

PSAT Scores Released
Mid December

Link
CollegeBoard
Account with
Khan Academy
and Practice!

Attend
Getting
Ready for
College Night

Register for
SAT/ACT at least
once by May.

www.sat.org
www.act.org

Visit colleges
if able over
the summer.

Register Fall
SAT/ACT for one
more chance to
raise scores.

Create list of
interested colleges
and take note of
application due dates.

Apply to colleges by due date,
but no later than December 1st.

Junior Year/Senior Year Timeline for College-Bound Students

Register for Parchment
(Check CYPanthers email)
and return Pink Form.

www.parchment.com

Research Colleges
and Attend Open
Houses

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

Continue to study for SAT/ACT
throughout junior year!

Parent and
Student Register
for FSA ID by
October 1st

www.fafsa.ed.gov
www.fastweb.com

Complete Free
Application for
Student Financial Aid.
Opens October 1st.

Check Local and National
Scholarships throughout senior year!

Request your Final
Transcript be sent to
the college you are
planning to attend.

Junior Year

Senior Year

IMPORTANT WINTER/SPRING TASKS FOR COLLEGE-BOUND JUNIORS

1. Understand your PSAT scores. See email for link or login to studentscores.collegeboard.org. See counselor for information about what your scores mean & how to navigate website.
2. Register NOW for an SAT and/or ACT test this winter/spring, then again for August/September. See details on the CYHS Counseling Office website under College Admissions Testing.
3. Link your College Board account to Khan Academy for personalized test preparation. Even if you take the ACT, this test prep will be very helpful. Additionally, test prep courses occur at CYHS (during Flex starting in January & over the summer), and also at Penn State York & York College.
4. Look for the letter from the CYHS Counseling Office about how to create your account on Parchment.com and please follow the instructions. This is how your transcript will get to colleges!!
5. Visit colleges (and/or technical/trade schools). Be sure to tell the Attendance Office before you go and also bring back a note from the school that you visited.
6. Discuss your plans with your parents/guardians. This can be a nerve-wracking time for everyone. It goes more smoothly when families communicate frequently (and respectfully, of course!). 😊

A FEW MORE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JUNIORS...

- Research careers that sound interesting. Try using the tools at collegeboard.roadtripnation.com
- Visit the CYHS Counseling Office website for information on many topics that will be VERY helpful to you... including how to find the right school for you and how to pay for it!
- Look at your cumulative GPA. Is it strong enough to get you where you want to go after graduation? If you need help with your classes, make extra time with the teacher or with a tutor! Junior year grades are extremely important to colleges, recruiters & employers.
- Not necessarily headed to college? Consider all of the post-secondary options available to you (apprenticeships, technical & trade schools, military) and determine what suits you best.
- Make sure you've built a good reputation. By the end of this year, you'll be asking teachers, club advisors and coaches to be job references and write letters of recommendation. Make sure you give them great things to say about you!
- If you're headed to college, start looking for scholarships. Check out our Financial Aid website.
- Get a Social Security Number if you don't have one. You'll need it to apply for financial aid.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss your preliminary list of schools and whether these schools meet your needs and are appropriate to your level of academic readiness. Take note of which schools want you to take the writing portion of the SAT or ACT and/or the SAT Subject Tests.
- Plan a challenging senior year of classes. Student athletes, check your NCAA eligibility!
- Look for summer opportunities on our website. Spend your summer learning & growing!
- Begin preparing essays for college admissions and scholarship applications.
- KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR COUNSELOR! We want to be helpful to you during this process!

CRUCIAL TASKS TO DO SENIOR YEAR...

August/September

- Finalize your plans for life after graduation. College? Military? Work? Taking a gap year?
- If you will be applying to college or other post-secondary schools, start applying NOW. Use Parchment to order your transcript to be sent to the schools where you're applying.
- Consider visits, overnight stays, and interviews at your top school choices. Visit any schools on your list that you have not already seen.
- If you are applying to four-year college, register for one last shot at the SAT or ACT if you aren't happy with your earlier scores. Be sure to take the SAT Subject tests if they are required by the schools you are considering!
- Ask teachers, counselors, coaches and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your college and scholarship applications.
- Be sure your senior year mix of classes includes challenging college preparatory courses.
- Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school.
- If you are a student athlete planning to participate in sports at college, register online with the NCAA Eligibility Center. The NCAA determines your final eligibility to play in college.
- Request a PIN for applying for financial aid online by going to www.pin.ed.gov.

October/November

- Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible.
- If you're considering a career in the military, take the ASVAB test. Listen to CTV for more details.
- Finalize drafts of your college essays, but only after numerous edits, rewrites and reviews by people you trust such as family members and teachers.
- Submit applications to colleges/post-secondary schools. Use Parchment to send transcripts!
- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.

