



Senior College Meeting

CLASS OF 2025



JDR Grad

- Order graduation announcements early.
- You will keep your graduation gown and do not need to turn back into the school. The cost is part of the graduation fee, and are ordered in Mrs. Smith's class.
- Website - www.jdrgrad.com
- Only legal names are placed on the diploma, no nicknames.



Senior Photos

Go to this website to schedule your appointment with Prestige Portraits - <https://local.prestigeportraits.com/> Click on the Huntsville location.

Here is their contact info:

3190 Lemman Ferry Rd,

Huntsville, AL, 35801

(952) 213-2319



PRESENTERS & PANELISTS FOR THE MEETING

- **Jake Brown, Recruitment Counselor, Troy University**
- **Kim Mauldin,, Regional Student Recruitment Relationship Specialist, University of North Alabama**
- **Elliott Dansby, Admission Counselor, Samford University**
- **Hayden Futral, Admissions Counselor, Auburn University**
- **Daniella Carerra, Recruitment & Outreach Coordinator, Calhoun Community College**
- **Emily Griffith, Regional Admissions Counselor, The University of Alabama at Birmingham**
- **Anna Walton, North Alabama Regional Recruiter, The University of Alabama**
- **Brianne Kelly , Admissions Counselor, The University of Alabama in Huntsville**
- **Blake Batchelor, Office of Enrollment Services, University of South Alabama**
- **Lori R. Cobb, Director of Counseling Services, St. John Paul II Catholic High School**



Disclaimer:

Much of this workshop addresses college admission in a global context; individual experiences will vary.

All events are subject to change.



Senior Packet

- Transcript Sign-Off and Diploma Name Form (Return today!!)
- Transcript
- Official Transcript Release Form(Return today!!!!)
- Service Hour Report
- Honor Code policy
- College Visit Absence Form
- Senior Calendar
- FAFSA Facts Sheet
- Definitions of Admissions Options
- ACT/SAT Test Dates
- School Profile (Sent with transcripts)



Transcripts

- Make sure name (legal full name), address, birthday, grades, etc... are correct.
- Service hours are now on the transcript.
- **We are a non-ranking high school. Mark this on applications.**
- **We are on a 4.5 grading scale not a 4.0 scale.**
- Turn in Official Transcript Form **TODAY** in black bins before you leave. Will start sending transcripts to non CA schools on 8/9-12.
- **All transcripts must be requested in Naviance Student by student.**
- Do not request more than once in Naviance.
- No charge for transcripts.
- Some college will take grades off the transcript to recalculate to their GPA, especially selective colleges.
- Mr. Hill will uploaded current schedules to your transcripts, so watch those class changes!



Transcripts

***Do not panic if you get a notice
about a missing transcript.***

You may always check in Naviance about
the status of your transcript.

Contact Mrs. Cobb to have the college
check to see if it is still in processing.

Processing can take up to 3 weeks.



Madison County Private School College Fair

August 20, 2024, 6-8 PM at
Madison Academy

More info on the Class of 2025



Naviance

ALL TRANSCRIPTS MUST BE REQUESTED IN NAVIANCE. I will be in Mrs. Romei's class on August 8th and 9th to go over transcript request and matching Common App in Naviance.



Transcripts

- Make sure to mark how you are applying either Common App or Direct to the Institution.
- Make sure to change in Naviance if you change your mind on how you are applying.
- Match your Common App to Naviance so all your documents are sent correctly - counselor report, letters of rec, and transcripts



If you need help with applications, come see Mrs. Cobb. I will be glad to help.

Bring your laptop.

I will be available during Falcons Flight time to assist with applications or scholarships.

I have one Common App Workshops left
8/10 10-11:30 AM.



ACT/SAT Tests

- **We do not send ACT/SAT Test or AP scores. This is the student's responsibility.**
- Still time to take ACT/SAT Tests to qualify for Scholarships.
- Will offer ACT prep this fall – Check email for details
- Some colleges are still test-optional for 2024-2025, but may still require for scholarships.
- Check to see if college will superscore for scholarships.
- Academies will still require test scores for acceptances.
- See Mrs. Cobb for Fee Waivers, students on scholarship.
- May want to consider CLEP exams.



Senior Calendar

- Located in Naviance & copy in Senior Packet.
- Please mark your calendar for important dates.
- Watch dates for applications & scholarships.
- Info about Graduation Cord included in packet.
- Final Senior checklist sent in end of February early March by email from Mrs. Cobb.
- Graduation - May 22nd @ 4PM Mark Smith Concert Hall VBC.

