

SENIOR FALL “TO-DO” LIST 2021-2022

September –December:

____-Update your high school resume in Xello, especially if you plan to go directly into the world of work right after high school. The link is located in the student drop down menu on the school website for you and is <https://xello.world/en/>. Your logon user name is BRCS-first initial last name and password is your student ID #. Your resume can be attached to college and work applications and scholarship forms and will save you the time of rewriting activities repeatedly. Consider copying your resume into Word or other software to use fancier formatting options. I am glad to proofread your resumes anytime you need me to before you use them. You may also use your BOCES resume as well I would be glad to schedule a time to help you update your resumes during Advisement, lunch or via Zoom. Feel free to come work on your resume on Oct 1st “Snacks and Apps” Day in the Lecture Hall with me.

____-Register for and take ACT and/or SAT exams if required by the colleges you are applying to. Most two-year colleges do not require you to take the SAT or ACT but most four-year colleges do require one or the other. Check what each college requires. Due to the pandemic, many ACT and SAT tests have been cancelled and in turn, **MOST** colleges are “TEST OPTIONAL” for seniors applying to colleges. Please check each college’s webpage or contact the admissions office to double-check if they are test optional meaning you are not required to send an ACT or SAT score. I am finding that 95% of colleges are test optional currently.

____-If you normally in the past QUALIFY for free or reduced lunch, you may be able to receive fee waivers for the SAT & ACT exam as well as college applications. The district-wide free meal grant does not meet this requirement for everyone. Ask your counselor if there are fee waivers available. This year due to the free lunch grant, you may need to complete a free lunch form from the cafeteria manager so that she can certify for us if you qualify for free or reduced lunch prices so that I can give you fee waivers.

____- If you are interested in enlisting in the military, you may take the ASVAB military entrance exam here on Wednesday, December 1st at 11:45 in the Lecture Hall if you have not already taken it with your recruiter (Sign up in the Guidance Office). We are now giving the ASVAB on your one-to-one device so please bring yours with you to testing. It does not take nearly as long to administer the ASVAB on the computer and you can proceed at your own pace instead of waiting for the entire group and time limit to end. Ask the Guidance Office for the military recruiters’ contact information if you need it or it can be found here on our Guidance webpage at <https://www.brcs.wnyric.org/Page/306>. Really think through your decision if you are thinking of enlisting. The National Guard or Reserve is a nice compromise option where you can combine a military commitment while attending college at the same time.

____- Some college reps will come to the building in person and some are holding Zoom meetings in place of IP sessions. We send this info out to you in our Guidance Info Teams so please check that Team periodically for updates. Here is a link to that document of military and reps which is updated daily as more college contact us-https://brcsd-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/sslocum_bolivarrichburg_org/EenpS_Af_EBDnalqKtiQTqMB-eusrtAKujM4Zd_6xYKbCg?e=S9nqXw. You are welcome to get a pass from Mrs. Slocum to come see any of these reps.

_____-Most colleges are removing SAT and ACT scores from their scholarship calculations as well this year.

_____- Visit college campuses of interest. Attend in-person and/or virtual open houses. Stay overnight on campus if you are allowed. Do a second or third visit if need be to make a good decision. Sit in on classrooms of majors you are interested in. Call or go through the web to reach admissions offices to set up tours, open house or other campus visits. Some visits are external only due to the pandemic where you may be able to walk around the campus but may not be allowed to be inside some of the buildings.

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE HOW CRUCIAL VISITING CAMPUSES IS. VISIT! VISIT! VISIT TO FIND A GOOD ALL-AROUND FIT OF A CAMPUS FOR YOU!!!!

COST? MAJOR? EXTRACURRICULARS? DISTANCE? LOCATION? FACILITIES? FINAID?

_____-Submit college applications ASAP. **Be sure to check deadlines for each college as they all differ.** Some college programs or majors fill up very quickly so apply ASAP! In general, try to apply to at least your **dream school, 1 or more schools that you have a realistic chance of being accepted in to** and a **safety/back-up school** that you are 100% sure to be accepted to that is as well as an inexpensive school in case of financial issues.

Thanksgiving break is your “generic deadline” to have your college applications submitted. I am glad to help you with your applications. **Friday, October 1st is our 1st annual “SNACKS AND APPS DAY” from 8-11:45am in the lecture hall.** Come down if you want to work on college or financial aid FAFSA/TAP apps or your resumes.



