



THOMAS
MACLAREN
SCHOOL

College Guidebook

2023-2024

Trevor von Boeck, College Counselor

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POST-HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

8TH GRADE

- High school shadow day

9th GRADE

- *Paideia Proposal* seminar on the value of liberal arts education
- Overview of MacLaren high school curriculum, credits and GPA
- Take PSAT 8/9

10th GRADE

- Financial literacy including compounding interest
- College and career research workshops
- Take CLT 10 and PSAT 10

11th GRADE

- Individual College Counseling meeting
- College essay workshop
- Financial aid workshop
- Common App workshop
- Take SAT

12th GRADE

- Individual college counseling meeting and application support
- Senior Seminar topics include: admission requirements, college testing, letters of recommendation, financial aid process and deadlines, college essays, using Common App and Naviance, and scholarships

TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Planning ahead is a critical step in preparing for college. Below is a timeline that can be used for each year of high school.

Freshman Year

- Develop academic seriousness in your courses. Academic success is one of the most important considerations for acceptance into college. Colleges will see your grades for all high school courses.
- Develop good study habits. If you find yourself struggling with your studies at any point, first consult your teacher, then check with faculty and counselors for help with study skills and tutorial help.
- Consider taking a learning styles inventory to determine how you best learn and how to develop strategies to improve your study skills.
- Strengthen your vocabulary by reading.
- Take the PSAT 8/9 at MacLaren in April.
- Keep a record of any awards or honors you receive as well as any activities you are involved in outside of the classroom.
- Begin/continue saving money for college.

Sophomore Year

- Look for opportunities to express yourself in leadership, community service, fine arts, science or athletics.
- Look into AP tests to see if this is important to you. If you would like to register for AP tests, you must visit the College Board website and follow the instructions by the first week of September.
- Take the CLT10 in September at MacLaren
- Keep a record of your activities outside the classroom, volunteer work and employment.
- Continue academic seriousness and positive study habits. If necessary, meet with your teachers for additional help.
- Consider taking interest and personality surveys to help you discover your academic and personal strengths, and to analyze the results against possible career choices.
- Schedule visits to college campuses while on school holidays.
- It is never too early to start researching colleges. Visit the College Counselor for resources.
- Take the PSAT 10 at MacLaren in April.
- Register for the June SAT Subject Tests if you think you may apply to colleges that require or recommend these tests. These are one-hour exams on academic subjects that you have already completed.
- Make your summer productive; continue to read to increase your vocabulary and communication skills.

Junior Year

- Begin the formal college selection process.
- Attend college fairs, financial aid seminars, general information sessions, etc.

September

- Junior year grades are important in the application process because they are the last grades colleges will see on your academic transcript.
- Develop a schedule of when you plan to take college entrance exams (SAT/ACT/CLT).
- Begin searching for scholarship opportunities from local companies and organizations.
- Visit colleges over long weekends or school holidays.
- Look into AP tests to see if this is important to you. If you would like to register for AP tests, you must visit the College Board website and follow the instructions by the first week of September.

October-December

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT at MacLaren. This test is used for the National Merit Scholarship and the National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholars Programs. If you wish to receive information from colleges, indicate on the PSAT answer form that you want to participate in the Student Search.
- Attend the regional college fairs in Colorado Springs and Denver.
- Begin test prep for the SAT at MacLaren in April. Free test prep can be found on College Board's website.
- Begin making a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Continue to research these schools online.

January-March

- Meet with the College Counselor to discuss your preliminary list of colleges. Discuss whether your initial list of colleges meets your needs and interests (academic programs, size, location, cost, etc.) and whether you are considering colleges where you are likely to be admitted. You should be both optimistic and realistic.
- Update your academic resume with awards and activities.
- Begin creating a Common Application.
- Continue to visit colleges.
- If interested in military service academies, begin the pre-candidate applications.

April

- Take the SAT at MacLaren.
- Register for any tests you wish to take in the summer.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you.
- Plan on attending the Out-of-State College Fair in Denver.

May-August

- Once the school year ends, continue to visit colleges.
- Continue to refine your list of potential colleges.

- Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft essays, collect writing samples, assemble pieces for a portfolio or audition, if required.
- Complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form if you hope to play Division I or Division II sports.

Senior Year

- Apply to colleges and make final decisions.
- Finish high school with pride in yourself and your accomplishments.

September

- Continue completing Common App.
- Check on the application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply.
- Meet with the College Counselor to ensure the colleges on your list are appropriate to your personal and academic record.
- If you plan to apply early action, early decision or restrictive early action, make sure you understand the differences in the applications and commitments.
- Many, but not all, colleges require recommendations from a teacher or College Counselor. Ask the appropriate people to write you a recommendation at least four weeks before you need it. Provide any recommendation forms as well as submission instructions.
- Look into AP tests to see if this is important to you. If you would like to register for AP tests, you must visit the College Board website and follow the instructions by the first week of September.

October

- Attend a regional college fair to further investigate those colleges to which you may apply.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form becomes available October 1. Communicate immediately with the College Counselor if you need any assistance.
- Request that test scores are sent by College Board or ACT to colleges with November deadlines. Allow 10-14 days for colleges to receive test scores.
- Apply to colleges in Colorado on the Free Application Day (usually near Fall Break).
- Submit applications with a Nov. 1 deadline. Communicate with the College Counselor to make sure he or she knows to send your transcript/recommendations.
- Re-take any college entrance exams for which you are trying to improve scores.
- If you are personalizing an essay, make sure to submit the correct essay to the correct college.

November

- If you submitted your FAFSA in October, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within 3-21 days. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. Notify colleges directly if there are any items needing to be corrected. If more than 3 weeks have passed after submitting the FAFSA and you have not received an acknowledgement, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 4-FED-AID. Continue completing college applications. Always save your information before submission.

December

- If you applied for early decision or early action, you may begin receiving admission decisions.

- If you are accepted to any colleges, follow the instructions sent to you for admitted students; this usually entails setting up an online account or portal.
- If you are deferred, keep an eye on your email or mail for an updated decision in the coming months.

