you are interested in being a college athlete!	10
How do I get started applying?	11
What are the admission requirements?	12
Preparing applications	12
Show me the money	13
Planning for college year by year	
Freshman year	16
Sophomore year	16
Junior year	18
Senior year	20
College reference book bibliography	23

## WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

With 3600 two and four year colleges and universities in this country your options may be overwhelming. Think about what you would like to do. Look at the career inventory you took as a junior on the ACT. Need more of an idea about career possibilities? See your counselor. There are tests you can take that will help you search career options for you! The more rigorous your high school courses, the stronger your grades, the better your test scores, the more options you will have after graduation. You did not do well in high school? There are still many ways for you to end up with a great education and fulfilling career.



Have you already taken college level courses at Battle Mountain High School through Colorado Mountain College? Did you know that BMHS students can take courses at CMC and graduate from CMC with a two year Associate Degree before they earn their high school diploma from BMHS? It is true! It is a great way to save time and money for college! Our dual credit CMC courses are guaranteed to transfer to all the public four year colleges in Colorado and are being accepted by many private and out of state colleges, too. It is a great way to get a jump start on college while at BMHS.

There are many rewarding careers that require a certificate or a two year Associate Degree from a community college. Have you thought about a career in Culinary Arts, Real Estate, Fire Science, Nursing, Early Childhood or Emergency Medical Training? You can begin and even finish your training while you are at BMHS through CMC at no cost! Why wait when it is FREE to you during high school and you can enter the job market highly trained in a career after BMHS.



Colorado  
Mountain  
College



Colorado Mountain College is the local educational opportunity located in Edwards. Did you know that taking classes at CMC is less expensive than any other community college in the state? You can live at home and work while going to school part time. Classes are small and professors are available to you. Did you know that there are 5 CMC campuses within commuting distance that offer a broad range of programs and on campus housing? CMC is a great option to get a new start, try college, save money or be close to family. You can end up with a certificate and trained for a career, finish a two year Associate Degree or move on the next two years to a 4 year college to earn a Bachelors Degree at a university. See your counselor; visit CMC in Edwards 569-2900 or online [www.coloradomtn.edu](http://www.coloradomtn.edu)

You need to be able to demonstrate college level reading on the Accuplacer or ACT to take college level courses at CMC. Developmental classes are available to help boost your reading and math skills if you did not pass the tests.

# CollegeInColorado.org

Looking for other options in Colorado? Visit this comprehensive website [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org) to learn about all the public and private colleges in Colorado. As a Colorado resident public colleges charge less tuition than private colleges. There are 20 community colleges and 12 state colleges and universities in Colorado with a wide range of programs. Login and get started! Your counselor would be glad to show you the ropes. This is a great website to search programs, research colleges, learn about financial aid and even apply to college right online. Interested in accounting? It will list all of the schools with that program. It is even in Spanish for your parents.

Colorado 4 year colleges as well as most other colleges across the country expect that you have taken core courses at BMHS beyond the requirements for BMHS graduation. The Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR) for Colorado 4 year colleges are: English 4 credits, Math 3 credits (Algebra 1 and two courses higher), Science 3 credits and Social Studies 3 credits (1 year of US or World History) and 2 additional academic credits. Requirements will be more rigorous for the class of 2010 to include 2 credits of foreign language and an additional year of math above Algebra 1. See the BMHS planning guide and the College in Colorado website for more information.

The twelve four year public colleges in Colorado are ranked as Highly Selective to Selective which means that CU-Boulder is harder to get into than Metro State. The colleges use an index of test scores and grade point averages as a tool to admit students. The higher your score, the more options you will have available out of high school. To find out where you place on the index see page 3. Find your composite ACT or SAT score across the top of the page. Let's say John has an ACT score of 20. Now find your cumulative GPA on the right side. John has a GPA of 2.8. Run your fingers down the column and over the row and see where those two intersect. That is John's index. It is 92. Now look at the box below. You will see the list of colleges and the scores they are looking for. With an index of 92 would you likely be admitted to CU-Boulder? Have you considered looking at CU in Colorado Springs or Mesa State closer to home in Grand Junction? What about going to community college? Once you earn a year of college credit only your college grades (not your high school grades or test scores) are used to apply to a four year college. It is a fresh start if you were not fully focused in high school and you will save money. Some students have chosen to start at Front Range Community College near Boulder and Fort Collins in order to transfer to CU or CSU when they are ready.

Representatives of colleges in Colorado visit BMHS often. Listen to the announcements of their visit or watch the postings on the guidance bulletin board. Be sure that you receive permission ahead of time from your teacher if any of the college visits conflict with your scheduled class time. Every fall there is a Colorado College Fair with all the Colorado colleges hosted by BMHS or EVHS. It is a great opportunity to research colleges all in one place. Don't miss out!



## Interested in colleges outside Colorado?

Opening up your options nationally will open up thousands of options that will require time to research. There are several websites that are excellent tools to make this process easier for you!

### Research Online

The Princeton Review site [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com) is one of the best FREE sites for test prep, college searches and even organizing your applications. Use Counselor-A-Matic to put in your information and preferences to generate a list of colleges that match. You can save the ones to your profile for your future reference. There are pages on: summary, admissions, rankings, scholarship/financial aid, visiting and direct links to the school site. Be sure to check out “What the Students say about.....” to get an insider’s view on academics, student body and campus life. Also look at “Other colleges to consider” to help expand your search. Other recommended sites are: [www.collegedata.com](http://www.collegedata.com), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [mycollegeoptions.com](http://mycollegeoptions.com) and [ecampustours.com](http://ecampustours.com) The National Association of College Admissions Counseling operates an exhaustive website for students, <http://www.nacac.com/p&s.html> Get info on college fairs, newsletters, articles on every topic imaginable and learn how to avoid scholarship scams. Visit this site often!

**Books:** There are also volumes of resources on college admission available. See the bibliography on page 23 to see what BMHS has for you to check out.

**Contacts:** Your counselor is also a good source of information and might be able to get you in touch with a BMHS student to contact at a school that you are interested in. Nothing beats a BMHS to BMHS connection.

### Making a list of schools

This is not the same as your parents’ college admission process. You are part of a baby boom that is expected to grow by 10% until 2010 with more students than ever pursuing higher education. More students with similar academic backgrounds and test scores are applying to the limited number of universities ranked highly by the media which creates a slimmer chance of you being admitted. Second and third tier institutions are overwhelmed with excellent applications making them even more selective in recent years.

A critical component of the college research and selection process is a realistic assessment of your chances to be admitted to a particular college. You want to be a good match academically and be able to be successful at that school. BMHS is a small high school and the Vail Valley is a small community. Although with the proper credentials, a BMHS student can be admitted to the most competitive universities in the country, you need be aware of the caliber of students that exist around the country and the highly competitive market for students in college admissions at this time.

