

How many schools should I apply to?

It is recommended that students apply to anywhere from four to six colleges. Please don't put all of your eggs in one basket! In other words, do not apply to all "reach" schools. Apply to a wide variety of schools. If not, you may find yourself searching for a school to accept you in the spring.

- A "reach" school – *I may not be accepted.*
- Two or three "good match" schools – *I should be accepted.*
- A "safe" school – *I will most likely be accepted. There are very few "safe schools" ...conduct research and apply on time!*

Applying to colleges can be expensive. Conduct research and narrow your choices before applying!

Where can I get an application to the colleges of my choice?

► The Web ► Guidance Office ► College Representatives

How do I obtain the best letters of recommendation?

- It's best to ask a teacher from the high school; one that you have had for at least a full school year.
- It's a nice idea to put your request in writing – name of school(s), when the letter is needed, etc.
- Give plenty of notice!!! If you are asking someone to say positive things about you, what does it say about your time management skills if you ask someone to write you a letter, but it's due tomorrow!?
- A teacher may ask you to complete an "All About Me" form (available in guidance), or may ask you to share your Career Cruising Portfolio. Don't fret...having personal/background data will help a teacher write a better, more in-depth letter about you!
- If you are applying on-line and the application asks for a teacher/counselors e-mail, make sure you have their correct address – don't guess!!! And, ask advance permission of the teacher.

Recommendations are confidential! Teachers may choose to show it to you, but they don't have to.

How important are Essays? VERY

- Your essay should be carefully thought out and carefully written.
- A successful essay makes YOU memorable. Follow the essay prompts and put your writing skills to work.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure. Running your essay through a spell checker is not enough – PROOFREAD!
- Essay optional? Use your judgment – but don't always take the easy way out!

What do I do once my application is complete?

Bring your completed application packet to the guidance secretary along with an envelope and the application fee. Fill out a Transcript Request Form. The guidance secretary will add your transcript and a copy of our school profile to the packet. Your guidance counselor will then review your application and if necessary add a recommendation. Official transcripts must be mailed from the counseling office.

What steps should I take if I am applying on-line?

- Please print any sections of the application your counselor needs to complete or include your counselors e-mail address if asked (lpunek@nesd1.org or dawncoletta@nesd1.org)
- Fill out a Transcript Request Form - *we still need to mail out your transcript, school profile, etc.*

What else should I keep in mind?

- Your application should be spotless – no spelling errors, food stains, or severely wrinkled edges.
- Pay attention to detail - fill in every blank and proofread.
- *Don't squeeze information into a small space* -- write, "see attached sheet" and continue writing on a clean sheet of paper.
- Be aware of deadlines! For best results have your applications finished before Thanksgiving break – earlier if the school has rolling admissions. *Penn State's Priority Filing Deadline is usually in mid-November!*
- Do not include information that is not requested. I.e., essay, video, portfolio, etc.
- Keep track of the schools you've applied to, and the major you selected for each school, and all deadlines!
- Complete your application on your own...it's usually pretty easy to tell if mom or dad fills them out for you!

***Questions? Still wondering what to do? Need financial aid info?
See your counselor!***