January-February

- Maintain your commitment to your classes.
- Request your Mid-Year transcript to be sent to any colleges from whom you have not received an admission decision.
- Monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Check your email and mail regularly and do not procrastinate.
- Continue to check accounts and portals to each college to which you have been admitted. Occasionally, you will be asked for additional information and you do not want to miss these requests. This is often where your financial aid information will be sent once it is ready.
- Complete scholarship applications.

March/April

- Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards.
- If you are certain you will not enroll in one or more of the colleges, it is polite to notify those colleges that you will not attend. This may allow those colleges to admit someone on a waiting list.
- You must decide which offer of admission you want to accept by May 1.
- Follow the instruction given by the college regarding how to accept an offer of admission. This usually includes an enrollment deposit and possibly a housing deposit.

May

- If your first-choice college places you on a waiting list, do not lose hope. Some students are admitted from the waiting list.
- Graduate!

June-July

- Request that the College Counselor send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Notify the Financial Aid office at your college of any private scholarships or grants you were awarded.
- Know when the payment for tuition and housing is due.
- Check your email regularly throughout the summer for information about housing, roommates, orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college.

August-September

- Ease the transition into college. Accept that you will be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do them and how things are done will all be up to you. You will 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 unnecessary pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.

WHAT COLLEGES CONSIDER IN COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

The table below is taken from the National Association of College Admission Counseling's annual report on the state of college admissions in the United States. This chart lists the factors considered to be the most important by colleges at the top and those of least importance at the bottom.

The most important way to prepare for college applications is to focus on academic work in 9th – 11th grade. This carries much more weight than extracurricular activities or volunteer hours.

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

If you are ever concerned about how you are doing in a particular class, it behooves you to speak to your teacher about how you can improve in the skills necessary for the class be it sense of wonder, depth of inquiry, participation, memorization, writing, reading comprehension or attitude. This conversation should be centered around you becoming more alive and awake to the material rather than a numerical grade.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Many colleges require a college entrance exam score as a component of the college application.

Test optional: this term is used to describe colleges that do not require an exam score for admission. These colleges place weight on other aspects of the application such as grades, essays or personal statements. To see a current list of test optional schools, visit

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

Colleges who require a SAT or ACT score do not have a preference on which test you take or scores you submit; colleges accept them interchangeably. The SAT and ACT are accepted by almost all colleges in the United States. The Classic Learning Test (CLT) is accepted by a growing number of colleges, mostly liberal arts colleges. The SAT is required by most international colleges.

Overview of difference between SAT and ACT

	SAT	ACT
Why Take It	Colleges use SAT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.	Colleges use ACT scores for admissions and merit-based scholarships.
Test Structure	Reading Writing & Language Math Essay (Optional)	English Math Reading Science Reasoning Essay (Optional)
Length	3 hours (without essay) 3 hours, 50 minutes (with essay)	2 hours, 55 minutes (without essay) 3 hours, 40 minutes (with essay)
Reading	5 reading passages	4 reading passages
Science	None	1 science section testing your critical thinking skills (not your specific science knowledge)
Math	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry and Data Analysis	Covers: Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry, and Probability & Statistics
Calculator Policy	Some math questions don't allow you to use a calculator.	You can use a calculator on all math questions.
Essays	Optional. The essay will test your comprehension of a source text.	Optional. The essay will test how well you evaluate and analyze complex issues.
How It's Scored	Scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scored on a scale of 1-36

SAT Details

- Reading and Writing score range: 200-800
- Math score range: 200-800
- Two sub scores are combined to create a composite score: 400-1600
- Essay scores are reported separately from composite score
 - Two different people read and score essay
 - Each reader awards 1-4 points for each dimension (reading, analysis and writing)
 - Scores are added to give 3 essay scores ranging 2-8
- Average time per question: 1 minute, 10 seconds
- 2022 National SAT Average = 1050
- 2022 Colorado SAT Average = 990
- Perfect Score = 1600
- Cost: \$60

Recent changes to the SAT (effective March 2016)

1. Each exam will include a passage from founding documents of America
2. Eliminating the penalty for incorrect answers
3. Vocabulary test is focused on words that are widely used in college and career rather than words that are sometimes obscure
4. A calculator will be permitted only in certain math sections
5. Exam time was shortened to 3 hours, with 50 minutes for the optional essay

Practice Test: www.collegeboard.com/practice/SAT-practice-test

Free Online Test Prep: www.khanacademy.org/sat

SAT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
August 26, 2023	July 28	July 29-Aug. 15
October 7, 2023	September 7	September 8-26
November 4, 2023	October 5	October 6-24
December 2, 2023	November 2	November 3-24
March 9, 2024	February 23	TBD (Check Collegeboard)
May 4, 2024	April 19	TBD (Check Collegeboard)
June 1, 2024	May 17	TBD (Check Collegeboard)

Registration & Testing Locations: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

ACT Details

- Each of the 4 sections is assigned a score 1-36
- The 4 sub scores are then averaged to reveal a composite score 1-36
- Essay scores are reported separately from composite score
 - Two different people read and score essay
 - Each reader awards 1-6 points for each of the 4 domains (Ideas & Analysis, Development & Support, Organization, and Language Use & Conventions)
 - The scores from each grader are added together. The final ACT essay score from 2-12 is an average of all the domain scores.
- Average time per question: 49 seconds
- 2022 National ACT average = 19.8
- 2022 Colorado ACT average = 23.2
- Perfect Score = 36
- Cost: \$68, \$93 with optional writing

Free Online Test Prep: <https://academy.act.org/>

Class Code: 3F4TY

ACT Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
September 9, 2023	August 4	August 5-18
October 28, 2023	September 22	September 23-October 6
December 9, 2023	November 3	November 4-17
February 10, 2024	January 5	January 6-19
April 13, 2024	March 8	March 9-22
June 8, 2024	May 3	May 4-17
July 13, 2024	June 7	June 8-21

Registration & Testing Locations: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html#reg-reminder>