All dates are subject to change.

Seniors will receive 14 Graduation Tickets

(6 preferred and 8 general seating)

Graduation Gowns will be ordered in Theology Class. Do not need to return Cap and gowns after graduation. Included in graduation fee.



SENIOR EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions are only granted to seniors under the following conditions:

- Minimum average for the class must be at least 83 (all assignments, papers, and/or projects for 4th quarter must be completed).
- No more than ten (10) unexcused check-in tardies per class for the year.
- No more than ten (10) excused or unexcused absences per class for the year.
- Disciplinary action resulting in suspension.
- Required service hours must be completed by the end of first semester (enter and verified in MobileServe by 1/17/26).
- International/transfer students whose first year in attendance is as a senior should have 25 service hours completed by the end of April.
- Administration will provide faculty a list of students who did not meet the behavioral or service requirements; individual class instructors will assess GPA, tardies & absences in a class.

Students who receive three or more cumulative days of suspension, either in school and/or out of school, will lose their exemption.

Note: First semester exams can be exempted for seniors if the class is an elective semester-only class, Requirements: see above.

The Assistant Principal will review on a case-by-case basis those seniors affected by extreme absences.



College Visit Absence Form

- **Please fill out the form before your absence!**
- Submit this form to the Counselor's Office before the date of the visit in order for the absence to be EXCUSED.
- You must turn these into the counseling office two days before your visit. Do not email Mrs. Allen or Mrs. Cobb, must have College Visit Form completed.
- The student is responsible for all required make-up work.
- Seniors are allowed 3 college visits.
- If you need an additional day, please contact Dr. Russell or Mr. Hill for approval.



College Visits

We will have in person visits during Falcon Flight, before and after school. If you are applying to a college that is visiting, please stop by to speak with the rep.



Service Hours

- **All service hours must be entered into MobileServe by end of 1st semester(1/17/25).**
- For new seniors by the end of April.
- Must be with a non-profit agency.
- Could affect final exam exemption if not entered into MobileServe.
- See Mrs. Cobb for more assistance or email at lcobb@jp2falcons.org.



Avoid These Mistakes

- Applying too late to colleges.
- Applying to very few colleges.
- Applying to too many top tier universities (not having a balanced list).
- Missing deadlines especially for scholarships or not applying for any scholarships.
- Seek advice from others that aren't familiar with the admissions process.



Avoid These Mistakes (Cont.)

- Not taking your ACT or SAT not taking these test again or prepping for these tests.
- Not visiting college campuses.
- Not reading emails or Class of 2025 posts from Mrs. Cobb.
- No Resume and/or Brag Sheet completed in Naviance
- Not writing your own college essay or Resume
- Not matching your Common App to Naviance or your lists do not match



If applying to a highly selective college,
make sure to have several safety schools
as a backup.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket!



General Admission Info

- Make sure to review my slide show on the JP II website from the Rising Senior Meeting.
- Watch for deadlines & make sure you have applied for the correct admission cycle.
- Early Action, Early Decision I/II(Binding), or Rolling Admissions - See Admissions Handout.
- **Early Decision is binding for selective colleges - Parent, Student, and Counselor must sign agreement student will attend college if admitted.**
- Some schools have a restrictive Early Action, like Yale, Notre Dame, and Stanford.



General Admission Info

- For Common App, the counselor and school report, and teachers recs go together in Naviance. I will send closest to your deadline - November 1st, December 1st, January 1st, etc...
- For Common App colleges, I recommend to waive your FERPA before you match your account in Naviance.
 - Waiving your FERPA lets colleges know the letter of recommendation is more weighted and the student did not write their own letter of recommendation.
- No matter how you apply to a college - Direct to the Institution, SENDedu, Coalition Application, Universal Application, Common Application, etc..., **all transcripts must be requested in Naviance.**
 - Even if it is a self-reporting school.
- ***Make sure to mark correctly either Common App or Direct to the Institution, especially if you change your mind for applying.***



General Admission Info

- Letters of recommendations must be requested in Naviance. You must ask a teacher in person first. **Please give teachers at least two weeks notice.** Let a teacher know if they will receive an email from a college or it will go through Naviance. Some emails will go to our spam. I recommend all letter requested before 11/25/24 for January 1st deadline.
- Do NOT request Mrs. Cobb for Common APP. I am not a teacher and I fill out a separate report.
- **Make sure your resume and brag sheet is completed in Naviance for a better letter of rec.**
- Have Ms. Kay or Mrs. Cobb proofread your essays. Share in a google doc. **Do not use AI to write your college essays.**