WATCH DEADLINES! IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AWARE OF THEM-NOT MINE AND NOT YOUR PARENTS!!!

_____- Ask teachers or other references to write letters of recommendations for you. **Ask EARLY!** Try to give them at least **two weeks to one month’s** notice before your applications are due- OTHERWISE THEY

WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO WRITE YOU A QUALITY “LOR” (LETTER OR RECOMMENDATION) OR ANY LETTER AT ALL!

WRITE/COPY DOWN ALL USER NAMES AND PASSWORDS FOR ALL ACCOUNTS THAT YOU CREATE AND KEEP YOUR COLLEGE INFO IN ONE FOLDER/PLACE/ON YOUR PHONE/DEVICES ETC..!!!!!!!

_____ - **If you want to play a sport at college level, make contacts with coaches on-line at the college websites through the athletic contact links.** Students wishing to play at a division level 1 or II school need to register with the NCAA Clearinghouse on-line to make sure you have met their course, SAT/ACT score and grade requirements, as they are very specific. You can register at www.eligibilitycenter.org and there is a fee for registering. Some colleges, if they are test-optional, you do not need to submit an SAT or ACT to NCAA.

_____ -**Continue to do the best you can in your current senior year classes.** DO NOT jeopardize graduating in June!

_____ -Community Service- Due to the pandemic, it is TBD- “To Be Determined” if you will need to complete this to graduate. Mr. Kottwitz will update you.

_____ - **Start to search for external scholarships through the BRCS HS Guidance web link or at www.FastWeb.com.** A separate video lesson will be given to you soon. But also know I am here to help you in person or via Zoom with scholarship searches and applications .Focus on college apps and resumes first and then scholarships.

_____ -**Clean up your social network pages before college admissions reps view them!!!!** Students have lost admittances and scholarships due to inappropriate social network content-FOR REAL!

_____ -**Males turning age 18- make sure you register for the selective service.** You can do this at the Post Office or online at www.sss.gov. If you fail to do so, you will not receive your federal financial aid for college.

_____ -**Memorize your nine-digit SSN (Social Security Number)!!!!** You will need to know this number for the rest of your life for college and financial dealings.

_____ -**Check the Guidance website periodically for important dates, links and applications.** You can access my web page by going to: BRCS homepage, then pull down the Department menu and click on Guidance. Then go to the left menu and click on high school guidance and then look through the various web pages listed.

_____ -**Tell us in the Guidance Office every time you apply to a college so that we can document it and send out your official transcript for you.**

_____ -**Also tell us each time you re accepted or denied to a college.** If accepted, we would love a photo of you to put on the school FB and mooring announcements to congratulation you.

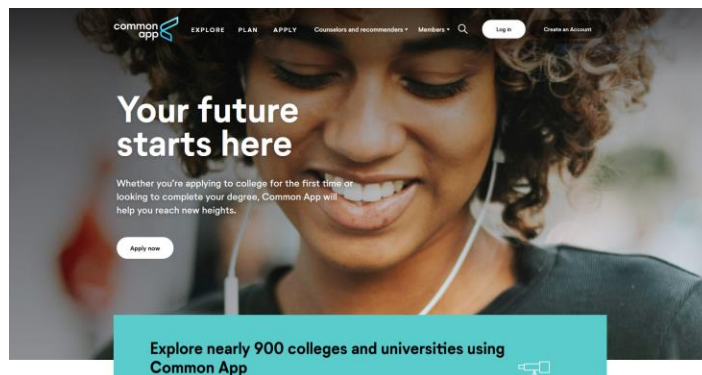


_____ Pretend you have received a bill from your college for \$12,659.30 for your fall semester costs and the bill is due on October 1st. How will you pay this bill? **If you do not know then you need to have this conversation with your parents NOW.** Who would pay this bill? Parents? You? Family? A combination????If you need a gap loan, you will need an adult person to co-sign with you. Find out who will do this for you if you need them to **NOW**- not next JULY. More financial aid info to come!

MAKE SURE YOU KEEP COPIES OF ALL IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS IN ONE FOLDER. PRINT HARD COPIES OF ON-LINE NOTIFICATIONS, ACCOUNT PASSWORDS, USER NAMES AND APPLICATIONS.