CLT (Classic Learning Test) Details

- Preferred entrance exam of some liberal arts colleges
- Assesses critical thinking rather than specific content knowledge
- Not accepted by all colleges. Visit <https://www.cltexam.com> to find current list of accepting colleges
- 3 sections: Verbal Reasoning, Grammar/Writing and Quantitative Reasoning
- Online
- Test time: 2 hours
- Average time per question: 1 minute
- Scoring: 0-120
- Essay not scored but sent to colleges as a writing sample
- Cost: \$59, no additional cost for essay

CLT Test Date	Registration Deadline
September 16, 2023	September 11
October 14, 2023	October 9
November 2, 2023	October 26
December 2, 2023	November 27
January 27, 2024	January 22
March 16, 2024	March 11
April 11, 2024	April 4
May 11, 2024	May 6
June 20, 2024	June 13

Concordance of Test Scores

CLT	ACT [®]	SAT [®]	CLT	ACT [®]	SAT [®]	CLT	ACT	SAT	CLT	ACT [®]	SAT [®]
120	N/A	N/A	99	32	1440	78	25	1200	57	17	920
119	N/A	N/A	98	32	1430	77	24	1180	56	16	900
118	N/A	N/A	97	32	1420	76	24	1160	55	16	880
117	N/A	N/A	96	31	1410	75	23	1140	54	15	870
116	N/A	N/A	95	31	1400	74	23	1130	53	15	850
115	N/A	N/A	94	31	1390	73	22	1110	52	15	830
114	36	1600	93	30	1380	72	22	1100	51	14	820
113	36	1590	92	30	1370	71	21	1090	50	14	800
112	36	1580	91	29	1350	70	21	1080	49	14	780
111	36	1570	90	29	1340	69	21	1070	48	13	770
110	35	1560	89	29	1330	68	21	1060	47	13	750
109	35	1550	88	28	1320	67	20	1040	46	13	730
108	35	1540	87	28	1310	66	20	1030	45	12	720
107	35	1530	86	28	1300	65	19	1010	44	12	700
106	34	1520	85	27	1280	64	19	990	43	11	680
105	34	1510	84	27	1260	63	18	980	42	11	670
104	34	1500	83	26	1250	62	18	970	41	11	660
103	34	1490	82	26	1240	61	18	960	40	11	650
102	33	1480	81	26	1230	60	17	950	39	10	640
101	33	1470	80	25	1220	59	17	940	38	10	630
100	33	1460	79	25	1210	58	17	930			

MacLaren Testing Schedule: students will take the following tests at MacLaren during the school day

April of 9 th Grade	PSAT 8/9
September of 10 th Grade	CLT 10
April of 10 th Grade	PSAT 10
October of 11 th Grade	PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
April of 11 th Grade	SAT (scores can be sent to colleges)

The SAT is administered at MacLaren during state testing in April of 11th grade. It is recommended that students take both the SAT and ACT during 11th grade. Students can then retake either the SAT or

ACT during the Fall semester of 12th grade. This places the responsibility of registration and payment on the student for any test other than the April SAT.

FEE WAIVERS

Fee waivers are available to low-income families to help offset the cost of college entrance testing and college applications. If you think you are eligible for a fee waiver, contact the College Counselor before registering for any college entrance exams or submitting college applications.

You are eligible for fee waivers if you say "yes" to any of the following:

- You are enrolled in or eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program
- Your annual family income falls within the Income Eligibility Guidelines set by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service
- You are enrolled in a federal, state, or local program that aids students from low-income families (e.g., Federal TRIO programs such as Upward Bound)
- Your family receives public assistance
- You live in federally subsidized public housing or a foster home, or are homeless
- You are a ward of the state or an orphan

SENDING TEST SCORES

Each student is responsible for sending test scores to each college that requires them. This cannot be done by the high school. Students access test scores through their online accounts and send scores to colleges through this online portal. There is a fee to send each score to each college.

SAT

1. Log in to your College Board account.
2. From the dashboard, find the box with the scores you would like to send
3. Select "View Details"
4. In the menu above your score report, select "Score Sends"
5. You can see the colleges that have already received your scores or select "Send Additional Score Reports" to send this score to additional colleges
6. There is a \$12 fee per score report sent

ACT

1. Log in to your ACT account
2. From the homepage, select "Send Your Scores"
3. Select the test date of the scores you wish to send, select "Continue"
4. Fill in the code for the college that you want to receive your scores
5. There is a \$16 fee per score report sent

EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT

Some, but not all, colleges will accept certain courses or tests as college credit. There is no standard to this, each college has its own policies on accepting credit. Below are details on the three most common ways to potentially earn college credit while still in high school.

AP (Advanced Placement) Exams

AP is a curriculum written by the College Board who also writes the PSAT and SAT tests. AP is designed to be a two-semester course with a final exam at the end of the course. These tests are scored 1-5. Some colleges will give college credit to a student if they earn a certain score (usually 3 or above, some colleges require a 4 or 5).

MacLaren does not offer AP courses or exams. However, it is possible to take the final exam without sitting in the two-semester course. If you are interested in this option, you must plan ahead to register and prepare for an AP exam.

AP exams are offered once a year in May. It is your responsibility to find a school that offers the exam you wish to take and to contact College Board in September before you take the exam in May. For example: *John wants to take the AP Calculus exam in May of his Junior year. This means he must contact search the AP Course Ledger in the fall in order to be connected to a local school that offers this exam. He will also need to order study materials for this exam. Even though he is taking Calculus at MacLaren, this is a different course than the AP course and he will need to be familiar with all of the content that is taught in the AP course. Depending on the exam date, he might have to miss part of a school day at MacLaren in order to be at a different high school to take the exam.*

Here are the College Board's instructions for registering for an AP exam:

If you're homeschooled or you go to a school that doesn't administer AP Exams, you'll need to arrange to take exams at a local school that does administer them.

