

***Overview of the College Application Process Sept 28, 2023**

Welcome and Introductions
What Student Should Be Doing Now
College Visits
Letters of Recommendation
Applications & Submission
Responsibilities
Standardized Testing
Misc
How can parents help?
Questions and Answers

*this presentation will be recorded

High School Counselors

Drew Skrocki

Grade 12, last names:A-J

dskrocki@psharvard.org , x1543

Dawn Hall

Grade 12, last names:K-P

dhall@psharvard.org , x1547

Sara Lamere

Grade 12, last names: Q-Z

slamere@psharvard.org, x1541

Adjustment Counselor

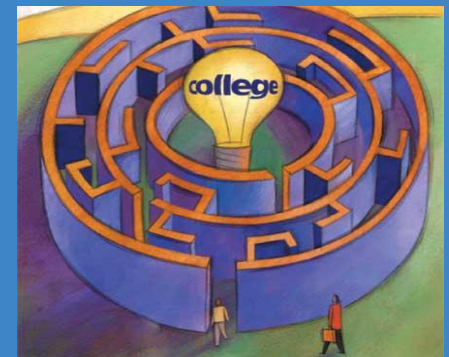
Christine Reale creale@psharvard.org, x1546

Administrative Assistant:

Sharon Schmidt sschmidt@psharvard.org, x1540

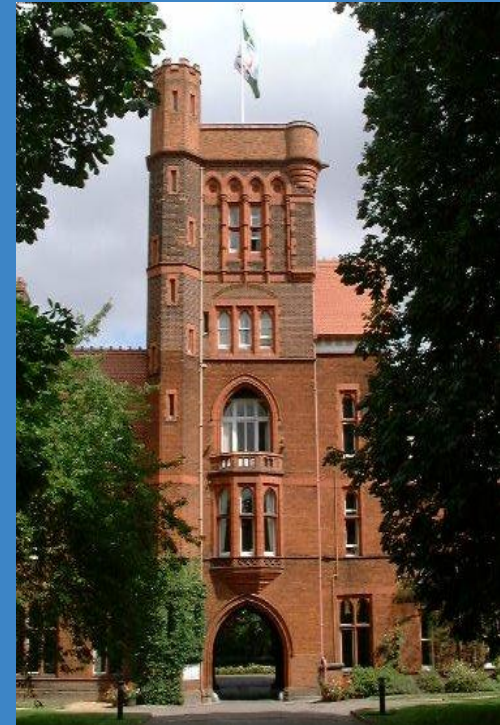
What Students Should Be Doing Now

- Post-Secondary Planning Seminars
- Continuing to do well in school
- Drafting their common app. essay
- Finalizing (a balanced) college list and knowing their application deadlines
 - Deciding when to apply to colleges:
 - Regular Decision
 - Early Action - non binding
 - Early Decision - binding
 - Rolling



Visiting College Campuses

- College Visit to Campus
 - If missing school, students must fill out the College Visit Form at least 5 days before visits, for prior approval
 - Register with admissions
 - Ask questions, If possible, go when college is in session....



Engaging with Colleges Virtually

- Since COVID, colleges have reinvented opportunities for connections
 - Online tours - College website, YouTube, College Tours
 - Zoom interview options
 - Email
 - opening the dialogue w/ admissions rep (ex: questions about the campus life, curriculum, etc)
 - Research college websites, including blogs by current students
 - Social media - the “campus vibe”

Admissions Rep. Visits at Bromfield

- Upwards to 50 college admission rep visit TBS each year
- The admissions rep is often the reader for our area and most likely will be reviewing our student's application(s) if they apply!
- List available for viewing + signing up via Naviance
 - Must obtain prior teacher permission
- College rep contact information provided for students if they cannot attend a meeting
- College reps understand scheduling constraints