December/January/February

- Finish submitting the last of your college applications, if needed.
- Apply for outside funding and scholarships. See our Financial Aid website for many resources!
- Stay focused on your grades ALL YEAR LONG. Even if you are accepted by your college of choice now, they can still rescind your acceptance if your senior year grades are not acceptable!

March/April

- As you hear from colleges, celebrate your acceptances and deal positively with your rejections.
- Communicate with college Financial Aid Offices about any concerns regarding paying for college.
- Continue to work hard in your classes. Now is NOT the time to let your grades slide! Remember that the colleges that have accepted you can STILL rescind your acceptance if your grades fall!

May/June

- Make final commitments for your plans after graduation. If you're headed to college or post-secondary school, submit all necessary paperwork and make deposits. Use Parchment to order your final transcript to go to the school that you plan to attend.
- Congratulations on your graduation!! Celebrate your accomplishments SAFELY!



How to Register for the SAT

1. Sign in or create an account at www.collegeboard.org. Only one account should be created. Sometimes parents/guardians create an account without a student knowing. This can create major issues for the CollegeBoard and may result in scores not being sent.
2. Be sure to provide your full, legal name and other identifying information exactly as it appears on your Photo ID. This is extremely important!
3. Answer the other questions about yourself (like your grades & family background), but don't agonize over every detail. This can take a good amount of time, but it does give colleges the opportunity to seek you out. It can definitely be worth it.
4. Decide whether to sign up for the SAT with Essay. The CYHS School Counselors recommend that you take the essay at least once. Some colleges require it, while others do not.
5. Upload a photo that meets the specific requirements.
6. Checkout and print your Admission Ticket for the testing day. Read the Admission Ticket carefully and be sure to take everything that you need with you on test day!

Other Things to Keep in Mind

- If you have free or reduced price meals, you are eligible to receive 2 fee waivers. See your school counselor to receive a fee waiver card if you believe that you are eligible.
- If testing with accommodations, enter the SSD number found on your eligibility letter.

Tips from Your School Counseling Office

- Registration for the SAT test closes about a month before the test date. Late registration fees are around \$28 to register after that date. Register early!
- Juniors planning to apply to college are encouraged to take the SAT in the spring of their junior year.
- We encourage you to consider testing at least twice, but not more than 3 times.
- All SAT testing should be completed by November of the senior year at the latest. This gives learners the best chance of getting admitted to the colleges where they wish to attend.
- Learners enrolled in Trigonometry or higher when taking the SAT tend to do better on the Math Section.
- The best preparation for the SAT includes taking challenging courses, practicing in Khan Academy, taking a prep course and reading every day. Get started early!
- The SAT is only one part of what colleges consider in an applicant. Do your best! Grades, rank, rigor of courses and involvement in activities are also considered.
- Be careful not to accidentally register for an SAT Subject Test. Only some schools require these. An error here will cost \$28 to change.
- Be sure to use the ACCESS Links found on your College Board Dashboard for College Planning, College Search, as well as Scholarship Opportunities through the College Board.

Access	>
College Planning	
College Search	
Opportunity Scholarships	

Be sure to talk with your School Counselor if you have any questions!

PREPARE FOR THE SAT WITH

Official SAT Practice



Get personalized practice recommendations based on your results from the new SAT[®], PSAT/NMSQT[®], PSAT[™] 10, and PSAT[™] 8/9. **Take these steps to connect your College Board and Khan Academy[®] accounts:**

1

Go to satpractice.org

Create an account on Khan Academy, or sign into your existing account.

2

Link Your Accounts

When prompted, agree to link your Khan Academy and College Board accounts.

3

Send Your Scores

Log in to your College Board account, and hit “Send” to get a personalized practice plan.

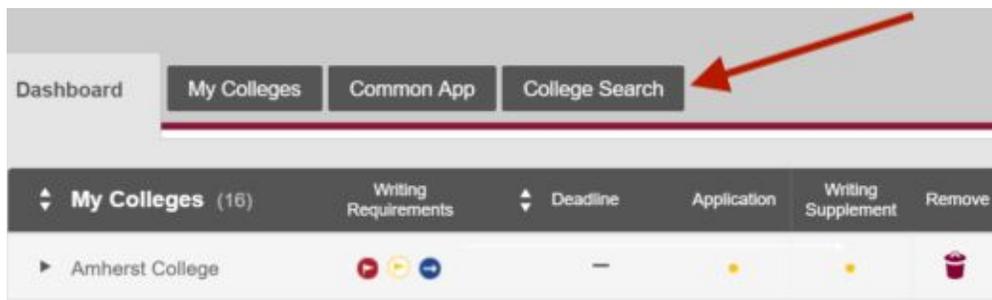
Sign up. Link up. Get practicing. satpractice.org