The Princeton Review site posts the 25<sup>th</sup> to 50<sup>th</sup> percentile scores of the freshman class which represents the middle fifty percent of that class (25% higher and 25% lower but what were the special circumstances of the lower admits? Legacy? Athlete? Diversity?). If your admission statistics put you on the extreme high end or extreme low end of the class profile, you should carefully consider whether the college may be too easy for you academically or, on the flip side, may be more challenging than you want. No matter what school you attend, you can count on spending a lot of time studying. It's up to you to determine whether you want to spend all your free time in the library, keeping pace with your peers, or if you want to balance your academics with participation in athletics, clubs, Greek organizations, and/or community service.

## Foundation Schools

Many students are tempted to start their college list with their "dream school" -the one everyone has heard of, they think they would love to attend- but that might realistically be a long shot in terms of admission. We often hear students say, "I'm applying to State U, but don't really want to go there."

Try a different approach: your first priority should be finding one or two schools that you are sure you can be admitted to-your "foundation" schools-and that you would be very happy to attend. For some students, this is the hardest school to find; for others, it's the easiest. But starting your college list with your "foundation" school allows you to approach the college selection process with "insurance" and the knowledge that you have at least one school on your list where you would be happy and you won't have to worry about your admissibility.

To find your "foundation" school, look for schools that meet your basic criteria, and where you easily fit the academic profile of students who attend that school. It should also be a school that will challenge you academically with majors that interest you. Remember, selectivity does not equal quality: in other words, just because it may be easier to get into a certain college does not mean that the education you'll receive will not be strong. Again, there are over 3,600 colleges and universities in this country. Regardless of how selective they are, most offer a valuable education to their students. You will get out of it what you put in!

### **Most Selective Institutions (ACT 29-36 SAT 1250-1600)**

The Ivies, Boston College, Colgate, Duke, Georgetown, M.I.T, NYU, Pomona College, Stanford, UCLA, University of California at Berkeley, University of Southern California, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

### **Highly Selective Institutions (ACT 24-27 SAT 1020-1300)**

Colorado College, Colorado School of Mines, Emory, Lehigh, Loyola Marymount –LA, Northwestern University, Syracuse, University of San Diego, University of Puget Sound, University of California at San Diego, Vanderbilt, Washington University in St. Louis

### **Selective Institutions (ACT 20-23 SAT 930-1200)**

Brandeis University, Colorado State University, Cornell College, Pacific Lutheran, Southern Methodist University, University of Arizona, Whittier College, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Denver

### **Examples of Less Selective Institutions (ACT 18-21 SAT 850-1000)**

Adams State College, CSU-Pueblo, Fort Lewis College, Metro State College, Northern Arizona University, University of Wyoming, Western State College

## Go to a College Fair!

College fairs are a great way to get more personal information about colleges and meet the representative who might be reading your application. There is a Colorado college fair every fall at either BMHS or EVHS to learn about the in-state options. Check the guidance office bulletin board for dates. Aspen High School hosts the Western Slope College Fair with over 160 exhibitors. Visit [www.westernslopecollegefair.com](http://www.westernslopecollegefair.com) Vail Mountain School hosts a small fair in the fall. Contact your counselor if you are interested in attending.



The granddaddy of college fairs is held in Denver early in October. This fair hosts representatives of over 250 national colleges as well as providing breakout sessions on a variety of college topics. More information is available at [www.collegefairsdenver.org](http://www.collegefairsdenver.org) There is a national fair held in March or April hosted by the University of Denver at the Ritchie Center featuring over 100 in-state and out-of-state colleges. See your counselor for current information and dates.

## Visit Colleges!

There is no substitute for being on a college campus yourself. Meeting professors and students, sitting in on classes, visiting dorm rooms, meeting a coach, reading the school paper, hanging out in the student lounge and eating the food gives you a true feeling for a school and your comfort level there. A campus visit is informative any time, but it's best to see the school while it is in session and students are in classes. If you can only visit during the summer, on a weekend, or when the school is on a break, that's okay-just be prepared to visualize what the school looks like with students and professors in the classrooms and residence halls.

Plan ahead! Tour and information schedule is available online. Remember up to 5 days are excused for college visits if you submit a pre-approved absence form and verify your visit within two days of your return with the attendance office.

Read up on the college and think about possible questions so that you can make good use of the limited time you may have. Some questions you may want to ask:

- What can you tell me about the programs I am interested in?
- What research opportunities are available in my area of interest?
- What other programs are available to students (study abroad, honors programs, internships)
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the college advising system?
- Are courses taught by professors or graduate students?
- What are the recent graduates doing now?
- What is the campus like on weekends for students from out-of-state?
- What are the requirements and availability of on-campus housing?
- What are your parking costs and availability? Is off-campus housing available?
- What percentages of students live on campus?

Seek out other students that are not official tour guides and ask them:

- What other colleges did you apply to?
- Why did you decide to attend this college?
- How many hours a week do you study? Is that typical here?
- Approximately how many students were in your freshman classes?
- Approximately how many students are in your current classes?
- Do many students go home on weekends?
- Are faculty members accessible outside of class?
- How easy is it to get the classes you want?
- What three things would you change about this college?
- What three things would you not change about this college?
- Where do students go to socialize?
- What is the surrounding town or city like?



## What if you can't visit a campus?

Sometimes a campus visit just isn't feasible. Don't worry! There are ways to get a feel for a college's atmosphere without setting a foot on campus. Visit [ecampustours.com](http://ecampustours.com) or try:

- Read as much as you can about that school. Read the school's view book and catalog.
- Read reviews of the college in *The Fiske Guide* or *The Insider's Guide*.
- Visit the college's website. You'll be amazed at the depth of information available there. Ask questions of the admission officer at that college.
- Contact BMHS alumni at that college.

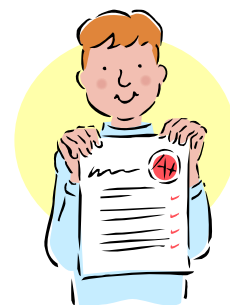
## DO MY GRADES COUNT?

Most colleges place the highest premium on the strength of your high school academic curriculum and your demonstrated performance in those classes. Highly selective colleges will expect you to challenge yourself academically and still maintain excellent grades through your senior year. (Take a look at your senior year schedule- What does it say about you as a student?) A demanding curriculum coupled with top grades will allow you to be very competitive in the college admission scene. Colleges try to take into consideration all aspects of your high school record including "the late bloomer," special circumstances, strong finishes, the balance between accelerated courses and elective grades, and the relationship between test scores, grades, and activities. However, there is no substitute for strong and progressive consistency in a challenging and broad-based curriculum throughout the four years of high school! Demanding curriculum at BMHS includes Advanced Placement and/or dual credit courses.

