

Bear Creek High School Senior Memo

November 2015

Special Issue

Counseling Center

Counselors

Susie Thornton (A-C)
303.982.8831

Matt Schacht (D-I)
303.982.8832

Jason Dewar (J-M)
303.982.6293

Joy Pearson (N-Sc)
303.982.5283

Valerie Smrt (Sd-Z)
303.982.8808

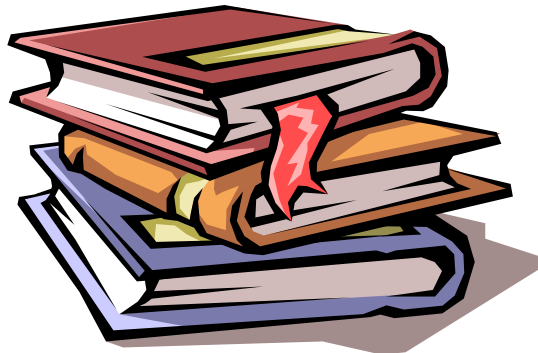
Patrice Collor- 9th grade
Transitions Counselor
303.982.8959

Do you know how to explore colleges on-line? Need a job? Want to find out which colleges offer your specific major? Interested in talking to college representatives?

The Counseling Center offers useful information for determining which college fits you! The most up-to-date and current information is available online. Scholarship information is also updated regularly in the Counseling Center as well as on Naviance, your online resource for college information.

INSIDE:

Introduction	pg. 1
College Application Info.	pg. 2
College Admissions	pg. 2
College Planning Calendar	pg. 3
Upcoming College Visits	pg. 4
Naviance	pg. 4
Senior Planning Guide	pg. 5
Websites	pg. 6
Community Service	pg. 7
Choosing a College	pg. 8



Bear Creek High School College Application Procedures

1. Complete the On-line College Application directly from the college or university website
The application materials submitted online by the student should include:
 - The completed college application. Depending on the college(s) you are applying to, this may include an essay, resume/activity sheet, short answer questions, etc.
 - The application fee, unless waived by the college
2. For College Applications, Log on to **Naviance**
 - Click on the “Colleges” tab at the top of the screen. Click on “Colleges I am applying to”
-If you are applying to a **Common Application** school, this information allows you to enter that website and complete your application. **If using the Common Application, please see your counselor.**
3. Complete a **College Transcript Request** form available in the Counseling Center or on the Counseling webpage.
4. Pay a \$3.00 application processing fee for every college you are applying to; this is different from the college’s application fee that you pay directly to them.
5. If a Letter of Recommendation is required:
Contact your counselor **first** to discuss the need for letters of recommendation. If the letter is necessary, contact the teacher in person and complete the letter of recommendation questionnaire (On Naviance, “About Me” tab, on the left).
The Counseling Office will process and send:
 - The high school transcript
 - ACT/SAT Test scores that appear on your transcript. More and more colleges are requiring your test scores be sent directly from the testing agency and not all tests you have taken will appear on your Jeffco transcript (ACT Writing scores, SAT Subject Exams, AP Test Scores do not). It is **your** responsibility to determine specific college requirements and to take the necessary steps to supply what is missing. Counseling can supply you with an unofficial transcript for review.
 - A completed secondary school/counselor report and recommendation, if required (confirm with counselor & college/university)
 - Teacher recommendations, if required
 - A profile of Bear Creek High School

Types of Admissions

Colleges and universities may use one of the following types of admissions: rolling admissions, regular admissions, early decision, early action, and deferred admission. It is important as you begin planning your calendar for the admissions process to know the type of admissions and the dates for each application.

Rolling Admissions: Rolling admissions do not have a due date for applications. The admissions department will review your application and typically contact you within 6 weeks. Even though there is no specific due date for these applications, it is best to apply by the end of October so you can then focus on applying for financial aid and scholarships.

Regular Admissions: Colleges have a due date by which all applications must be filed. You may or may not hear from the school concerning your admission until after the due date.

Early Decision: Colleges that offer early decision admissions are attempting to attract the best students. Students applying for early decision should have a high grade point average and high test scores. A student may not apply to more than one Early Decision program and, if admitted, is COMMITTED to attend.

Early Action: Similar to Early Decision, students receive a decision early, but are not required to enroll or make a decision prior to spring.

Deferred Admission: A program that allows students to postpone enrollment after receiving the admission decision.