What is Common App? *Common App is an on-line college application software system that allows you to complete one “common application” that can be sent to multiple colleges and universities. This saves time duplicating college applications. All documents are uploaded electronically to Common App- including your teacher and counselor recommendations, transcript, school profile and essays. Not all colleges and universities use Common App. SUNY SCHOOLS ALSO USE THEIR OWN SOFTWARE SO YOU CAN APPLY TO NUMEROUS SUNY CAMPUSES WITH ONE APPLICATION. Some SUNYs also use Common App software. Check first to see if a college offers you any fee waivers to apply. Next, check if they have their own free software for applications. Third, check how many of your schools of interest are on Common App and/or SUNY to help you condense the number of applications you complete. You will need to get teachers’/coaches’ etc. email addresses to “invite them as recommenders” to upload letters of recommendation via Common App. **ONCE YOU SUBMIT AN APP ON COMMON APP, YOU CANNOT CHANGE IT so proofread it carefully!!!!.** I am always glad to assist with checking applications.*

Complete as much as you can on your own. Save it, contact others or me for help and have someone check it before hitting the submit button.



COALITION APP IS NEW BUT RARELY USED AT BR.



CURRENT ACT/SAT MENTIONS

All fees are nonrefundable unless otherwise noted. See Mrs. Crandall-Bean for a test fee waiver if you qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches.

ACT Registration website = www.act.org

Deadlines expire at midnight. See Mrs. Crandall-Bean for a fee waiver if you qualify for free or reduced lunch at school. **SAT with (optional) ESSAY** – mainly for highly selective colleges, so check each college’s test admission requirements.

SAT Registration-<https://mysat.collegeboard.org/login>

Additional fees apply if you register late or make changes to your test type, center or date after registering.

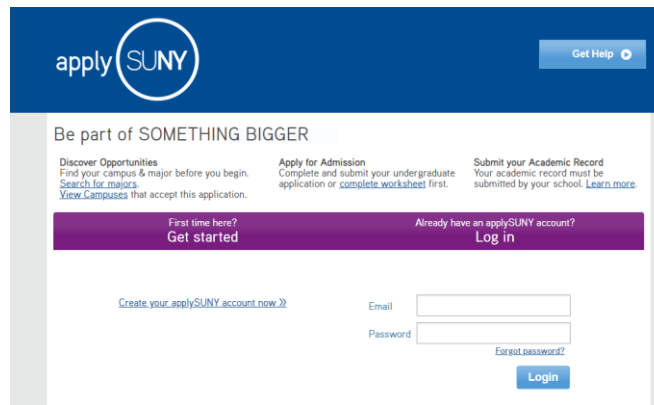
Let me know if you need help registering for these exams.

THE NYS SUNY PORTAL

<https://www.suny.edu/applysunny/>

You can apply to multiple SUNY colleges via this one app. However, it costs \$50.00 per campus to apply unless you have a fee waiver. Then you can apply to up to seven campuses for free. SUNY colleges are public colleges with lower costs to attend due to New York State funding the colleges to keep the cost down for New York State residents.

I have SUNY worksheets that can guide you through competing this app. CAUTION: Your app is not COMPLETE until you have paid the fee or your fee waiver has been approved.



RECOMMENDED SAT AND/OR ACT PREP RESOURCES

This link has available ACT test prep materials. NEW!!!! <https://academy.act.org>

College Board offers a link to several SAT study options- some free others not at <http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/>.

Method Test Prep has an on-line prep course.

Kaplan also has some free services for students. They will give a free practice SAT and/or ACT test to students at your school. They will then come back a few weeks later to give individual results to students, which show how to improve scores. Kaplan has an online SAT program. Students can register and pay for program themselves at www.kaptest.com or 1-800-KAPTEST. Top rated but expensive at times.

College Board endorses Khan Academy for SAT prep. The web link is www.khanacademy.com. *If you took the PSAT then you can have a KHAN account that links your PSAT results with your account to create FREE and INDIVIDUALIZED test prep. Take advantage of this!!!*

JCC PEP Grants. *You can take one or two summer courses through JCC for up to half price by applying for a PEP grant. The form will be given to you in the spring and you can even take one course the summer after you graduate for half price tuition!!! This is a gift you should consider taking advantage of and then transfer your credits to the college you plan to attend! Take advantage of this opportunity- especially next summer.*

(New!!!!)Houghton College on-line college courses:
<https://www.houghton.edu/?s=high+school+online> Fall, winter and spring semesters are available at a reasonable price.