Advanced Placement (AP) – Courses that are designated AP are those that are approved by the College Board as rigorous college level classes that prepare students to take the AP exam in May. These tests are graded from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Colleges set their policy for accepting AP scores for college credit. Many colleges grant advanced placement for and/or credit for a grade of 4 or better. Visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to see the AP credit policies for individual colleges and universities.

Dual credit courses at BMHS are Colorado Mountain College courses offered at BMHS such as DC Biology I/II, DC US History I/II, English Composition I/II, and College Algebra and Trigonometry. It is called dual credit because students are earning both college and high school credit with the same coursework. Dual credit courses are guaranteed to transfer to any 4 year public university in Colorado. We are finding that many private or out of state colleges are also accepting CMC dual credit courses. It is possible to enter college with up to one or two years of college credits from high school. This can save your family lots of money and save you time as well.

Remember that your grades are the most important variable in your college admission application. When you apply in the fall of your senior year only your 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade grades will be on your transcript. While the first trimester of your senior year is important it is difficult to raise your cumulative grade point average (GPA) significantly in one trimester. It is important to challenge yourself and excel at all grade levels.



## WHAT ABOUT COLLEGE TESTING?

While there seems to be a great deal of emphasis on college entrance exams, tests are only one of the many factors colleges look at in making their final decisions. Most colleges report that grades in college prep courses are the most important factor in college admission. Some of these tests are used in the admission process as indications of academic potential; some are used for educational placement; others are designed as preliminary opportunities to develop good test-taking skills. Many students choose to retake some of these tests to enhance their scores. Be sure to find out which exams are required by each of the colleges you are considering. Be sure to register well online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) in advance of the test as locations close to BMHS (BMHS is listed as Minturn as a test site) are sometimes limited. The following descriptions may be helpful in understanding more about college admission testing.

**PLAN:** The PLAN is a comprehensive assessment designed to help tenth graders make academic and college plans, as well as practice for the ACT. BMHS sophomores need to register in the guidance office by October 1<sup>st</sup> to take the test in later October. The PLAN consists of (1) a battery of four tests of educational development, (2) an interest inventory, (3) a study skills assessment, and (4) a questionnaire about students' educational and career plans, background, and special educational needs.

**PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT):** The PSAT measures critical reading, quantitative (math), and writing ability, and offers practice for the SAT. It is administered to interested juniors and sophomores in October. If you wish to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship and recognition, you must take the PSAT during your junior year. Students can register in the Guidance office by October 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a practice test that is not seen by the colleges.

**ACT:** The ACT is achievement oriented college admissions test, measuring acquired skills and knowledge in English, math, reading, and science reasoning. The ACT is becoming more popular across the country. It is currently administered free of charge to all juniors at Battle Mountain High School in April as part of Colorado state assessments, and is administered nationally on other dates as well. Like the SAT, it is required of applicants by many colleges and sponsors of scholarship programs. Most colleges accept either the SAT or the ACT. All colleges in the US and NCAA now accept state testing results. If your college requires the ACT Writing test, we recommend you take the test on a national test date. We recommend that you retake the ACT, if necessary, in the fall of your senior year especially if your scores are below the college level (Reading below 17, Math below 18 and English below 17) or you would be more competitive for a school with a higher score. BMHS is currently offering an ACT Prep course as an elective during the school day.



**ACCUPLACER:** The Accuplacer test is a test taken on a computer that is often used by colleges for placement testing. It can be given at CMC or by your BMHS counselor. The results are immediate and can be used to determine if you are reading or doing math at the college level. CMC uses the Accuplacer test to qualify students to take college level courses at CMC.

**SAT:** The SAT measures critical reading, quantitative (math), and writing ability. It is administered periodically during the year at BMHS, CMC, VMS and other test centers throughout the United States. The SAT is not likely required if you took the ACT, however if you feel you might do better on the SAT, take it in the spring of your junior year or the in the fall of your senior year.

**Use the chart below to compare your ACT to your SAT scores**

<u>ACT</u>	<u>Old SAT Reading &amp; Math</u>	<u>New SAT 3 tests</u>
36	1600	2400
35	1560-1590	2340-2385
34	1510-1550	2265-2325
33	1460-1500	2190-2250
32	1410-1450	2115-2175
31	1360-1400	2040-2100
30	1320-1350	1980-2025
29	1280-1310	1920-1965
28	1240-1270	1860-1905
27	1210-1230	1815-1845
26	1170-1200	1755-1800
25	1130-1160	1695-1740
24	1090-1120	1635-1680
23	1060-1080	1590-1620
22	1020-1050	1530-1575
21	980-1010	1470-1515
20	940-970	1410-1455
19	900-930	1350-1395
18	860-890	1290-1335
17	810-850	1215-1275
16	760-800	1140-1200
15	710-750	1065-1125
14	660-700	990-1050
13	590-650	900-975
12	520-580	780-870
11	500-510	750-765

**SAT Subject Tests:** The SAT Subject Tests measure your knowledge and skills in a particular subject and your ability to apply that knowledge. Subject tests fall into five general areas: English, history and social studies, mathematics, science, and foreign languages. Some colleges, such as the University of California system, require particular subject tests. We recommend that you check individual college requirements for SAT Subject Tests and plan appropriate times to take these tests. For example, if you are studying for an AP Biology test, it may be advantageous for you to take the SAT Subject Test in biology around the same time. You can take up to three SAT IIs on a given test date and not on the same date as an SAT.

**Extended Time SAT or ACT:** For students with documented learning disabilities or on a 504 plan, an extended time SAT and/or ACT is available. Students may apply for an extended time administration of either test. Students who may benefit from or qualify for this option should check with their counselor for information well in advance of test registration deadlines.

**Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):** Some colleges require the TOEFL of students whose first or native language is not English. This test, either alone or in combination with the ACT and/or SAT, will give colleges information needed to make admission decisions.

**Registration Forms** for these tests are available in the Guidance office. However we recommend that you register for the SAT online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and the ACT online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).

**Test scores** are returned approximately four weeks after a test date. You will receive your SAT, SAT Subject Test, and ACT scores in the mail. Also, students can now receive their SAT scores via the phone or online two weeks after taking the tests. Your test scores are recorded on your BMHS files so that we can send scores with your transcripts when you apply to colleges. Some colleges require scores to be sent directly from the test company. You can order those scores to be sent online. Colleges usually use the highest set or combined set of test scores.

### Test Preparation

Additional test preparation information is available in the BMHS Guidance office through a variety of resources: SAT, SAT Subject Test, and ACT guidebooks which give sample tests; test prep software for the PSAT, ACT, and SAT. Information is also available on outside test prep programs such as Princeton Review through the guidance office.

## SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A COLLEGE ATHLETE?



Remember athletic scholarships are highly competitive and college sports are very time consuming. Many athletes choose to play club or intramural sports in college. However if you are talented and this is your dream, it will add an additional dimension to your college search. Freshman and sophomore years are not too soon to think about college sports. Your junior year is the most important year for you to be visible and in proper contact with colleges. The NCAA Clearinghouse ([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)) provides the 36 page **Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete** as a great resource for you on this journey. The **Guide** which can be downloaded provides in-depth information on eligibility and recruiting rules that are very important for you to know. Other great resources are: **The High School Athletes' Guide to College Sports** by College Bound Sports and **The Winning Edge: The Student-Athletes Guide to College Sports** available in the Guidance office or at amazon.com. Visit the [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) to learn about different divisions of competition and search for colleges/ leagues that offer your sport. You can search schools sponsoring a sport by division, conference, or region. Visit the college team website to research the coach, the team roster and conference. Remember not to choose a school exclusively for the sports program. Make sure you are in the right school in case you get injured or stop playing.



Prior to your senior year, you must get registered online with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (after July 1 of your junior year at [ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://ncaaclearinghouse.net). You also need to have your ACT ([www.act.org](http://www.act.org)) or SAT ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)) scores sent directly to NCAA. When you register for NCAA download the release for transcripts to the registrar so that your transcripts can be sent directly to NCAA. You must be academically eligible to play sports in college; after all college is school even if you are an athlete. To be eligible, you need to take a prescribed number of core courses and earn certain eligibility index with your grades and test scores. If you are interested in playing college athletics at the Division I or D-II level and will be graduating in 2007, you must take 14 core courses to be academically eligible to play sports in college. If you are graduating in 2008 or beyond, you will be required to take 16 core courses for D-I. Most students that graduate from BMHS will meet those requirements as part of our graduation, however if you are not a strong student you will need to monitor your eligibility.

To learn about whether your course work qualifies, visit the NCAA site and see the list of BMHS approved courses. The list is updated annually by your counselors. Students must have a minimum grade point average of a 2.0 and earn a sum of scores of at least 68 on the ACT (add all four subject scores together) or a combined score of at least 820 (Read/Math) on the SAT from a national test administration for D II. Division 1 is on a sliding scale. The NCAA Clearinghouse ([www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)) includes an Academic Eligibility Worksheet that will give you an idea of your standing. The NCAA will evaluate your academic credits and grades, ensuring that you are academically eligible to participate in college athletics.



Work closely with your parents, coaches and counselor to help open the doors for you in college. We are here to help you follow that dream.

## HOW DO I GET STARTED APPLYING?

Hopefully you have a list of colleges that interest you. Now it is time to apply. Visit college fairs in October and college representative visits at BMHS.

## OBTAIN APPLICATIONS



Most applications are now online and colleges prefer you to submit your applications online. For college in Colorado use [collegeincolorado.org](http://collegeincolorado.org) to apply. Many national colleges accept what is called the Common Application which is available at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). You can login and complete and submit your application on this site. It also provides links to supplement information if your college requires it. It is a secure, easy way to apply to those colleges. If your college does not take the common application visit the admissions section of the website to view the application. Always keep a hard copy of your application for your records.

## WHAT ARE THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

If you are looking at Colorado public colleges and universities do you know where your index of test scores and grades places you? See page 3.

Look at each school on your list:

- What testing is required: ACT, SAT I, SAT II? When is the last test date they will accept?
- What courses are required and years of subjects?
- Are letters of recommendation required? Optional? Who will you ask to write yours?
- Are Personal Essays required? Remember to write about yourself.
- To Do's
  - Register for tests in the spring of junior year or fall of senior year (test registration packets are available in the Counseling Office or online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))
  - ALL BMHS juniors will be administered the ACT at BMHS in late April.
  - Have ACT or SAT score reports sent to colleges of interest.

## Pay Attention to Deadlines

- Is it Rolling Admissions (Continually accepting applications and notifying quickly- if so, apply EARLY as early as September like most state colleges)?
- EARLY DECISION (deadlines in November and might be binding- applicants are accepted, deferred or rejected by December)

- EARLY ACTION (deadline in November notified in December but not bound to attend that school) OR
- REGULAR DECISION (deadline January or February – reply by April)
- Talk to your counselor about early decision and early action deadlines!

## PREPARING APPLICATIONS

- Have someone proof your application and essay even if it is online! Double check everything. Applications establish a first impression.
- If you apply online you need to submit supporting information separately.

### Letters of Recommendation (if required):

Make appointments with your counselor and teachers at least three weeks before the mailing date to request a recommendation. Provide resumes, brag sheet or other information. Your counselor may request that you complete a senior profile sheet or interview.

Follow up with the teacher or counselor well before the deadline. The teacher/counselor will return the recommendation to you in a sealed and signed envelope in your senior mailbox for you to mail. Be sure to follow with a thank you note!

If you need your counselor to provide official information, drop off the forms in the office and they will be returned to your mailbox.

If using a common application provide one copy of the first sheet and indicate the number of common application copies you will need and the teacher and counselor will type their letter online and return the sealed copies to you.

### Personal Essay (if required):

- Prepare before you write; talk about your essay with your counselor, parents, Language Arts teachers, etc.
- Remember your essay should say something about YOU! Let your uniqueness shine through!
- Have someone proofread your essay!
- Books on writing essays are available in the guidance office or visit [www.essayedge.com](http://www.essayedge.com)
- Save your essays on your computer for local scholarship applications in the spring.

## WHEN COMPLETING APPLICATIONS



Colleges will also request that you send an official copy of your BMHS transcript. You need to fill out a transcript request form in the registrar's office at least two days before you need the transcript. We can include test scores if you prefer. If you do not want us to enclose them, you can have them sent to colleges online through [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Have you completed all the information accurately and neatly? Check with the college to be sure that your application is complete.

## SHOW ME THE MONEY!

One of the major hurdles in the college application process is financial aid. With the cost of funding a college education high and getting higher, many families are understandably concerned about how to finance that expense. However, do not eliminate a college strictly on cost alone until you have applied for assistance and been told how much financial aid you will be receiving.



The BMHS Guidance office has extensive information about all forms of financial aid, and publishes a monthly update on scholarship opportunities available. The financial aid office of the college you are interested in can also provide you with valuable information, and you should contact them about your special needs and concerns.

### NEED BASED FINANCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Most students rely on federal programs for funding, and that aid is based on evidence of financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you are curious about your level of possible need, you can utilize a need estimator at [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

So, how do you get started? In order to receive financial aid, you must apply each year you are in college. If you don't think you qualify, try anyway. You may have more options than you think. You will be ahead of the game if you collect your income tax information throughout the year so it can be compiled and ready right after January 1. BMHS hosts a Financial Aid night early in January where experts explain financial aid and provide information about filing your FAFSA. The Guidance office also has multiple copies of books on financial aid for parents to take home.