Your first step is to search the [AP Course Ledger](#). The AP Course Ledger is the official, up-to-date, comprehensive list of schools that have passed the AP Course Audit. You can search by country, state/province, or city to find a school where you might be able to test. After finding schools near you that offer the courses you want to take exams for, do an internet search for the school's phone number. Then call and ask to speak with the school's AP coordinator to learn if the school is allowing homeschooled students to test there this year.

Look for and contact schools as early in the school year as possible. Note that schools may have their own local deadlines and policies for receiving requests from outside students to test at their school, so you'll want to give yourself as much time as possible to contact schools. Updates will be made to the AP Course Ledger for 2022-23 in November, so if you still need to find possible schools, you can check the Ledger again in November to see if any schools in your area were added. The exam ordering deadline for schools is November 15.

When you find an AP coordinator able to administer your AP Exam(s), they are responsible for ordering your exam materials, telling you when and where to report for the exams, and collecting the exam fees.

Note: If you're unable to find a school by November 15, you can keep looking. At their discretion, a school could add you to their order after November 15, and they could request that the late order fee be waived in that circumstance. But because schools can set their own deadlines and policies related to ordering and fees, start looking for a school as early as possible.

For a list of AP exams, please visit the AP website: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.com>

CLEP Tests

CLEP (the College-Level Examination Program®) offers 34 exams that cover introductory-level college course material. With a passing score on one CLEP exam, you could earn three or more college credits at more than 2,900 U.S. colleges and universities.

Not all colleges accept CLEP tests. Some colleges accept CLEP for certain courses, but not for all courses. At some colleges, you may be able to apply your CLEP credit to the college's core curriculum requirements. For example, CLEP credit may be given as “6 hours—English Credit” or “3 hours—Math Credit,” and can be used for any English or mathematics course. Find out before you take a CLEP exam what type of credit you can receive from your institution, or whether you will be exempted from a required course but receive no credit. To see a college’s CLEP policy, visit:

<https://clep.collegeboard.org/school-policy-search>

Key CLEP Facts:

- Students take CLEP exams on a computer at official CLEP test centers.
- CLEP exams contain multiple-choice questions.
- CLEP exams take about 90–120 minutes to complete, depending on the exam subject.
- CLEP exams are offered year-round at more than 2,000 CLEP test centers across the country.
- Students receive their CLEP exam scores immediately after completing the exam (except for College Composition and Spanish with Writing).
- More than 2,900 U.S. colleges and universities grant credit for CLEP.

CLEP Exams: For a complete list of the 34 exams, visit <https://clep.collegeboard.org>

American Literature	American Government	Chemistry
French	US History	College Algebra
German	Western Civilization	Precalculus
Spanish	Biology	Calculus

How to Register for a CLEP Test

Step 1: Check your college’s CLEP credit policy.

Individual colleges decide how they award credit for CLEP

Step 2: Register and pay for your exam on the CLEP website.

Create an online account, and submit your payment through the My Account portal. The cost is \$89.

Note: Make sure you use your name as it appears on your official ID.

Step 3: Contact a CLEP test center to schedule your exam.

Students have 6 months from the time they registered to take the CLEP exam. The test center may charge you an additional administration fee, usually around \$25.

Step 4: Prepare for your exam using free and low-cost study resources.

Find recommendations for online courses, textbooks, and study materials on each of the CLEP exam pages or on the CLEP Practice page.

Step 5: Take your exam.

Pike Peak State College Courses

High school students are eligible to enroll in college courses at PPSC. There are options for students to take courses in the evenings or during the summer so they do not conflict with the regular school day.

MacLaren’s Concurrent Enrollment Policy can be found on the [school website](#).

UNDERSTANDING COLLEGE COST

Simply put, the advertised Cost of Attendance (COA) for a college is usually not the cost a family pays for a student to attend college. There are deductions, in the form of gift aid, that can be applied to the total cost of attendance. These deductions generally come in two forms: one is based on the student's merit (see section on Scholarships) and the other is based on the student's family financial circumstances (see section on the FAFSA).

Each college that receives federal funding is required to publish a Net Price Calculator (NPC) on its website. This tool allows a student to input basic academic and financial information and to receive an estimated net price.

Net Price = the price of college after deductions are made
The price YOU pay for college based on your academic and financial profile

Using a Net Price Calculator:

The simplest way to find a college's NPC is to do a web search.

Example: "UCCS net price calculator"

This table reflects NPC data for an example student. The same academic and financial information was used for each college. Net Price Calculators were used for 7 different colleges in Colorado. All are public colleges except for Colorado College and Regis University.

	UCCS	University of Northern Colorado	Colorado State University	Colorado School of Mines	CU Boulder	Colorado College	Regis University
Cost of Attendance	\$24,676	\$27,164	\$29,270	\$36,652	\$30,155	\$74,760	\$55,592
Grants & Scholarships	\$2,500	\$8,150	\$9,900	\$2,600	\$7,000	\$52,868	\$29,018
Net Price	\$22,176	\$19,014	\$19,370	\$34,052	\$23,155	\$21,894	\$21,074

My Estimated Cost for the 2020-21 year July 17, 2020

Estimated Cost of Attendance	
Tuition and Fees.....	\$78,080/ yr
Housing and Meals.....	\$13,392
Books and Supplies.....	\$1,240
Transportation.....	\$1,230
Other educational and personal expenses.....	\$1,354

Estimated grants and scholarships to pay for college	
Colorado College Grant.....	\$41,120/ yr
	\$41,120

➡ What you will pay for college **\$36,960/ yr**

Net Price.....
(Cost of Attendance minus total grants and scholarships) **\$36,960**

Options to Pay Net Price

Work options	
Work-study or student employment	\$2,100/ yr
	\$2,100

Estimated loan options	
Federal Direct Subsidized Loan.....	\$5,500/ yr
Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan.....	\$3,500
	\$2,000

Other options	
• Payment plan offered by the institution	• Military and/or National Service benefits
• Federal Direct PLUS Loan	• Non-Federal private education loan

\$29,360/ yr

"Sticker Price"

Price of
attendance after
deductionsOption for student to
work a job and pay go
directly to college costOption for student to
use federal loans to
pay for collegeAmount remaining
that must be paid
during the
academic year.