TIPS FOR FINDING A JOB RIGHT AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Youth who will be job-seeking after graduation may register with the Employment & Training Center in Belmont.

They may be able to help with some funding for economically disadvantaged graduates with barriers to employment, who are entering two-year vocational or college programs or short-term training such as C.N.A., Dental Assisting, etc., depending on the major. These youth may contact Sherry Weirich. They must apply for all other funding (through FAFSA and TAP) before Sherry can assist, and I do not enroll these youth until they are graduated. They are happy to speak with youth or parents at any time about the income levels and barriers.

Allegany County Employment & Training Center

Cattaraugus-Allegany Workforce New York offers easy access to career development and employment services for all job seekers. We serve both Adults (ages 18+) and Youth (14-24). Whether you need assistance in finding a job, career counseling, developing a resume, basic skill development/refresher, or assistance with more formalized training, we can help you to secure employment and be successful in the workplace.

7 Wells Lane

Belmont, New York 14813

Phone: 585.268.9237- contact= Sue Day

Fax: 585.268.5176

Hours: Open Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 4:30PM (*except on holidays*)

<https://www.alleganyco.com/departments/employment-and-training/>

Due to the pandemic, this service is by appointment only currently !

Recommended Web Sites to Search for Jobs

http://www.cawib.net/job_seekers_services.asp

www.Careerbuilder.com * highly recommended

<http://www.labor.ny.gov/youth/index.page>

<https://dol.ny.gov/jobzone>

www.LinkUp.com

<https://www.nycareerzone.org/jobseeker/>

<http://www.americasjobexchange.com/ny/>

www.usjobs.com

www.indeed.com/* recommend highly!

Manny more: ZipRecruiter, LinkedIn, Monster, Flexjobs, USAJobs

The CORE Learning Center at Literacy West in Belmont has classes for job seekers, among other offerings:

http://www.cawib.net/news_item.asp?ID=21

Literacy West also offers the National Work Readiness Credential training: <http://www.workreadiness.com/faqs.html>

Literacy West, Inc.

Lisa Lee, Executive Director

5455 State Route 19 North

Belmont, NY 14813

Phone: (585) 268-5213 Fax: (585) 268-9120 email: lisa@lited.org website- www.lited.org

What does FERPA mean and should I waive my FERPA rights?

I recommend yes, waive your right.

What is the FERPA Waiver? (Taken from Common App website)

Since FERPA is a complex law, we want to provide some key information before you respond to the FERPA waiver question.

1. How does FERPA relate to your college application?

FERPA gives you the right to review confidential letters of recommendation under certain circumstances IF:

- You are enrolled in college and that college saves the recommendations for enrolled students, OR
- You are 18 or older.

2. In the application you'll be asked if you want to waive this right. Why would you want to do that?

Waiving your right lets colleges know that you do not intend to read your recommendations, which helps reassure colleges that the letters are candid and truthful.

Some recommenders may refuse to write a letter for you unless you waive your rights. Check with your counselor or teachers to see if any of them follow such a policy.

The institution does not save recommendations post-matriculation (you can check if a school saves recommendations post-matriculation in the **My Colleges** tab).

Still unsure how to respond?

That's okay. Many students are. Before you respond to the FERPA waiver question, take a moment to discuss your decision with your counselor, another school official, or your parent/legal guardian.

Guidance and Counseling contact info:

- Mrs. Slocum, secretary-585-928-2986
- Mrs. Crandall-Bean's new email address- ccbean@bolivarrichburg.org work phone- 585-928-2985 (direct line with voicemail) or Chat via Microsoft Teams. You are more than welcome to call or e-mail me questions whenever you need to or use the Remind app.

Remind Class name= HS Guidance Info BRCS
password=guidancebr

- School CEEB code for SAT or ACT registration and/or college applications for BRCS = 330455

School address= 100 School Street Bolivar, NY 14715



This can be an overwhelming process but I am here to help you map out the tasks to do along the way to meeting your future goals. You've got this!