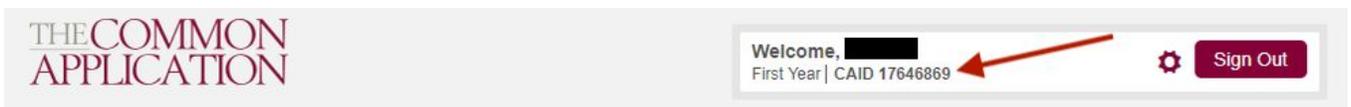
The Common Application is an online platform that allows applicants to apply to multiple colleges at one time. Over 750 of the 3500+ colleges and universities in the United States accept the Common Application, so learners may want to use the Common Application if they are applying to two or more colleges that accept it.

How to Apply to Colleges Using The Common Application

1. Create an account at www.commonapp.org. **Be sure to use an email address that sounds professional and that you check regularly.**
2. Add colleges or universities to your list by clicking the “College Search” button in the dashboard.



3. Gather general application information. You should have the following before applying:
 - A copy of your unofficial high school transcript (viewed on www.parchment.com).
 - A list of extracurricular activities in and out of school.
 - Test scores from SAT or ACT tests.
 - Parent/legal guardian information, including education, occupations, and employer information.
 - Names and email addresses of school counselor and teachers writing letters of recommendation.
4. Enter information on your application. Once done, click on each college on your list to “Apply”.
5. Log on to your account on www.parchment.com and “Order” your transcript to go directly to Common App. This requires that you enter your Common App ID, which is found in the top right of your account.



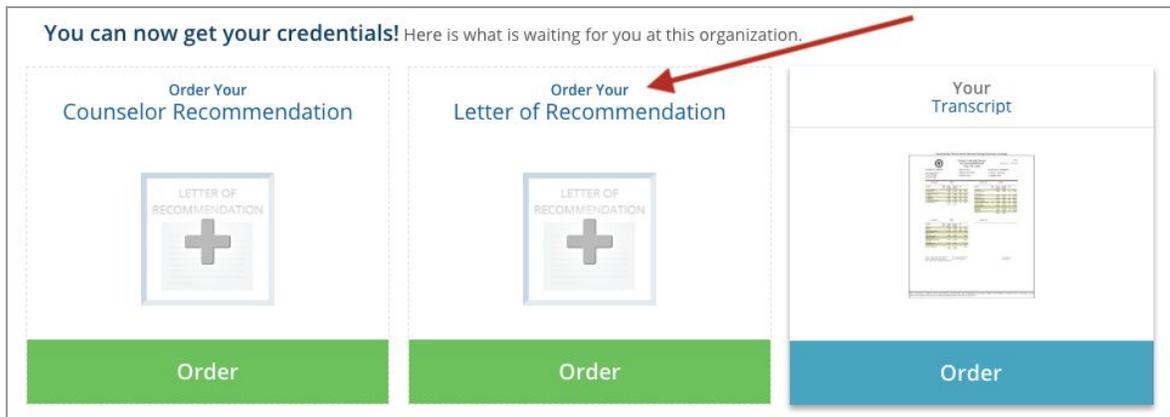
Tips from the Guidance Office:

- Know your deadlines and apply early!
- Speak to core subject teachers from junior/senior year to see if they will write you letters of recommendation. Do this before you enter recommender information in your Common App account.
- Save your work often.
- Use Word, Pages, or Google Docs to draft essay responses before entering them into the Common App.
- Have a teacher, school counselor, or parent/guardian read your essays before you submit them.
- Understand the difference between Early Decision and Early Application.

Contact your School Counselor with any questions!

Procedure to Request Letters of Recommendation

1. The learner has a face-to-face conversation with a core academic teacher from their junior or senior year to ask if the teacher is willing to write a letter for the learner.
 - When approaching the teacher, have a résumé or list of activities ready to give to the teacher.
 - Ask for no more than 4 letters of recommendation. In many instances, 2 is sufficient.
 - Give at least 2 school weeks for a teacher to write a letter and return it to the School Counseling Office.
2. Once a learner has secured permission from several teachers, he/she will log into the Parchment account. Once logged in, click on “Order Your Letter of Recommendation”



3. The learner continues through Parchment until the letter is successfully ordered.

When a learner requests a letter through the Common Application or Coalition Application, they will not need to “Order” a letter through Parchment. This will be done automatically by the teacher. Learners are encouraged to be sure to spell recommender’s names and email addresses correctly.