This is example of what NPC results may look like. The notes on the side help to explain the meaning of each number. Some colleges will include loans as financial aid making it appear the net price is lower than it really is. Remember that a loan is money that has to be paid back, although they can offset the financial burden in the current year.

ACTIVITIES, HONORS AND AWARDS

College applications ask for information about how you spend your time. This is for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of who you are as a person, not necessarily to compete with other applicants. By the time many students are completing college applications in 12th grade, they do not remember what they did in 9th or 10th grade. Here is a chart that you can complete to help you remember your activities, honors and awards:

ACTIVITIES List anything you do with your time other than school and homework. Examples: babysitting, sports, drawing, creative writing, clubs, scouts, etc.

Name of Activity	Grade	Hours per week	Description	Supervisor

HONORS & AWARDS Examples: Highlander Award, Academic Excellence, MVP, etc.

Award	Grade	Description of Award

GLOSSARY OF APPLICATION TERMS

- Admission Plan:** An admission plan is the schedule and method by which colleges and universities accept and review applications, and notify applicants of their decisions. Examples of admissions plans include Early Action, Early Decision, and Regular Decision.
- Application Fee:** The fee a college charges you to apply to the institution. The amount varies from one college to the next. See Fee Waivers.
- CBO (Community-Based Organization):** A not-for-profit college access organization that offers free advising for students.
- CEEB Code:** A unique identification number assigned to high schools and colleges by the College Board.
- Citizenship:** Your status as a person recognized under the custom or law as being a member of a state or country. Depending on your citizenship status you may be asked to provide additional information.
- Coed:** Used to describe a college that offers the integrated education of male and female students in the same environment.
- College Specific Questions:** Questions that colleges ask in addition to the information collected in the Common App tab of the application. This includes the start term and admission plan for which you would like to apply.
- Common App ID (CAID):** A unique 8-digit numeric identifier that colleges use to match your materials with your application. You can find your unique CAID in the top right corner of your account.
- Common App:** The name of the online system used by students to apply to member colleges and universities across the country and around the world.
- Community College:** A two-year post-secondary institution that offers associates degrees. Students that have received their high school diploma or earned a GED can enroll in a community college. Students who earn their Associates degree at a community college can transfer to a four-year college or university to earn their Bachelor's degree.
- Counselor:** An individual who provides academic, career, and college readiness to all students through a school counseling program. The counselor is also responsible for submitting your transcripts to colleges.
- Counselor Recommendation:** A broad-based assessment written by your counselor to address things like your academic, extracurricular, and personal characteristics.
- CSS Profile:** The CSS Profile is required by many private colleges and universities to determine your eligibility for non-government financial aid, which includes grants, loans, and scholarships from a college. Be sure to visit the College Board website for more information.
- Deadline:** The date by which you must submit your application materials. All deadlines are in your local time zone.
- Early Action (EA):** An application process to apply and receive a decision earlier than the Regular Decision notification date. Unlike Early Decision (ED), EA is “non-binding” and you have no obligation to enroll and will have until May 1 to consider the offer and confirm your enrollment.
- Early Decision (ED):** A “binding” application process by which you commit to enrolling in a certain college if you're admitted. You can apply to other colleges, but only apply ED to one college. If admitted, you must withdraw your other applications.

Essay: The “personal essay” or “personal statement” within the Common App gives you the chance to tell your story and to show off your writing skills. Not every college requires the essay and you can filter by this requirement in the College Search tab.

Evaluation: A writing prompt that your teachers and non-academic recommenders can use to elaborate on what they think colleges should know about you.

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is used to determine your eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid. This includes grants, educational loans, and work-study programs. Be sure to visit the FAFSA website for more information.

Fee Waivers: A request to the college to remove the application fee. Using either the Common App fee waiver, which your counselor must confirm, or a college-specific fee waiver, you will not be required to pay the fee to submit your application.

FERPA: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law that protects your education records. To learn more, visit the U.S. Department of Education.

Final Report: A form submitted by your high school counselor that typically summarizes your academic performance from freshman year to the end of your senior year of high school. The Final Report is the last form your counselor will submit.

Financial Aid: Funding in the form of grants and loans to help you pay for education-related expenses including tuition, room and board, textbooks, and supplies for college.

First Year: You are a First Year applicant if you will be completing high school this academic year or if you have never enrolled at a college or university. Please check with the colleges you applied to see which application type is best for you.

Gap Year: A break you take in your formal education, typically between graduating from high school and starting college.

GPA (Grade Point Average): The academic performance measurement calculated based on your grades. Many high schools calculate GPA differently. While you can self-report this information, your counselor will submit official transcripts as part of their forms.

High School Official Recommendation: A recommendation submitted by a high school counselor or school official which also includes a copy of the final high school transcript.

Matriculation: The formal process of entering a college or of becoming eligible to enter college by completing certain academic requirements.

Mid-Year Report: Submitted by your counselor, this form usually summarizes your academic performance through the middle of your final year of high school.

Optional Report: A “just in case” form that your counselor can submit if needed.

Personal Recommendation: A recommendation submitted by someone who can speak to your character and abilities.

Portfolio: A supplemental form used to showcase your special talents in one or more subjects. Certain colleges will require a portfolio to complete your application.

Prerequisite: A course or program that needs to be completed before you are able to apply to a program.

Professional Recommendation: A recommendation submitted by an individual you know from a professional experience, like a job or internship.

Regular Decision (RD): An application process in which you apply by a specific date and then receive an admission decision within a stated period of time.

Restrictive Early Action (REA): Similar to Early Action, applying for REA requires that you submit your application earlier than Regular Decision (RD). As a result, you will receive your admission

decision earlier than you would receive a RD decision. Additionally, colleges place certain restrictions on your applications to other early application processes.

Rolling Admission: A decision plan that lets students submit an application at any time throughout the year. Colleges will review applications as they receive them, and make admission decisions throughout the year.