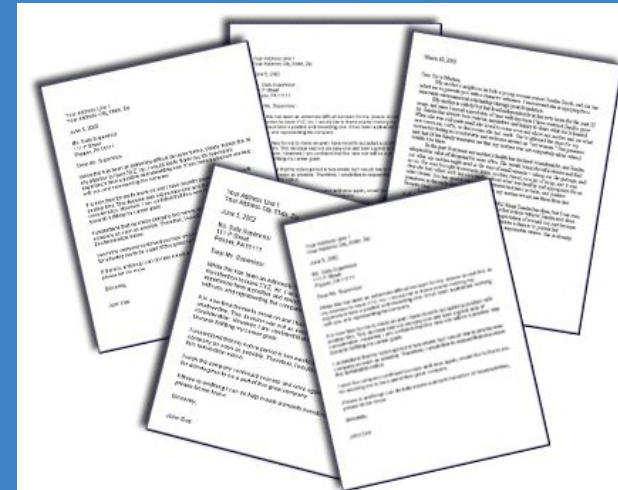
FYI: Students' September 18th Due Date

- Naviance
 - Add teachers writing recommendations on Naviance
 - [Information for Counselor Recommendation](#) Survey
 - [Resume](#) for counselor's letter of rec
 - FERPA signed /Common App Account Matching /
- Additional outside Transcripts(if applicable)
- Register w/ NCAA Eligibility Center(D1 or DII) (if applicable)



Letters of Recommendations

- Three letters of recommendation
 - Two letters will be from teachers
 - One will be your child's counselor letter
 - Info for Counselor Rec & Resume
 - 23-24 Parent/Guardian Brag Sheet (found on counseling website)
 - Note: There is no need to invite recommenders on the Common Application (that's for schools that do not have Naviance)
- *Outside recommendations
 - *if necessary
 - Email to counselor



FERPA

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
 - Allows transmission of your educational records from your high school to colleges
- Waiving your right to see letters of recommendation
 - *“Waiving your right let’s colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.”*(Common App)

College Applications

- Naviance - Running College List
 - Common Application
 - Coalition Application
 - College specific applications



Application Submission Steps

1. **Submit application - Common App / Non-Common App**
2. **Indicate you've applied in Naviance**

The only way we know students have submitted an application and that they are ready for their school documents to be sent is by checking the box “I have submitted my application” under “Have you applied?”. Students must do this for every college they submit an application to.

This lets Mrs. Schmidt know that you have applied and she can then submit your documents to the college through Naviance.

3. November 1st, November 15th, and January 1st submission

College	Type	Deadline	Expected Difficulty*	Transcripts	Office materials	Submission Type ⓘ	Application
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Massachusetts, Amherst	EA	Early November Action 1	N/A	requested	Pending		Unknown ▼ 

Responsibilities

Student

- Official Test Scores (if required or if choosing to submit)
 - SAT (www.collegeboard.org)
 - ACT (www.act.org)
- Application
- Personal Statement Essay
- *Supplement essays (if applicable)
- Resume (if applicable)

School (Mrs. Schmidt)

- Transcript
 - AP Scores if requested
- School Profile
 - GPA Distribution Chart
- Letters of Recommendation

*****The only way we know a student has submitted an application is by indicating, “I have submitted my application” for each college in the “Colleges I’m Applying To” screen*****

Standardized Testing *updates*

Standardized Testing

- **Test Optional (SAT/ACT)**
- Majority of colleges have gone test-optional
 - What does test optional really mean?
 - *Test optional truly is optional*
 - No pressure to submit
 - BU admissions rep said, “Standardized tests are simply a **credential**, students can **choose** to submit it or not. They are just one credential among many.”
- If considering submitted scores, visit colleges websites to find average SAT/ACT scores

TEST-OPTIONAL SCENARIOS

"My test scores are above average, but I didn't do as well on the SAT/ACT as I personally would have liked." This student **should** submit their test scores.

"Standardized testing has always been a weakness of mine. My grades and curriculum are rigorous and competitive, but my SAT/ACT scores are below the school's mid-range." This student **should not** submit their test scores.

"My best scores are way below Hofstra's published average and mid-range scores." (SAT scores is 1120 to 1320, with an average ACT equivalent of 25 to 32.) This student **should not** submit their test scores."

