

Buford High School

Project Post-Secondary



The Application Process

November 3, 2008



Starting the process

- Research the schools you are interested in applying to
- Note deadlines for each school
- Common Application
- Paper vs. Electronic
 - Most schools request students fill out electronic applications, but they will accept paper applications
- Plan for application fees
 - Talk to counselors about possible fee waivers for those who may qualify

Types of Admission

- ***Early Decision:***

- Application is submitted early, and school gives decision around December.
- A binding commitment to attend the school upon acceptance.
- May increase chances of admission, but also limits opportunity to consider other schools.
- Ideal for the student with one dream school

- ***Early Action:***

- Application is filed early, and school gives decision early.
- Not a binding agreement upon acceptance.

- ***Regular Admission:***

- Apply by general deadline; no commitment to school

Components of an application

- Demographic information
- GPA
- Transcript
- Test scores
- Extracurricular activities
- Leadership
- Essay/short answer portion
- Interview
- Recommendations
- Complete senior year schedule
 - Some schools require a midterm report

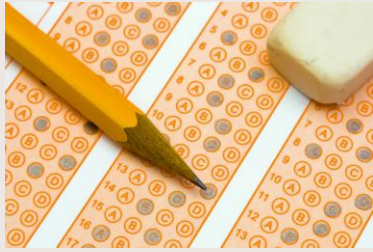


Grade Point Average

- Weighted vs. Unweighted GPA
- Schools will check your GPA again after you graduate
- Check which GPA you are asked to submit
 - Cumulative
 - Academic

Transcripts

- Complete a transcript permission card in the guidance office
- Students can come by guidance office to request a transcript to be sent or e-mail their counselors
- A hard copy will be sent to the school that you indicate
- First copy is free, each additional is \$2
- In the process of moving to electronic transcripts



Test Scores

- Counselors will put highest scores that Buford has on file when asked to fill in standardized test scores
- Many schools require SAT or ACT scores to be sent directly
- Make sure to indicate to testing agencies which colleges scores are to be sent to

Extracurricular activities

- Record everything you do, grades 9-12
- Make sure to record any and all leadership opportunities have taken advantage of
- Athletic
- Academic
- Community service
 - Log hours and note that on your application



Essay/Short Answer

- Take this opportunity to set yourself apart from other students
- Brainstorm ideas before writing
- Ask a teacher to read over your response
 - Write a thank you note



Interview

- Practice interview skills
- Mock interview
- Speak properly – no slang!
- Dress professionally
- Eye contact



Recommendations

- Write thank you notes
- Give at least one week notice
- Make sure to give recommendations to the appropriate people
 - Example: teacher recommendations should be completed by a classroom teacher, not counselor or administrator



Take a Campus Visit

Juniors are allowed 2 college visit days, and seniors are allowed 2 college visit days. These count as School Related Absences.



College visit forms can be found in the guidance office and must be filled out prior to the visit.

Contacting the admissions office

- Students should contact the offices themselves
- Call prepared with a list of questions
- Understand busy times of the year – admissions offices get lots of phone calls during fall and winter!!





Receiving notice

- Carefully read notification from schools
- If accepted...
 - What are the next steps?
 - How soon do you need to reply?
 - Do you need to withdraw applications from other schools?
- If denied...
 - What are the next steps?
 - Were you placed on a waiting list?

Contacting the Financial Aid office

- Explore school website and/or school published literature to become familiar with school specific financial aid information
- Call with a list of questions
- Check for opportunities that are school-wide and major specific



Next steps...



- Continue to work towards graduation
- Select housing
 - Roommate?
- Send required paperwork by deadline
- Financial Aid
 - Research scholarships
 - Complete FAFSA after January 1, 2009 (seniors)



GA College 411

www.gacollege411.org