School Report: A form submitted by your high school counselor to provide basic information about your academic performance.

Standardized Tests: Any form of test that requires all test takers to answer the same questions in the same way, and that is scored in a “standard” or consistent manner. This makes it possible to compare the relative performance of individual students or groups of students. Many colleges require you to take and report the results from certain standardized tests.

Transcript: Documentation to prove which courses you’ve taken and the grades you received for those courses. Your counselor will be required to provide an official transcript on your behalf.

Writing Supplement: Not required by every college, these are additional writing prompts asked as part of the college specific questions. The Writing Supplement can only be submitted once your application to that college has been submitted.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND DEFINITIONS

Listed below are requirements that a college could have for applications. This does not mean that all colleges require all elements listed. You should check each college's application requirements published on its website. The simplest way to do this is a Google search. Example: UCCS application requirements

1. Transcript

- a. Official Transcript: this must be sent by a high school official (usually College Counselor)
- b. Unofficial Transcript: some colleges will let you send a copy of your transcript by email or text
- c. Self-reported Grades: Some colleges want for you to manually input each class you have taken and the grade earned
- d. Mid-year report: A form submitted to colleges after first semester grades are released
- e. Final Report: Final transcript sent to the college a student commits to attend

2. SAT/ACT Scores

- a. Official Test Scores: must be sent *directly* from College Board or ACT
 - i. SAT – log in to your College Board Account, select “My SAT”, then select “Send Scores”. \$12 per score report, per college
 - ii. ACT – log in to your ACT account. \$16 per score report, per college.
- b. Self-reported Scores: some colleges will let you self-report your scores on your application and only require an Official Score report once you enroll at that college.
- c. Score report from a counselor: Some colleges will allow a school counselor to send a score report, rather than requiring you to pay a fee through College Board or ACT
- d. TEST SCORES ARE NOT ON YOUR TRANSCRIPT: some colleges will accept unofficial test scores if they are on your transcript. Since test scores are not on MacLaren transcripts, this option does not apply to MacLaren students.

3. Recommendations: Some colleges require recommendations. It is important to note what type of recommendation is needed and from whom.

- a. Teacher Recommendation
 - i. Pay attention to which type of teacher should write your recommendation
 - ii. Some colleges require a letter from a Math and English teacher
 - iii. Other colleges accept letters from any teacher
 - iv. Ask if the teacher is willing to write a letter of recommendation.
 - v. Request through Naviance
- b. Counselor Recommendation
 - i. Sometimes this is listed as a “written evaluation”
 - ii. Typically for more selective colleges
 - iii. College Counselor writes this recommendation
 - iv. Request in person or through email
- c. General Recommendation
 - i. Can be anyone who knows you well other than a family member
 - ii. Coordinate with College Counselor for submission of recommendations written by people who are not MacLaren employees

- d. If multiple recommendations are written, each should highlight a different aspect of who you are
 - e. 4 weeks' notice is appreciated, 2 weeks' notice is required
 - f. Recommendation forms (Counselor, teacher, parent)
- 4. Essay**
- a. Not all colleges require an essay
 - b. The essay should tell the admissions committee something about you, not just demonstrate your academic ability
 - c. Write about something that is not already stated in your application
- 5. Resume**
- a. A summary of your experiences and achievements in high school
 - i. List all extracurricular activities
 - ii. This includes anything that does not occur in class
 - 1. Clubs, Clan activities
 - 2. Jobs/Sports
 - 3. Babysitting/taking care of siblings
 - 4. Volunteering/Community Groups/Helping at church
 - b. For everything listed on a resume, include a brief explanation
 - i. "Clan Leader" and "Highlander Award" need to be put into context to be understood by someone outside of our school culture
 - c. Can look at employment resumes for ideas on layout and format
 - d. College Counselor is happy to help you!
- 6. Portfolio/Audition**
- a. Common for certain areas of study (art, design, music, dance)
 - b. Each college should specify how a portfolio should be submitted
- 7. Application Fee**
- a. Must be paid to submit your application
 - b. Can range from \$0 to more than \$100
 - c. Some colleges waive the application fee if you apply before a certain date
 - d. Fee waivers are available to low income families. See College Counselor if you think you may be eligible for a fee waiver.

REPORTING GPA

Thomas MacLaren School's grade point average (GPA) is on a weighted 4.0 scale.

Some classes are "weighted" meaning the grade receives 1.0 grade point more than the same grade in an unweighted class. Although weighted classes have a higher grade point possibility, this does NOT change the grade point scale.

The GPA on your transcript/grade report is your weighted GPA and is therefore on a weighted 4.0 scale. Always report this GPA unless specifically asked for your unweighted GPA.

If you need your unweighted GPA, contact the College Counselor (or you can do the math on your own).

Always report GPA on a 4.0 scale.

CURRICULUM CHART FOR APPLICATIONS

The chart below can be helpful any time you are asked to provide information about the courses you are taking or have taken. The top row lists the main subjects and the information below shows how many credits you earn for each class. If you have been in any courses that are not on this chart, consult the College Counselor before submitting course information on an application.

	English	History	Other	Math	Science	Language	Electives	PE
9th Grade	Humane Letters (American Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (American Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (American Studies) 1 Credit - Composition	Geometry/ Precalculus 2 Credits	Biology 2 Credits	Latin IV 2 Credits	Orchestra IV 2 Credits	<i>Physical Education</i> 1 Credit
10th Grade	Humane Letters (Modern European Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (Modern European Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (Modern European Studies) 1 Credit - Composition	Precalculus 2 Credits	Chemistry 2 Credits	<i>Language</i> 2 Credits	Orchestra V 2 Credits	<i>Physical Education</i> 1 Credit
11th Grade	Humane Letters (Ancient Greek Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (Ancient Greek Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (Ancient Greek Studies) 1 Credit - Philosophy	Calculus I 2 Credits	Computer Science 1 Credit	<i>Language</i> 1 Credit	Orchestra VI 1 Credit	
					Physics 1 Credit		<i>Art</i> 1 Credit	
							<i>Drama I</i> 1 Credit	
12th Grade	Humane Letters (Modern Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (Modern Studies) 2 Credits	Humane Letters (Modern Studies) 1 Credit - Economics	Calculus II/ Group Theory 2 Credits	Physics II 2 Credits	<i>Language</i> 1 Credit	Orchestra VII 1 Credit	
							<i>Art</i> 1 Credit	
							<i>Drama II</i> 1 Credit	

1 Credit = 1 Semester
 2 Credits = 1 Year

Italicized courses are not Honors

Normal font courses are Honors

*Greek is Honors

TYPES OF COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Most college applications are completed online, though there are a handful of different types of online applications. Check with the college's website to confirm which type of application each college accepts.