"[My scores are above average], but I don't want to pay or can't afford to send my test scores." Scores can be sent using many free options. This student **should** submit their test scores.

Standardized Testing

- Sending Official Scores
 - If you need to or choose to submit tests, it is student's responsibility to send scores directly from the College Board or ACT websites
 - it can take 2-3 weeks to arrive at the college
 - If you choose to send scores, you will be sending your SAT/ACTs before your application
 - ***Note*** Some colleges do not require official test scores to be sent. Please read each college's website carefully to find this information.
 - Please be sure to pay attention to the last test date colleges will accept scores for early or regular deadlines

SCHOOL PROFILE

THE BROMFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS 01451

Telephone (978) 456-4152 Fax (978) 456-3013

www.psharvard.org (CEE/ACT Code 220955)

Principal

Kimberley Murphy (x1504), kmurphy@psharvard.org

Administrative Assistant

Sharon Schmidt (x1540), sschmidt@psharvard.org

High School Counselors

Sara Lamere (x1541), slamere@psharvard.org, Dept Leader

Drew Skrocki (x1543), dskrocki@psharvard.org

Dawn Hall (x1547), dhall@psharvard.org

COMMUNITY FACTS

Harvard, with a population of approximately 6600, including Devens residents, is located 30 miles west of Boston in the northeastern corner of Worcester County, and encompasses an area of 26 square miles.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The Bromfield High School has an enrollment of 327 students, grades 9-12. The 2024 Senior class enrollment is 79. There are 34 teachers providing a 9:1 student/faculty ratio.

CURRICULUM

- Students may elect up to 7 courses each year from over 100 different offerings, as well as access to Virtual High School (VHS) and Educere online courses.
- Academic courses are offered at Advance Placement, Honors, and College Preparatory levels.
- Some students are eligible to begin taking high school level math courses in middle school, which will be indicated on their transcript.
- In order to graduate, students must successfully pass the MCAS, earn 22 credits, complete a Community Service Project of 40 hours, and fulfill the following course requirements:

Course/Subject	# of Credits
English	4
Social Studies (incl. US History)	3
Science (incl. Biology)	2
Mathematics	2
Physical Education	1
Health & Wellness	1
Art	1

Bromfield students can earn the Seal of Biliteracy and the Global Competency Certificate by completing a focused program of study and satisfying the requirements of each program.

SEAL OF BILITERACY - Class of 2023 – 24 students

GLOBAL COMPETENCY CERTIFICATE - Class of 2023 – 11 students

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION - Class of 2024

Semi-Finalists – 1 Commended Students – 8

AP SCHOLAR AWARDS - 2023

AP Scholars with Distinction - 24

AP Scholars with Honor - 7 AP Scholars - 21

The Bromfield School follows MASCA/ASCA Policy which precludes completing endorsement and discipline sections of secondary school report forms.

GPA/CLASS RANK

Because of its size, its academic intensity, and its college preparatory orientation **The Bromfield School does not weight nor rank its students.** Classes taken through The Bromfield School (including Virtual High School and Educere online) are calculated in The Bromfield School GPA.

92% percent of the Class of 2023 enrolled in a four-year college.

UNWEIGHTED GPA

GPA IS BASED UPON A 4 POINT SCALE:

A+ 4.3	B+ 3.3	C+ 2.3	D+ 1.3
A 4.0	B 3.0	C 2.0	D 1.0
A- 3.7	B- 2.7	C- 1.7	D- 0.7

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades on transcripts and report cards are literal. The numerical equivalents are:

A+ 97 and above	B+ 89-87	C+ 79-77	D+ 69-67
A 96-94	B 86-84	C 76-74	D 66-64
A- 93-90	B- 83-80	C- 73-70	D- 63-60
			F Below 60

ADMISSIONS TESTING PROGRAMS (CEE # 220955)

The following are the scores for the Class of 2023

SAT (56 students):

Total Mean	Reading/Writing	Mathematics
1282	645	637

ACT (15 students):