**Step 1:** You complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) using the worksheet provided online. The FAFSA will determine how much money you and your family must contribute each year for your education. Some schools require you to fill out their own application. Check with each school you are considering to find out what they require. For example, some schools require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA.

**STEP 2:** Check out as many sources as you can find for scholarships such as [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [wiredscholars.com](http://wiredscholars.com), and [finaid.org](http://finaid.org) NOTE: These scholarship resources are free; do NOT pay for scholarship information. Also check the BMHS guidance office. We post scholarships as they come to us. It is the student's responsibility to check the scholarship box in the guidance office often.

**STEP 3:** Complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 of the year you plan to attend school. Financial aid is often rewarded on a first come first served basis.

**STEP 4:** Your FAFSA will be evaluated using a standard formula that takes into account you and your family's income, assets, and other special circumstances. This need analysis will determine the amount you and your family will be expected to contribute for your education, which is called your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). Your NEED is the difference between the cost of your education and your family's contribution.

Say your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) is \$5,000. At a college with a total cost of \$8,000, you would be eligible for up to \$3,000 in financial aid. At a college with a total cost of \$25,000, you would be eligible for up to \$20,000 in aid. In other words, you would be contributing the same amount at both colleges.



**STEP 5:** You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) that lists all the information you provided on the application. Be sure all information is correct; send corrections back to the processor.

**STEP 6:** Your school's financial aid office will receive the results of the FAFSA analysis. If you qualify for aid, you will receive a report detailing the types and amounts of financial aid for which you are eligible.

**STEP 7:** When you receive your financial aid packages, consider your options carefully. When you have made your decision, reply to that school by their deadline. Don't hesitate to call your school's financial aid office if you have questions.

Need-based aid packages may include a combination of three types of financial aid:

- **Loans:** These may be federal, state, or institutional, and interest rates are usually low. Repayment may not start until after graduation depending on whether it is a student loan or a parent loan.
- **Grants:** These are usually gifts or aid in the form of tuition and/or fee reduction.
- **Work Study:** The college will provide the student with a job on campus to earn money to help defray costs. These jobs usually pay better than minimum wage, have limitations on working hours, and require that the student apply and be accepted for a particular work-study placement.

The package may meet all or part of the need as computed by the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile. While most colleges will try to meet a high percentage of your need, the packages from different schools may vary. You will want to consider all your options carefully. Books we have available at BMHS guidance office present an entire chapter on evaluating financial aid packages.

#### TIPS:

- Apply early. Most aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Keep a copy of every form you complete.
- If there is no way your taxes can be filed right after January 1, you are allowed to send an estimate as long as you can verify those figures, if asked, at a later date.
- Families who cannot qualify for financial aid based on the FAFSA can usually get loans.
- Putting savings in your student's name can affect need. If that is the case in your family, ask your college what happens after the money is spent.
- BMHS offers financial aid presentations in January that will provide you more detailed information.

The appeal process is your opportunity to present additional information that may not have shown up in the FAFSA. For example, you may have experienced recent changes in your finances related to the economy, or a parent becomes unemployed. You must work with each college's financial aid office individually if you are appealing your financial aid package.



## **NON NEED BASED or MERIT AID**

Scholarships, grants, and financial aid that are non-need based are divided into two major categories: Talent-Based Scholarships and Private Scholarship Programs.

**Talent Based Scholarships.** These scholarships are usually given by the college as an inducement or reward for demonstrated or proven talents. The most common ones are academic, athletic, and artistic/musical scholarships. You typically have to continue to participate in these areas during college or maintain a certain GPA to keep the scholarship.

Inquiries regarding talent scholarships may go through the respective departments at the college of your choice or the admission office itself. The college's financial aid office can be of help in contacting the appropriate individuals. You will want to receive written confirmation of scholarship awards prior to making a final choice of colleges.

**Private Scholarship Programs:** A large number of community, religious, professional, and ethnic groups sponsor scholarship programs. Some may have special qualification requirements, restrictions on fields of study or particular institutions, and/or requirements that the student or parents be members of a certain group. You should check the eligibility requirements and stipulations carefully.

Most of these scholarships have their own forms and are available from the group offering the scholarship or from BMHS guidance center. Deadlines vary a great deal and most are announced and have deadlines early in the calendar year.

**The Boettcher Scholarship** awards Colorado students full scholarships to any of Colorado's colleges or universities. This is a highly competitive scholarship with only 40 recipients in Colorado each year. Counselors recommend students for the scholarship.

Students must:

- Be seriously interested in attending college in Colorado
- Rank in the top 5% of the senior class
- Have a strong community service and leadership record
- Score 1200 or higher on the SAT; 27 or higher on the ACT



**Local Scholarships:** BMHS students are very fortunate to benefit from the generosity of our small community. Close to 20 local organizations offer scholarships to the seniors in Eagle County. There is one application for all the scholarships that is usually available in late January and needs to be completed before mid March. Applicants are then interviewed by the organizations and awards are given out on Senior Award night, the week of graduation. Financial aid is often but not always a factor in awarding these scholarships. A list of possible scholarships is posted in the guidance office.

### **Other Ways to Reduce Your Cost:**

**Western Exchange WUE** is a program through which a student may enroll in designated two-year and four-year institutions and programs in participating states at a special, reduced tuition level. Tuition for WUE students is the regular in-state tuition plus 50 percent of that amount. In all programs, the cost to

WUE students is substantially less than non-resident tuition. Students do not need to demonstrate financial need to receive the WUE tuition benefit. WUE participating states in 2006-2007 are Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. There are many restrictions and limitations in the WUE program, so we recommend that you get updated information in the Guidance Center or from your counselor. Information is also available at [www.wiche.edu/sep/wue.index.asp](http://www.wiche.edu/sep/wue.index.asp)

ROTC is offered through all four military branches (Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy). Students who are interested in a career in the military after college will take required military science courses, in addition to their regular college courses, and will benefit from scholarships offered by ROTC. Information on all four military branch ROTC programs is available in the Guidance Center.

## **Planning for College Year by Year**

### **FRESHMAN YEAR**

- It is never too early to plan for the future!
- Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging courses.
- Study hard and get excellent grades.
- Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.
- Become involved in co-curricular activities.
- Meet your high school guidance counselor and discuss your plans for the next four years.
- Browse through college literature or surf the Web to get an idea of what kinds of schools may be of interest to you.
- Check out what high school courses colleges require.
- Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.
- Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record.
- Research career possibilities.
- Begin saving money for college.



### **BMHS SOPHOMORE YEAR**

*Concentrate on academic preparation and continue to develop basic skills and co-curricular interests.*

### **SEPTEMBER**

- Be sure you are taking the courses that are required by colleges such as two years of the same language and 2 years of math beyond Algebra 1.
- Consult your guidance counselor about taking the PLAN test in October. The PLAN is a preliminary standardized test that will give you some preparation for the ACT. Visit the guidance office to be sure you are registered by 10/1.
- Be sure you are taking NCAA-approved courses if you want to play varsity sports in college.