1. **Direct to Institution**

- This application is unique to the individual college and is accessed through the college's website.
- You will need a username and password for each application.

2. **Common Application**

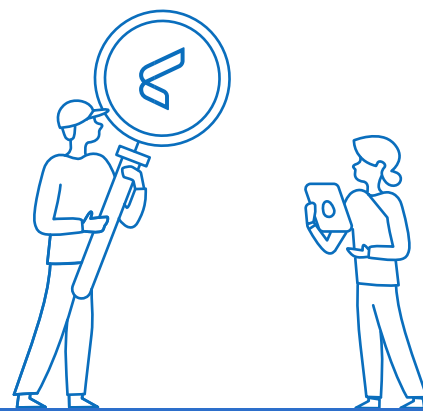
- A free application tool that allows students to create one application that can be sent to several colleges.
- Accessed through Common App's website
- Several applications housed in one location with a single log-in
- Accepted by many, but not all, colleges

3. **Other**

- There are other application tools that are similar to Common App that are regional
- Examples: Coalition App, ApplyTexas

Students are encouraged to create a Common Application account in 11th grade. This gives insight into what is required by college applications as well as a head start on applications for senior year. While most colleges do not accept applications until 12th grade, the information added to Common App in 11th grade will be stored and rolled over to the application cycle in 12th grade.

What is Common App



Common App is a non-profit college access organization that helps students apply to college every year. Common App's free college application tool is designed to make applying to college faster and easier. With Common App you only need to use one system to apply to multiple colleges and universities. There are two main parts you fill out: a set of common questions and each college's own specific questions. The best part is you only have to fill out the common questions one time!

Common App is a place for you to learn about the college admissions process, understand how to plan and apply to college, and discover all that different colleges have to offer. It's a hub of information that can guide you through each step of the application journey. It's a resource that connects you with financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

Whatever questions you might have, we're here to help

Application guides to give you step-by-step instructions on completing your application.

A **college roadmap** designed to guide you toward your next destination — no matter where you start. An

application dictionary to help you understand the terminology related to college applications.

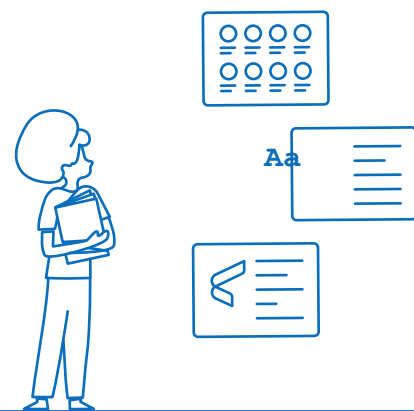
A **library of FAQs and video tutorials** to answer any question you may have, and a support team that's available **24/7**.

What's Next

Visit commonapp.org to create your Common App account and start exploring colleges.

How the First Year Common App Works

A quickstart guide for students using the first year Common App.



1 Add colleges

Get started by adding colleges to your list. You can find colleges to apply to in the College Search tab of your Common App account. The College Search tab also has information and links to help you research each college. Almost 900 colleges use Common App! Go to commonapp.org/explore to start exploring.

2 Stay organized

Each college has its own set of specific requirements and supplements. When it comes to tracking this information and staying organized, we're here to help! Use the "Requirements Grid" and each college's "College Information" page to find this information. You can also use Common App On Track, our mobile companion app, to track deadlines, set reminders, and more.

To start your college application checklist, check out our "My College Requirements" worksheet at commonapp.org/ready.

3 Complete and submit

Answering all the questions in the Common App tab is a great way to start your applications. For each college you will:

- Answer college specific questions
- Invite and manage recommenders
- Complete other supplements (if applicable)

After all these sections are complete, you are ready to submit your application! Submission is simple: review, pay (if applicable), and submit.

How does my application get there?

When you submit we combine your responses from the Common App and college specific questions, as well as any supplements, into one form. Your counselor, teachers, and other recommenders complete their reports and evaluations separately.

As recommenders submit their forms, they will be sent to the college to be added to your application.

NAVIANCE eDOCS

College applications have more than one part. You are responsible for completing and submitting your application to the college, but your task does not end there. Colleges require documents to be submitted by the high school on your behalf, namely transcripts and recommendations.

Email is not a secure way to send personal information, so MacLaren uses a feature in Naviance called eDocs. This is a secure electronic data submission portal through which your transcript and recommendations can be sent to colleges.

For the College Counselor to be able to send your documents, you must do two or three things:

1. Match your Naviance account to your Common App account
2. Request a transcript in Naviance
3. If you need recommendations, request recommendations in Naviance

Matching your Naviance and Common App accounts

1. Create a Common Application account
2. Complete the 'Education' section of the 'Common Application' tab
3. Add at least one college to your 'My Colleges' list
4. Read and sign the FERPA release authorization in the 'Recommenders and FERPA' section of the 'My Colleges' tab
5. Log in to Naviance Student <https://student.naviance.com/thomasms>
6. Select the 'Colleges' tab in the top right of the page.
7. Select "Colleges I'm applying to"
8. Select "Match Accounts" on the pink banner at the top of the page
9. Enter the same email address you used to register for Common App and verify date of birth
10. Select "Match Account"

[Common App Matching Video Tutorial](#)