2015-2016
BCHS COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

BCHS School Testing (CEEB) Code: 061-043

ACT Registration, Additional Test Dates, Test Prep, & Score Reporting online at www.actstudent.org

<u>ACT TEST DATES</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</u>	<u>LATE REGISTRATION</u>
December 12, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 7-20, 2015
February 6, 2016	January 8, 2016	January 9-15, 2016

SAT Test Dates, Registration, Test Prep, & Score Reporting online at www.collegeboard.com

<u>SAT TEST DATES</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</u>	<u>LATE REGISTRATION</u>
December 5, 2015	November 6, 2015	November 20, 2015
January 23, 2016	December 25, 2015	January 8, 2016

Rocky Mtn. Assoc of College Admissions Counselors In-State and Out-of-State College Fair
 Sunday, April 24, 2016 1-3:30 p.m. University of Denver Ritchie Center

South Area Financial Aid Night
 Monday, December 7, 2015 6:30 p.m. Columbine High School

FAFSA Workshop
 Wednesday, February 10, 2015 4-7 p.m. BCHS Counseling Office

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams
 May 2016 (dates vary by exam)
 For exam schedule, please visit: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/cal/cal2.html>

**All event dates & times subject to change; please check BCHS Counseling website for updates.*

CHECK NAVIANCE FOR UPDATES ON COLLEGE VISITS!

**Sign up to meet a college representative by logging on to Naviance. Access the BCHS Homepage, click "Students" tab, then locate the Naviance link on the right hand side.

Naviance

Naviance Family Connection (<https://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=bearcreek>) is a web-based program used throughout high school to search and apply to colleges, and access scholarships. Naviance is also a useful tool for counselors to communicate important information about college visits and scholarship opportunities. You are able to access this website anywhere you have an internet connection! Your log-in is your student identification number and your password is your eight-digit birthday. If you have problems logging in to Naviance, see your counselor for assistance.

NCAA Reminder

If you are interested in playing Division I or Division II you should have already registered through the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you haven't yet registered please see your counselor as soon as possible.

AP Testing

AP testing is in May. We encourage AP students to take the AP exam to earn college credit.



Beware of Proprietary Schools!



Proprietary schools are for-profit institutions that pose several issues for the students who attend them. Proprietary schools tend to be very expensive, particularly in comparison to non-profit schools that offer the same or similar programs. Proprietary schools are usually not regionally accredited, which causes problems when transferring credit; credits taken and paid for at proprietary schools often do not transfer to other schools. If you have any questions about proprietary schools, you can always ask your counselor.

Fall Semester

- Continue to meet with college representatives who visit BCHS.
- Register for national testing dates to improve your ACT or SAT score, if necessary, through ACTstudent.org for the ACT or collegeboard.com for the SAT.
- Know which tests the colleges you are interested in require.
- Narrow your choices to 3 to 5 colleges that best meet your future goals, interests and career needs.
- Attend college fairs and informational meetings.
- Meet with your counselor to review graduation requirements and post-secondary plans.
- Visit the campuses of your top colleges of choice.
- Develop a comprehensive resume.
- Ask teachers and your counselor for letters of recommendation only if needed. Please allow your teachers and counselor 2 weeks to complete your letter. Complete the "Letter of Recommendation Questionnaire" on Naviance prior to requesting LORs.
- Complete the applications on the college or university websites.
- Check Naviance, CollegeinColorado.org, and the scholarship spreadsheet on the BCHS Counseling website for scholarship deadlines and pertinent information. See page 6 for additional resources.
- Review the process for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at FAFSA.ed.gov. Submit the application after January 1st, 2016.

Spring Semester

- Continue to challenge yourself academically. Colleges review your final transcript and check to ensure you are taking core courses through your senior year. This proves your commitment to continuing your education by taking rigorous courses throughout your high school career.
- Attend FAFSA or Financial Aid Workshops.
- Apply for scholarships and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Decide which college is the best fit for you.
- Notify the counseling office of scholarships you receive.
- Make your decision and confirm with the college or university. Also notify schools that you decline.
- Complete the Senior Survey on Naviance in May. Your final transcript will be sent to the college you indicate in this survey.
- Contact your top colleges to see if additional forms need to be completed for the financial aid process and submit to appropriate colleges.
- Enjoy your Senior Year!



BCHS POST-GRADUATE WEBSITES

Bear Creek Web Site, Counseling Page: <https://sites.google.com/a/jeffcoschools.us/bear-creek-counselors/>

COLLEGES

Naviance Family Connection: <https://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?hsid=bearcreek>

College in Colorado: www.collegeincolorado.org

The Common Application: www.commonapp.org

WUE: 15 Western States Consortium/Reduced Tuition: <http://wue.wiche.edu/>

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): www.FAFSA.ed.gov

FAFSA Pin: www.pin.ed.gov

College Opportunity Fund: <https://cof.college-assist.org>

Fastweb Scholarship Information: www.fastweb.com

The National Association of Financial Aid: www.nasfaa.org

First Generation Scholarships: <http://www.collegescholarships.org/scholarships/first-in-family.htm>

Hispanic Heritage Awards/Scholarships: www.hispanicheritage.org

African American Scholarships: www.blackexcel.org

Ventures Scholars: www.venturescholar.org

Quest Scholars: www.questbridge.org

NCAA

NCAA Eligibility Website: http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp

NCAA Homepage: www.ncaa.org

TESTING RESOURCES:

ACT Website: www.actstudent.org

SAT Website: www.collegeboard.com

SAT Subject Test College Requirements: www.compassprep.com/admissions_req_subjects.aspx

Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB): www.asvabprogram.com

CAREERS and MILITARY INFORMATION:

O*NET (The Occupational Information Network): <http://www.onetcenter.org/>

Career Planning: <http://www.CareerPlanner.com>

Exploring Occupations: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/counselling/careers.html>

Department of Labor: <http://www.mynextmove.org/>

America's Job Bank: <http://www.ajb.dni.us>

Colorado Labor Market: <http://www.coloradoworkforce.com/lmi/>

AmeriCorps: <http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps>

Selective Service (Males 18 and older are required by law to register): www.sss.gov

ONLINE CREDIT RECOVERY OPTIONS:

BYU Independent Study: <http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/>

JeffCo Virtual Academy: www.jeffcopublicschools.org/online/

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BCHS STUDENTS

ALWAYS THINK AHEAD. VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO:

- BUILD CHARACTER
- STAND OUT WHEN IT COMES TO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS
- HELP YOU GET SCHOLARSHIP MONEY
- PROVIDE A GREAT SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL! MANY SCHOOL CLUBS OFFER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

KEY CLUB, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, MENTORS, BIONIC, SPORTS TEAMS

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY! FIND SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU!

→ **General Websites**

Volunteer Match: www.volunteermatch.org - Very Good Website!
 Salvation Army: www.salvationarmy.org
 Mile High United Way: www.unitedwaydenver.org
 Google: www.google.com (type keywords: Volunteer Denver)

→ *Nursing Homes*

Bear Creek Nursing Center	303-697-8181	Exempla Colorado Lutheran Home	303-403-3100
Lakewood Meridian	303-980-5500	Parker Personal Care Homes	303-424-6078

→ **Hospitals**

Littleton Hospital 303-730-8900, www.mylittletonhospital.org
 St Anthony's Hospitals 720-321-4070, <http://www.stanthonyhosp.org/SAH/Community/Giving-Back/Volunteer/Volunteer-Opportunities/>
 Exempla 303-425-2142
 Swedish Hospital 303-788-5000, www.swedishhospital.com

→ **Community Organizations**

Colorado Humane Society 720-241-7111, <http://www.coloradohumane.org/contact>
 City of Lakewood (Police Department, Heritage Center, Food Bank, City Manager's Office)
www.lakewood.org/index.cfm?&include=/PD/CommunityServices/volunteerjobs.cfm
 Denver Zoo 720-337-1400, <http://www.denverzoo.org/savetheworld>
 Habitat For Humanity 303-454-8969, www.habitatcolorado.org/volunteer.htm
 Jeffco Action Center 303-237-0230, www.jeffcoac.org
 Jefferson County Volunteer Connection, <http://volunteerjeffco.org/>
 Jefferson County Libraries 303-235-5275, www.friendsofjcpl.org/volunteer.pdf
 Rocky Mountain PBS 303-620-5715, <http://www.rmpbs.org/volunteer/>

KEEP RECORDS OF YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE!

Choosing the College that is the “Best Fit” for You!

Deciding which college to attend is hard work! You'll study college websites, take entrance exams, visit campuses, write essays, collect transcripts and letters of recommendation, and fill out admissions applications and financial aid forms. After you receive replies to your applications, you will have to choose among the colleges that accepted you and try to work out a financial aid plan. You'll face some tough decisions.

The following tips will help you decide which college is right for you from educational, personal, and financial standpoints.

Getting Started

Talk with people who have been through the college application process or know about it, and take some time by yourself to decide which college or university is right for you. Consider whether a school offers what you want. Check the following factors:

- Type of institution: Is it a college or university? Is it public or private? Is it two-year or four-year? Is it a religious or technical school?
- Size: What is the student population?
- Mix of students: Is it coed, single-sex, multiracial?
- Location: Is it in a large or small city? Is it in a suburban or rural area?
- Curriculum: Does it have the majors that interest you?
- Special programs: Does it have learning support? Does it have remedial or other programs you need?
- Extracurricular activities: Does it have the sports or art programs you want?
- Social life: How do students who have attended rate the school?
- Proximity to family and friends: Do you want to stay close to your family and friends or try out another part of the country?
- Faculty: What are members' credentials and reputation?
- Costs: What are the costs of tuition, books, housing, meals, and other extras?
- Financial Aid: What kinds of financial aid does it offer?

Cost is an important factor but should not be the most important one – especially if you receive any financial aid to offset the costs. Don't eliminate a school prematurely. Be informed of all aspects that are important to you, including financial fit. Make sure the schools you consider meet your academic and social needs. You want to attend a school that will challenge you and prepare you for the future you want.