## **OCTOBER**

- Sign up, if you have not done so already, for co-curricular activities that interest you. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities.
- Keep a record of your co-curricular involvement, volunteer work, and employment (all year).

## **NOVEMBER**

- Make sure you are "on top" of your academic work. If necessary, meet with your teacher for additional help.
- Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio (all year).

## **DECEMBER**

- Receive results of PLAN and/or the PSAT. Read materials sent with your score report. Consult your guidance counselor to explore ways to improve on future standardized tests and courses to discuss which may be required or beneficial for your post-high school plans.

## **JANUARY**

- Keep studying!
- Volunteer-a great way to identify your interests and to develop skills.

## **FEBRUARY**

- It is never too early to start researching colleges and universities. Visit your guidance office to browse through literature and guidebooks or surf the Web and check out college and university home pages.

## **MARCH**

- Do well on your CSAPs!

## **APRIL**

- Register for the May or June SAT Subject Test if you are completing a subject that you want to be tested on. These are one-hour exams testing you on academic subjects that you have already completed. Among the many to choose from are biology, chemistry, foreign languages and physics. Many colleges require three SAT Subject Tests. Some colleges recommend/require Math Level 1 or Math Level 2. Not all SAT Subject Tests are given on every test date. Check the calendar carefully to determine when the Subject Tests you want are offered. See your guidance counselor for advice. Continue to research career options and consider possible college majors that will help you achieve your career goals.

## **MAY**

- Plan now for wise use of your summer. Consider taking a summer course or participating in a special program (e.g., for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music) at a local college or community college. Consider working or volunteering.

## **JUNE**

- Take the SAT Subject Tests that you registered for in April. Consider electing score choice so you can see your test scores before deciding whether to release the results to colleges. It's a good idea to plan on taking the SAT Subject Tests again in the spring of your junior year or the fall of your senior year. You then have the option of releasing only your best scores to colleges.
- If you work, save some of your earnings for college.

## **AUGUST**

- Make your summer productive. Continue reading to increase your vocabulary.

## **BMHS JUNIORS**

*Begin college selection process. Attend college fairs, financial aid seminars, general information sessions, etc., to learn as much as you can about the college application process. Make sure you are meeting NCAA requirements if you want to play Division I or II sports in college.*



### **SEPTEMBER**

- Register for the October PSAT. Meet with your guidance counselor to review your courses for this year and plan your schedule for senior year.
- Save samples of your best work for your academic portfolio (all year).
- Maintain your co-curricular record (all year).

### **OCTOBER**

- Junior year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs. Even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still a good idea to take the PSAT. If you wish to receive free information from colleges, indicate on the PSAT test answer form that you want to participate in the Student Search.
- Be sure you are signed up for the PSAT test in the BMHS guidance office by 10/1.
- Check the guidance office to see when college representatives are coming to visit BMHS!

### **NOVEMBER**

- Junior year grades are extremely important in the college admission process, because they are a measure of how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses. Grades also are used to determine scholarships and grants for which you may be eligible. So put in the extra effort and keep those grades up!
- If you will require financial aid, start researching your options for grants, scholarships and work-study programs. See Important Links on this site to get started.

### **DECEMBER**

- During December you should receive the results of your PSAT. Read your score report and consult your school counselor to determine how you might improve on future standardized tests. The PSAT is excellent preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test, which you will take in the spring.
- All juniors at BMHS will take the ACT at school in late April as a state test date. These results are accepted by ALL colleges except the NCAA and the military academies.
- Many colleges accept the ACT (American College Test) or the SAT Reasoning Test. Some colleges require the ACT with writing (not given on the state testing) or both SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests. When you begin to explore different colleges and universities, double-check to see if they prefer or require the ACT, the SAT Reasoning Test and/or the SAT Subject Tests.

### **JANUARY**

- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet and use the college resources in the guidance office or library. Visit the Important Links on this website for great resources for your college search.
- Ask your parents for your Social Security number (required on many college applications). If you were never issued a Social Security number, contact the closest Social Security office as soon as possible to obtain a number.

## **FEBRUARY**

- Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your preliminary list of colleges. Discuss whether your initial list of colleges meets your needs and interests (academic program, size, location, cost, etc.) and whether you are considering colleges where you are likely to be admitted. You should be optimistic and realistic when applying to colleges.
- Register for the SAT Reasoning Test. Plan to take the SAT Reasoning Test in May or June. Register for SAT Reasoning National test day in April if interested. Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT by signing up for a prep course, using computer software, or doing the SAT/ACT practice tests available in the counseling office or at bookstores. But don't spend so much time trying to improve standardized test scores that grades and co-curricular involvement suffer.

## **MARCH**

- Use the Internet to request admission literature and financial aid information from the colleges on your list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid.
- RMACAC sponsors a spring College Fair at University of Denver 1-4PM at the Ritchie Center. See Ms. Abbott for more info.
- Register for ACT National test day in April if interested.

## **APRIL**

- When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
- Register for the May/June SAT Reasoning Test and/or the May/June SAT Subject Tests. Not all SAT Subject Tests are given on every test date. Check the calendar carefully to determine when the Subject Tests you want are offered.
- Register for the June ACT if you want to take that test.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.
- Register for SAT/SAT IIs National test day in May if interested.

## **MAY**

- Get a jump start on summer activities-consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. If you work, save part of your earnings for college.
- Begin visiting colleges. Phone to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly!
- Do well on your AP exams! It makes a difference!
- Register for ACT/SAT/SAT IIs National test day in June if interested.



## JUNE

- After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests and/or the ACT.

## JULY

- Visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you.

## AUGUST

- Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities. Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft application essays; collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes.
- If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships. Complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form if you hope to play Division I or II sports and request a transcript be sent to NCAA by the registrar. (These forms cannot be mailed until you finish your junior year of high school.)



## **BMHS SENIORS!**

*Apply to colleges. Make decisions. Finish high school with pride in yourself and your accomplishments. Register for ACT National test day in September if interested.*

## SEPTEMBER

- Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They may vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines! Meet with your guidance counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript and co-curricular records with your school counselor to ensure their accuracy.
- Register for the October/November SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, or September/October ACT.
- Check the guidance calendar for College Fairs for both in and out of state colleges.
- If the colleges require recommendations, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. At least three weeks before the due date, ask your counselor and teachers, employers, or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide recommendation forms and any special instructions. Be thoughtful! Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews (if you didn't get to them during the summer or if you want to return to a campus for a second time). Read bulletin boards and the college newspaper. Talk with current students and professors.
- Register for ACT/SAT National test day in October if interested.