Requesting a Transcript in Naviance

1. Complete and submit a college application
2. Log in to Naviance Student <https://student.naviance.com/thomasms>
3. Select the 'Colleges' tab in the top right of the page.
4. Select "Colleges I'm applying to"
5. Above your list of colleges, select "+ Request Transcripts"
6. Select type of transcript you need to be sent
 - a. Initial: This is the first transcript sent to a college. It includes all grades through 11th grade.
 - b. Mid-Year: This is sent to colleges you have sent applications but have not received a decision by mid-January. This includes all grades through Fall of 12th grade.
 - c. Final: This transcript is sent only to the college you intend to attend. It includes all grades through the end of 12th grade.
7. Do not select any test scores. These cannot be sent by the school.
8. Click the down arrow, then select the college to which you need a transcript to be sent.
9. Select "Done", then confirm your selections are correct.
10. Select "Request and Finish"

Requesting Teacher Letters of Recommendation in Naviance

1. Consult the application requirements for colleges on your list to confirm you need recommendations.
2. Ask the teacher *in person* AT LEAST four weeks before you need the recommendation, one month is preferred. If the teacher says 'No', find another teacher to ask.
3. Log in to Naviance: student.naviance.com/thomasms
4. Select the "Colleges" tab
5. Select "Apply to College"
6. Select "Letters of Recommendation"
7. Select the "Add Request" button
8. Select the name of the teacher from the drop-down menu
9. Select "All current and future colleges I add to my Colleges list"
10. Select "Submit Request"
10. Follow up with an email to the teacher, reminding them of the deadline for your letter.
11. Complete a Teacher Recommendation Form for teachers who ask for one
12. Write a Thank You note to teachers after they write your letter.

Requesting a Counselor Recommendation

1. Consult the application requirements for colleges on your list to confirm you need a counselor recommendation. Only about a quarter of colleges require counselor recommendations
2. Ask College Counselor in person or via email AT LEAST four weeks before you need the recommendation.
3. Complete the Counselor Recommendation Form and return to College Counselor. Recommendations will not be written until this form is returned.

RESUME, ACTIVITIES & AWARDS

Some colleges will ask for a formal resume, which is a formatted list of what you do with your time outside of the classroom with short explanations of each entry.

Most schools do not require a resume, but they do ask you to list your activities and awards. Beginning in 9th grade, keep a list of all the things you do outside of class as well as any awards or honors you receive.

Activities are anything you do **regularly** other than class or homework. You will be asked to provide the amount of time given to this activity per week. This can include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Clubs at school | - Scouts |
| - Sports | - Playing an instrument |
| - Volunteering | - Art |
| - Community Service | - Babysitting |
| - Watching younger siblings | - Learning to ride a unicycle |

Awards are honors you have been given in or out of school for something you have done well. Always provide a brief description of the award if space is given. Below are some descriptions of awards that students can be given at MacLaren:

The Highlander Award: This is the award that honors students who build school community. These are the students who show school spirit—unapologetically and unflaggingly. They initiate events, they lead clan life, they look forward to Spirit Days, they come to athletic events to cheer on the teams, they contribute to service opportunities, they help at Information Nights (cleaning the building or being an ambassador).

The Per Aspera Award: This is the award that honors students who show a posture towards learning that we want to uphold as a community that values learning for its own sake and not just a grade. These students display a work ethic across the board. These are the students who participate fully; when they are absent the whole class dynamic suffers. These are the students we are proud to uphold as MacLaren students in and out of the classroom: on the soccer field and playground as well as in Math and Latin.

Academic Excellence Award: Students who achieve excellence in a subject area receive this award. Courses that are cumulative are given in the last year of that course.

CREATING A COLLEGE RESUME

High school student resumes give colleges a snapshot of your accomplishments, extracurriculars, hobbies, and work history.

What should go on a college resume? Any of the sections below could appear on your resume for college applications. Pick an assortment that works for you:

- Heading with your name, address, and e-mail
- High school information with your graduation date, GPA (weighted), class rank, and SAT/ACT scores
- Academic awards, publications, honors, and other achievements
- Coursework (summer programs, college courses, or other specialized workshops that do not appear on your high school transcript)
- Extracurricular activities
- Community service
- Work experience
- Hobbies
- Special skills (e.g. foreign language fluency or HTML expertise)

Tips for Composing Your College Admissions Resume

1. Keep it concise: The standard practice is to stick to one or two pages.
2. Focus on depth and length of commitment: When deciding which activities and accomplishments make the cut, keep in mind that colleges would much rather see you excited about one or two key experiences than sporadic involvement in 20 clubs.
3. Provide detail whenever possible: Time spent in an activity, your role/responsibilities, dates of involvement
4. Highlight things you weren't able to write about in your college essays or short answers.
5. Formatting is key: Make your resume easy to scan. Divide information into sections with clear headings, bulleted lists, and a consistent font.
6. Be honest and accurate.

Example Student

1234 dw 123 pl, city, STATE

Mobile: (123)-567-8901 | Student_name@email.com

Education

North Shore High School (2017-Current)

Somewhere, TX GPA: Weighted: 5.0 / Unweighted: 4.0

SAT: 1600

ACT: 36

Relevant Coursework: Chinese 1&2, Speech and Language, World History & Philosophy

Experience

Principal Clarinet, Bergen Youth Orchestra

05.27.18-07.15.18

Coordinated clarinet section (15 students) and performance of major orchestral works, including Swan Lake and Beethoven's Fifth. Performed in winter and spring school concerts as section soloist.

Reed 1, SHS Spring Musical

05.27.19-07.15.19

Managed and directed other woodwinds in sectional rehearsals; played alto sax, clarinet, bass clarinet in West Side Story, How to Succeed... & Oklahoma!

Honors/Awards

1st Place Rockland County Academic League

03.24.20

Suffern High School Academic League Current Events, Pop Culture, and History specialist.

Skills

Computer

Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Illustrator, Google Apps for Work

Data Analysis

SQL, MySQL, SQLite, PostgreSQL, Python

Writing

Music composition, narrative nonfiction-writing