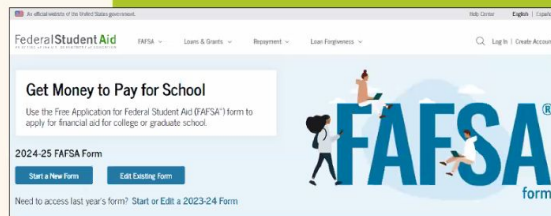
Composite	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science
31.2	31.7	30.5	31.6	28.1

Financial Aid & Misc FYI's

Financial Aid

- Beginning October 5th
 - **MEFA: Financial Aid 101**
 - www.mefa.org/events/financial-aid-101
- Updates to FAFSA
 - studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- Complete CSS Profile (after 10/1/2023)
 - <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Required by all colleges & must complete every year
- Available at fafsa.gov in Dec this year (usually Oct 1st)
- Contributor = person whose information appears on the FAFSA
- Best if student starts and then invites all other contributors
- Each contributor has a separate section
- Last contributor to complete can submit the FAFSA
- Incomplete FAFSAs are deleted after 45 days (!); reminders are sent every 7 days



FSA ID

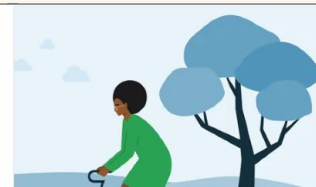
- FSA ID = username and password
- Must have an FSA ID to log in
- Set up your FSA ID now (must wait 2-4 days to start the FAFSA)
- Must have an email address
- Who needs an FSA ID?
 - Student
 - Student's spouse if filed taxes separately or didn't file
 - Every parent listed on the FAFSA
 - If parents filed taxes jointly, only one parent needs one
- Those without an SSN will answer knowledge-based questions pulled from on credit history

Create an Account

Whether you're a student, parent, or borrower, you'll need to create your own account to manage the student loan journey.

[Get Started](#)

Already have an account? [Log In](#)



Scholarships

- Merit-based scholarships
- MCAS scholarships - more info to come...
 - The John and Abigail Adams Scholarships
 - Stanley Z. Koplik Certificate of Mastery Award
- Scholarship website examples:
 - TBS Counseling website
 - fastweb.com
 - Going Merry
 - Scholarships.com
 - Naviance / school bulletin
- In House Scholarships



Social Media

- Be aware of what is on the internet
- Clean up accounts
 - Photos
 - Posts
- Change settings to private
- Cautious of friend requests



NCAA



- NCAA Eligibility Center– eligibilitycenter.org
 - Div I or II Sports
- Add “NCAA” to Naviance list
- Add **The Bromfield School** to the NCAA account
- Email Mrs. Schmidt to let her know you need your transcript uploaded to the Eligibility Center
- *Standardized test scores not required by NCAA

How can parents/guardians help?

- Organization
 - Checklists
 - Deadlines
- Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Encourage virtual exploration
- Open communication with child and counselor
- Parent/Guardian Brag Sheet (preferred deadline 9/28)



Senior Year Timeline

- NOW Create a Common Application Account
Community Service Project Proposal are due
- September 18 *List teachers writing recommendations on Naviance,
* Complete Information for Counselor Recommendation Survey
* FERPA must be completed on Naviance
* Resume must be updated in Naviance or emailed to counselor
- September 28 Parent / Guardian Brag Sheet
- Oct 5 - Dec MEFA - Financial Aid 101 Webinars
- March TBD In-house Senior Scholarship Application due
- March TBD Senior Project Presentations & Evening Community Showcase
- May 1 National Candidate's Reply Date-deposits due to attending college
- May 6-10 Take AP Exams (if appropriate)
- June 7 Graduation

Questions????



- **Drew Skrocki** - dskrocki@psharvard.org , x1543
- **Dawn Hall** - dhall@psharvard.org , x1547
- **Sara Lamere** - slamere@psharvard.org, x1541
- **Sharon Schmidt** - sschmidt@psharvard.org, x1540
- **Bromfield School Counseling Department Website**