## OCTOBER

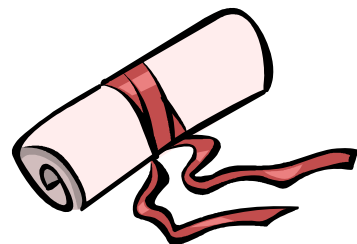
- Start applying to colleges. Most colleges prefer online applications. Visit [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org) for CO public colleges. See if your college accepts the Common Application at [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). The Common Application is accepted by 300 schools and will make applying to multiple colleges easier for you.
- Do you need an essay for your applications? Visit the guidance office for resources and be sure to let several people proof your essay!
- If applying for early decision or early action, send in your application now. Also prepare applications for back-up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the early decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications. Submit financial aid information if requested from early decision/action candidates.
- Register for the December/January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, or December ACT if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can do better.
- Request transcripts from the BMHS registrar several days before you need them. We can include the test scores we have received and enclose them with your official transcripts. **YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE** for gathering all the information and sending a completed application in the MAIL. Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list if they were not enclosed with your transcripts.

## NOVEMBER

- Take the SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. Don't forget to have test scores sent to colleges on your list.
- Be sure your first trimester grades are good. Continue completing applications to colleges. Make copies of all applications before mailing the applications.
- If you need financial aid, obtain a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) from your guidance office. Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid form. Register for the CSS Profile if required and obtain the college's own financial aid forms, if available.
- Keep all records, test score reports and copies of applications for admission and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort should anything be lost or should you decide to apply in the future to other colleges and scholarship programs.
- Register for ACT/SAT National test day in December if interested.

## DECEMBER

- Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so.
- Consult your school counselor again to review your final list of colleges.
- Be sure you have all bases covered. It is a good idea to make copies of everything before you drop those envelopes in the mail. If for some reason your application gets lost, you will have a back-up copy. File your last college application.
- If you applied for early decision, you should have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions for admitted students. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges.



## **JANUARY**

- Keep working in your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year.
- Parents and students, complete your income tax forms as soon as possible. You will need those figures to fill out the FAFSA. Complete and return your FAFSA as quickly as possible after January 1. Check to make sure your colleges or state does not require any other financial aid forms. If they do, consult your guidance counselor or contact the college's financial aid office.

## **FEBRUARY**

- Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things and don't procrastinate; you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline.
- If you completed a FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks after submitting the FAFSA. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. If necessary, correct any items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor (if a college transmitted your data directly, notify the college of any change). If more than four weeks have passed after sending in your FAFSA and you have not received an acknowledgment, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665. To identify you, they will need your name, social security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA.
- Complete local scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can. Come to the guidance office for local applications.
- Enjoy your final year in high school, but don't catch senioritis!

## **MARCH**

- Stay focused and keep studying-only a couple more months to go!

## **APRIL**

- Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly-the earlier you apply, the more availability there may be.
- Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process. If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges which accepted you, please notify those colleges that you have selected another college. Keeping colleges abreast of your plans might enable those colleges to admit someone else. If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1 (postmark date).

## **MAY**

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. By May 1, send in your tuition deposit to the college you will attend. Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.
- BE PROUD-you have completed a difficult task.
- If your first-choice college places you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities.
- Take Advanced Placement examinations, if appropriate and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend.
- At BMHS senior check out you will request that your counselor send your final high school transcript and CMC transcript to the college you will attend. Request a transcript to be sent to NCAA if you are planning on playing sports in college. Notify the college of any private scholarships or grants you will be receiving.

## **JUNE**

- Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, etc., is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow for you to pay in installments.
- Congratulations, you've made it through high school! Enjoy your graduation and look forward to college.

## **JULY**

- Look for information in the mail from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college.

## **AUGUST-SEPTEMBER**

- Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.
- Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year!

*Reprinted from NACAC's PACT Guide, 2000. Revised Online Only: March 2005  
Customized for BMHS 10/2006*

## **COLLEGE REFERENCE BOOK BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*Excerpted from 14-page annotated bibliography of recommended college references*

### **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS "AGENDA SETTER" BOOKS**

*The College Admissions Mystique, Bill Mayher, Noonday Press, New York, NY, 1998. Great advice and perspective from respected college counselor, retired from high-pressure Northeast prep schools.*

*Harvard Schmarvard: Getting Beyond the Ivy League to the College That is Best for You, Jay Mathews, Prima Publishing, New York, NY, 2003. Great new book by Washington Post writer, Harvard grad.*

*Looking Beyond the Ivy League: Finding the College That's Right for You, Loren Pope, Penguin Books, New York, NY, 1995. Sage consultant offers his wisdom in updated second edition. Don't miss 20 Myths.*

### **COMPREHENSIVE, OBJECTIVE COLLEGE "PHONE BOOKS"**

*Barron's Profiles of American Colleges, Barron's Educational Series, Hauppauge, NY, 2002. CD-ROM included in 25th edition. Index of majors, college admission selector, published every other year.*

*The College Handbook, College Board, New York, NY, 2003. two-year and four-year colleges, indexes by size, type, religion, sports, early plans. Great introduction, CD-ROM included, annual.*

*Competitive Colleges: Explore 401 U.S. and Canadian Colleges for High Achieving Students, Thomson Peterson's, Lawrenceville, NJ, 2003. Brief profiles, good overview of admission process, no ads.*

Complete Book of Colleges, Princeton Review Publishing, New York, NY, 2003. *Factual descriptions of nearly 1700 four-year colleges, popular Admissions Wizard feature, some Peterson's-style ads.*

### **NARRATIVE, SUBJECTIVE COLLEGE GUIDEBOOKS**

The Fiske Guide to Colleges, Edward Fiske, Sourcebooks, Naperville, IL, 2003. *Most widely respected and accepted book in growing category began life two decades ago as controversial NY Times Guide, larger book from new publisher profiles more than 300 colleges, includes Best Buys, great advice.*

Barron's Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges, Barron's Educational Series, Hauppauge, NY, 2003. *New third edition includes lengthy, meaty profiles, each ten pages or longer, of more than 50 institutions.*

Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools You Should Know About Even If You're Not a Straight-A Student, Loren Pope, Penguin Books, New York, NY, 2000. *Required Reading preface is must reading! Revised 2nd edition adds Agnes Scott, Ursinus, Wabash, drops Bard, Franklin Marshall, Grinnell.*

Cool Colleges for the Hyper-Intelligent, Self-Directed, Late Blooming, and Just Plain Different, Donald Speed Press, Berkeley, CA, 2000. *Great book of "schools where you'll be challenged and inspired" includes narrative profiles of 30+ distinctive colleges, brief paragraphs on many more.*

The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence, Howard Greene and Matthew Greene, Guides, Cliff Street Books, Harper Collins Publishers, New York, NY, 2000. *Father-son consultant team.*