Honors Colleges

- May require a separate application.
- Higher admissions qualifications than the university admissions qualifications than the university requirements.
- Graduation requirements (Minimum GPA, minimum hours of Honors courses, etc.).
- Provide small, rigorous learning environment with designated classes across other schools and colleges (College of Business, Arts and Sciences, etc.).
- Typically provide separate housing.
- Many Perks.
- Priority Registration.
- Individualized Advisement.
- Assistance with prestigious scholarships, fellowships, and internships.
- Separate facilities.
- Special events.
- **ALWAYS CHECK THE COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY FOR ITS POLICIES.**



Free Application Week (Tentative Dates)

1st - 1st week of October

2nd - 3rd week of February

Will post info on Class of 2025



Paying for College
(FAFSA is projected to open
October 1, 2024)

UPDATE - Postponed until
December



Cost of Attendance

Estimated full and reasonable cost of completing a full academic year (9 months) as a full time student. COA is published by each school.

Hard Costs - The “School Bill”

- Tuition and Fees
- Room and Board

Soft Costs - The “Extras”

- Books and Supplies
- Transportation
- Living Expenses
- Miscellaneous



FAFSA Changes

- Will Be Much Shorter and More User-Friendly
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will now be known as the Student Aid Index (SAI)
- Pell Grant Eligibility Based on AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) and SAI (Student Aid Index)
- Discount Eliminated for Multiple Children in College
- In Divorce or Separation, Typically The Parent who Claims the Student on their Tax Return
- No Financial Consequences for Contributions Made by Others
- Income Protection Allowance Goes Up



Determining Financial Need

How the SAI is calculated.

- There are some changes in the language used to calculate “need”.
 - o COA – cost of attendance
 - o SAI – student aid index
 - o OFA – other financial assistance





Applications for Financial Aid

FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- www.FAFSA.gov
- Used by ALL colleges/universities
- Opens on October 1, 2024

CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE -

- Used by 400 schools to award institutional aid

School specific Scholarship Application

- Required by some schools; deadlines vary

APPLY EARLY!



College Scholarships (Merit/Departmental)

- Have a specific GPA and ACT/SAT criteria.
- Have hard deadlines.
- May have a separate application.



Scholarship Websites

- Naviance – Sallie Mae
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.scholarship.org
- www.collegenet.com
- www.finaid.org
- www.unigo.com
- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- www.niche.com



Some of My Favorite Scholarships

- SMART - Very Competitive, must commit 4 years to DoD, major in STEM (\$25,000 – 38,000 stipend).
- Buick Achievers Scholarship Program - \$25,000 per 4 years, major in STEM in the automotive or related industries , academic achievement and financial need, leadership.
- Siemens Math, Science and Technology Award Scholarships –Siemens Corporation teamed up with the College Board for a yearly science competition with awards ranging \$3,000 up to \$100,000 for the first place winner. Competitions are held on some of the most prestigious campuses like MIT, Carnegie Mellon, Notre Dame, Georgia Tech, etc...



Some of My Favorite Scholarships (Cont.)

- Stokes Educational Scholarship Program - is to facilitate the recruitment of individuals, particularly minority high school students, who have demonstrated skills critical to NSA. Is open to high school seniors planning on majoring in computer science or computer/electrical engineering. Could receive up to \$30,000 per year for tuition and mandatory fees.
- Gates Millennium Scholarship, GMS, - provide a fully-funded post secondary opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need.
- Other notable scholarships - Burger King, GE Reagan, Smith Scholarship, AXA Achievement Community Scholarship, Horatio Alger National Scholarship, VFW Voice OF Democracy Competition.



Scholarship Board

Make sure to check out the scholarship board on the JP II website. It is a great resource for scholarships for various colleges.

<https://content.myconnectsuite.com/api/documents/4e4a2630822940b3bed902ed6f261b3f>



In-State Tuition at Out-of-State Colleges

- Ask colleges in neighboring states for reduced tuition
- Look for a regional exchange program - Academic Common Market (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia).
<http://www.sreb.org/academic-common-market>
- Establish residency - take a gap year to establish residency.
- You or your parents work for the college, state or government - veterans and their dependents of the U.S. military may receive in-state tuition rates at many public colleges or universities in the country.



