

Bear Creek High School Senior Memo

September 2017

Special Issue



Counseling Center

Counselors

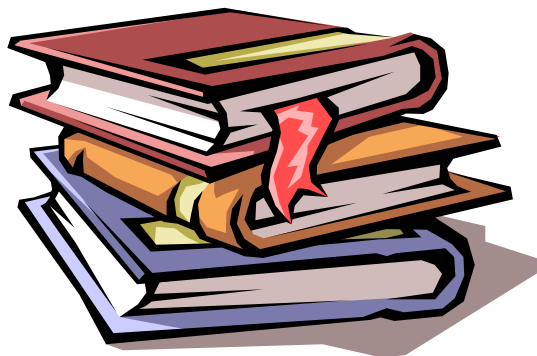
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Do you know how to explore colleges on-line? Need a job? Want to find out which colleges offer your specific major? Interested in talking to college representatives?

The BCHS Counseling website 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 on the Counseling website as well as on Naviance and College in Colorado, your online resources for college information.

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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 website.
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
 - SAT/ACT 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.

2017-2018
BCHS COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

BCHS School Testing (CEEB) Code: 061-043

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

SAT = \$46 SAT + essay = \$60 SAT Subject Tests = \$26 / registration = \$21 / test

<u>SAT TEST DATES</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</u>	<u>LATE REG (w/ add'l fees)</u>
October 7, 2017	September 8, 2017	September 19-27, 2017
November 4, 2017	October 5, 2017	October 17-25, 2017
December 2, 2017	November 2, 2017	November 14-21, 2017
March 10, 2018	February 9, 2018	February 20-28, 2018
May 5, 2018	April 6, 2018	April 17-25, 2018
June 2, 2018	May 3, 2018	May 15-23, 2018

*Free State-Mandated SAT April 10, 2018 @ BCBS- Juniors will register in Connections

*PSAT/NMSQT for Juniors: Sat., Oct. 14, 2017 @ BCBS- Deadline to register: Fri. Sept. 22, Cost: \$24.00

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

ACT- NO Writing = \$46 ACT + Writing = \$62.50

<u>ACT TEST DATES</u>	<u>REGISTRATION DEADLINES</u>	<u>LATE REG (w/ add'l fees)</u>
October 28, 2017	September 22, 2017	Sept. 23-Oct. 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3, 2017	November 4-17, 2017
February 10, 2018	January 12, 2018	January 13-19, 2018
April 14, 2018	March 9, 2018	Mar 10-23, 2018
June 9, 2018	May 4, 2018	May 5-18, 2018

BCBS College Night

Monday, September 18, 6-8 p.m. BCBS- starts in the auditorium

College Fairs

Sunday September 24, 2017 1-4 p.m.	Nat'l College Fair @ Denver Mart
Thursday September 28, 2017 6:30-8 p.m.	Lakewood High School
Wednesday October 4, 2017 6:30-7:30 p.m.	Standley Lake High School
Tuesday October 10, 2017 6-7:30 p.m.	Alameda High School
Wednesday October 11, 2017 6-7:30	Columbine High School

Visit <http://www.gotocollegefairs.com> for more College Fairs

College Application Workshop

Wednesday, September 27, 5-6 p.m.	Bear Creek High School Counseling Center
Thursday, September 28, 5-6 p.m.	Bear Creek High School Counseling Center

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

May 2017 (dates vary by exam) <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/cal/cal2.html>

All events and times subject to change. Please check BCBS 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 SAT or ACT score, if necessary, through collegeboard.com for the SAT or ACTstudent.org for the ACT.
- 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 Application Workshop during Parent Teacher conferences on 9/27 & 9/28 from 5-6pm in the counseling office.
- Review the process for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at FAFSA.gov. Submit the application after October 1st, 2017.
- 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.

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 Workshop during Parent Teacher Conferences on 2/21.
- Apply for scholarships and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by priority deadlines.
- 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: <http://bearcreekhs.jeffcopublicschools.org/counseling>

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: <http://jeffcovirtual.jeffcopublicschools.org/>

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**

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VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL! MANY SCHOOL CLUBS OFFER VOLUNTEER

OPPORTUNITIES:

KEY CLUB, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY, BEAR CREW, BIONIC, UNICEF, SPORTS TEAMS

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VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COMMUNITY! FIND SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU!

→ *General Websites*

Volunteer Match: www.volunteermatch.org - Very Good Website!

Salvation Army: <http://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/volunteer/**

Denver Zoo 720-337-1400, <http://www.denverzoo.org/savetheworld>

Habitat For Humanity 303-454-8969, <http://habitatcolorado.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Jeffco Action Center 303-237-0230, <http://theactioncenterco.org/volunteer/>

Jefferson County Volunteer Connection, <http://jeffco.us/i-want-to/volunteer/>

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.

See your counselor with any questions, we are here to help!