The Insider's Guide to the Colleges, Yale Daily News staff, St. Martin's Griffin, New York, NY, 2003. *Written by students, excellent introduction, breezy, upbeat tone, good Fiske complement.*

100 Colleges Where Average Students Can Excel, Joe Anne Adler, Arco, Macmillan, New York, NY, 1997. *Average defined as C grades, 950-1050 SAT or comparable ACT. Two-page profiles, great resource.*

The Unofficial, Unbiased Guide to the 328 Most Interesting Colleges, Trent Anderson and Seppy Basili, Kaplan, Simon Schuster, New York, NY, 2003. *Clever icons and sidebars, plus several indexes.*

### **PRELIMINARY COLLEGE LIST-BUILDER BOOKS**

The College Finder Choosing the School That's Right for You, Steven Fawcett Columbine Book, Ballantine Books, New York, NY, 1999. *Recently updated book of lists in ten category groupings.*

Index of Majors and Graduate Degrees, College Board, New York, NY, 2003. *Very popular resource, but carefully watch the C, A, B, M, D abbreviations after each college. Brief major descriptions included.*

Recommendations on the Colleges, Frederick E. Rugg, Rugg's Recommendations, Fallbrook, 2003. *Great brainstormer, grouped alphabetically by major, 20th edition from former counselor.*

### **"STRATEGY BOOKS" FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION**

College Match: A Blueprint for Choosing the Best School for You! Steven R. and Marie A. Friedemann, Octameron Associates, Alexandria, VA, 2001. *Excellent booklet, great tone and advice.*

The Complete Idiot's Guide to College Planning, Turner, Alpha Books, Macmillan USA, Indianapolis, IN, 1999. *Recently updated and revised edition from respected Culver dean very helpful if bad title.*

The Fiske Guide to Getting Into the Right College, Edward B. Fiske and Bruce G. Hammond, Sourcebooks, Naperville, IL, 2002. *Includes capsules of colleges grouped with peers, several Rugg's-like college lists, brief annotated bibliography. Excellent advice throughout, new second edition with new title.*

How to Get Into the Top Colleges, Richard Montauk and Krista Klein, Prentice Hall Press, NJ, 2000. *Very comprehensive new resource runs pages, helpful chapter on British U. admission.*

### **CAMPUS VISIT, COLLEGE INTERVIEW BOOKS**

Campus Visits and College Interviews, Zola Dincin Schneider, College Board, New York, NY, 2002. *New second edition includes checklists, tips on reading and catalogs, many good questions.*

Campus Pursuit. How to Make the Most of the College Visit and Interview, G. Gary Ripple, Octameron Associates, Alexandria, VA, 2001. *Excellent resource from former Lafayette, William and Mary dean.*

Guide to College Visits, Peterson's Thomson Learning, Lawrenceville, NJ, 2001. *Much improved third edition presents campus visit information on including quick facts, travel, airports, lodging, etc.*

Visiting College Campuses, Janet Spencer and Sandra Malesdon, Princeton Review, Random House, New York, NY, 2001. *Good planner with detailed maps, mileage, directions, B&B ideas for 249 schools.*

### **COLLEGE ESSAY AND APPLICATION BOOKS**

College Applications and Essays, Susan Van Raalte, Arco Thomson Learning, Lawrenceville, NJ, 2001. *Fifth edition includes Understanding the Questions, Recycling Essays, plus Electronic Applications.*

College Admission Essays for Dummies, Geraldine Woods, Wiley Publishing, New York, NY, 2003. *Very comprehensive resource from teacher and Dummies grammar author has 22 chapters, good advice.*

Do It Write: How to Prepare a Great College Application, Gary Ripple, Octameron Associates, Alexandria, VA, 2001. *Excellent compact booklet just 64 pages. Ninth edition, best buy under \$10.*

The College Application Essay, Sarah Myers McGinty, College Board, New York, NY, 1997. *Excellent book includes detailed analysis of 11 essays, 50 sample questions, insightful comments, six writing steps.*

### **HOW COLLEGES ADMIT STUDENTS: WHO GETS IN BOOKS**

Behind the Scenes: An Inside Look at the Selective College Admission Process, Edward B. Wall, Octameron Associates, Alexandria, VA, 2000. *Venerable resource from former dean.*

The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College, Jacques Steinberg, Viking, Penguin Putnam, New York, NY, 2002. *Award-winning NY Times education reporter shadows Wesleyan University admission officer and several students applying to Wesleyan for a full admission year.*

Opening College Doors: How to Make the Admissions Process Work for You, Pat Ordovensky and Robert Thornton, USA Today, Harper Perennial, New York, NY, 1992. *Now-dated case-by-case review of five fictitious college applications can be an admissions "case study" program ready to go for groups.*

Playing the Selective College Admissions Game, Richard Moll, Penguin Books, New York, NY, 1994. *Updated edition of classic work first published in 1979. First chapter depicts committee at work.*

Questions and Admissions: Reflections on 100,000 Admissions Decisions at Stanford, Jean H. Fetter, Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA, 1995. *Eloquent retrospective from widely respected former Stanford dean of undergraduate admission, very instructive regarding all the "most selectives."*

### **INTERNET, WORLD WIDE WEB RESOURCE BOOKS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION**

College Edu:On-Line Resources for the Cyber-Sawy, Lisa Guernsey, Octameron Associates, Alexandria, VA, 2002. *Cleverly noted as Version 6.0. Very comprehensive, just 160 pages, best buy at \$9.*

How to Get Into the School of Your Dreams Using the Internet and Online Services, Michael Wolff, Wolff New Media, New York, NY, 1996. *Great introduction, helpful resource, first book in new category.*

The Internet Guide for College Bound Students, Kenneth E. Hartmann, College Board Publications, New York, NY, 1998. *Excellent resource from former College Board technology guru, second edition.*

Researching Colleges on the World Wide **Web**, Kerry Cochrane, Franklin Watts, Grolier Publishing, Danbury, CT, 1997. *University of Chicago reference librarian, many sample web pages.*

### **PARENTS' GUIDEBOOKS TO COLLEGE ADMISSION**

College Admissions: A Crash Course for Panicked Parents, Sally Rubenstone and Sidonia balby, Arco Book, Macmillan, New York, NY, 1998. *Excellent resource, revised edition from Smith College team.*

The College Guide for Parents, Charles Shields, College Board, New York, NY, 1994. *Informative but now-dated resource from retired Chicago area public school counselor includes Phi Beta Kappa list.*

50 College Admission Directors Speak to Parents, Sandra F. MacGowan and Sarah M. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, New York, NY, 1988. *Not updated since, many have moved, but still great advice.*

Letting Go:A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years, Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger, Adler Adler Publishers, Bethesda, MD, 2003. *Newly revised and updated fourth edition. First half discusses what to expect, second half covers adjustment. Excellent, must reading.*