CO-OP/Internship Programs

- Not just for Engineers or Business Majors anymore, may add another semester or year to college, alternate a semester (CO-OP 1 semester, 2 semesters with classes).



Work Colleges

Work Colleges share two fundamental beliefs. First, that a college experience should educate the whole person. Second, earning a college degree shouldn't require a lifetime of debt. Through an innovative approach of Work-Learning-Service, all Work College students offset college costs by participating in a mandatory work program and performing service in their communities. Most work positions are limited to 8 -15 hours per week and designed to enhance a student's academic studies.

Work College Members - Alice Lloyd College, Ecclesia College, Berea College, Sterling College, Blackburn College, College of the Ozarks, and Warren Wilson College - www.workcolleges.org



Military

- Service Academies
- ROTC
- National Guard
- Loan Repayment Programs
- Alabama G.I. Dependents' Scholarship - covers tuition, textbooks, and laboratory fees. No application deadline. There is no restriction on the number of eligible dependents under the veteran.



Parent's Role: The College Application Process

Overzealous moms and dads who ask too many questions on college tours, write their child's essays for them, and refer to their child's application as "ours" can actually hinder a student's college admission chances. Some college admission officers have begun complaining that parents are too involved in the process.

- Be supportive, try not to nag
- Help student make a calendar with important dates
- Have that financial discussion now, if you haven't already
- Be careful of forcing your or their siblings alma mater upon your child, it might not be the right fit for them
- Students should take ownership of their applications and essays



Social Media Gone Wrong

- Ten prospective Harvard University students in 2021, their acceptances were rescinded for trading “sexually explicit memes and messages that sometimes targeted minority groups in a private Facebook group chat.”
- At Cornell University, a football recruit was rejected due to a Snapchat post that showed him using a racist slur.
- Colorado college kicks out students for social media posts, South Park screenshot (Colorado College)
- College athlete suspended, leaves school over racist social media post (Georgia State University)
- We Found Photos of Ole Miss Students Posing With Guns in Front of a Shot-Up Emmett Till Memorial. Now They Face a Possible Civil Rights Investigation.(University of Mississippi)
- At the University of Florida, a high school valedictorian lost her admission after posting a racist and “profanity-laced Instagram post.”



Watch for Final Senior Packets
Sent by email around the end
of February or the
1st week of March!!!



PLEASE READ EMAILS
& LISTEN TO
ANNOUNCEMENTS.
PARENTS - MAKE SURE
YOU HAVE JOINED THE
CLASS OF 2025.



For any NCAA or NAIA
questions, see Mrs.
Cobb or
Mr. McManus



I will be glad to help in anyway I can,
but your emergency is not always my
emergency.

My office hours are 7:30-4:00 PM M-F.

Email me to set-up an appointment
during Falcon Flight or study hall.

Please watch your deadlines!



BEFORE YOU CLICK SUBMIT

- KNOW THE NAME OF THE COLLEGE YOU ARE APPLYING TO.
- KNOW YOUR DEADLINES!
- YOUR EMERGENCY IS NOT MY EMERGENCY.
- CHECK FOR SPELLING.
- BE HONEST ON ALL APPLICATIONS.
- FEE WAIVERS – MUST QUALIFY FOR FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL.
- START TURNING IN ACCEPTANCES/SCHOLARSHIPS EARLY TO COUNSELING OFFICE. WE HAVE DEADLINES TOO.
- READ EVERYTHING!!
- PLEASE BE NICE TO THE ADMISSION COUNSELORS.
- DON'T BE AFRAID TO APPEAL A FINANCIAL AID PACKAGE. THIS MAY NOT APPLY FOR CERTAIN STATE SCHOOLS.
- DON'T FORGET TO SEND A "THANK YOU" NOTE OR EMAIL TO ADMISSION COUNSELORS IN THE SPRING, EVEN IF YOU ARE DECLINING OFFERS.



Turn in ALL acceptances and scholarship letters to the counseling office.

We will be glad to make copies of letters or forward an email acceptance to Mrs. Cobb.

We must have documentation from the college regarding acceptances and scholarship information.

Deadline is May 2nd for the graduation program.



For any outside letter of recommendations that are not with the common app or come to a teacher/counselor from an outside source, please let the teacher know beforehand the rec is coming and from what source.

These often go to our SPAM accounts.



Resources

Morrison, M. C. (n.d.). The Role of Parents in the College Admission Process. Retrieved August 11, 2017, from <https://www.unigo.com/get-to-college/college-admissions/the-role-of-parents-in-the-college-admission-process>.