Tips from your School Counseling Office

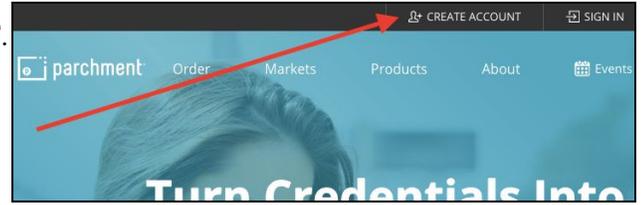
- Ask teachers **early in the process** if they are willing to write a letter of recommendation for you.
- Pick teachers who know you well and will be able to say great things about you!
- Know your due dates. Letters that are rushed may not be of the highest quality.
- Pick English, Math, Science, and Social Studies teachers only. Other letters can be added to an application, but these are a must.
- Keep in mind you get accepted to the college first and a program second. A science-related program does not always need a science teacher’s recommendation (though it is recommended).



Creating Your Parchment Account

CYHS students should use Parchment to have their transcript sent for college admissions & scholarships.

1. Go to www.parchment.com and click CREATE ACCOUNT.



2. On the next screen, under the heading “Learners or Parents”, click CREATE ACCOUNT again.



3. If you have the letter that was sent from the CYHS School Counseling Office about Parchment, click “Have a Registration Code?” and enter the Registration Code at the next screen. This will save you all of the time it would take to enter learner demographic information.

If you do not have the registration code that was mailed, you can still create your account. It will be VERY important for you to select your high school once logged in.

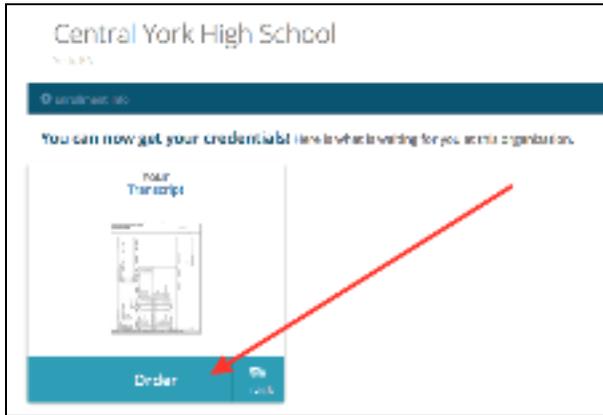
4. Answer the questions as prompted.

Ordering Your Central York Transcript through Parchment

CYHS learners and alumni use Parchment to have their high school transcript sent to colleges, employers, scholarship organizations, military recruiters and more. Follow these instructions to order a transcript:

1. Log on to www.parchment.com with the email address and password that you used when you set up your account. *If you cannot remember which email address you used, the CYHS Counseling Office may be able to help you figure this out. We do NOT have any access to the password that you set up. For this, you must use the “Forgot Your Password?” link.*

- Scroll down to see your Central York High School transcript & click “Order”.



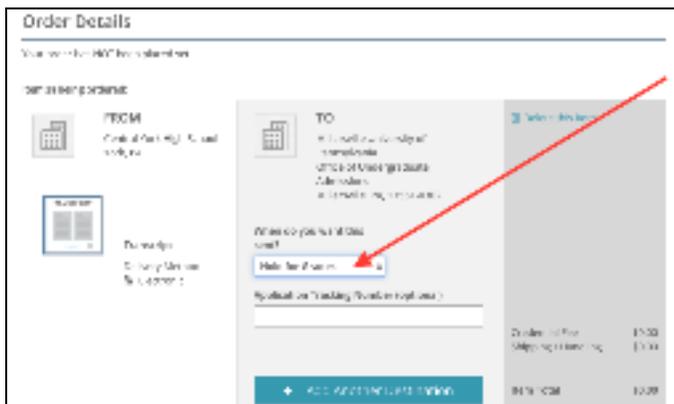
Please note that you can also view your transcript from this screen by clicking on the small picture of the transcript. If you find that the transcript does not include all final grades from the most recently completed semester, click on the word “Update” that should appear directly below the transcript. Your transcript should be updated within 2 business days after you click “Update” (at the same time that your transcript is sent wherever you order it to be sent).

- If you are sending your transcript to a college or other organization, type in the name of the organization and click “Search”.

If you are requesting your transcript to be sent via email (or mail) to a specific person, you should click “Yourself or Another Individual” and then type in the specific information. There is a typically \$2 charge for transcripts to be sent directly to a person.



- Confirm the recipient to receive your transcript and click “Continue”.

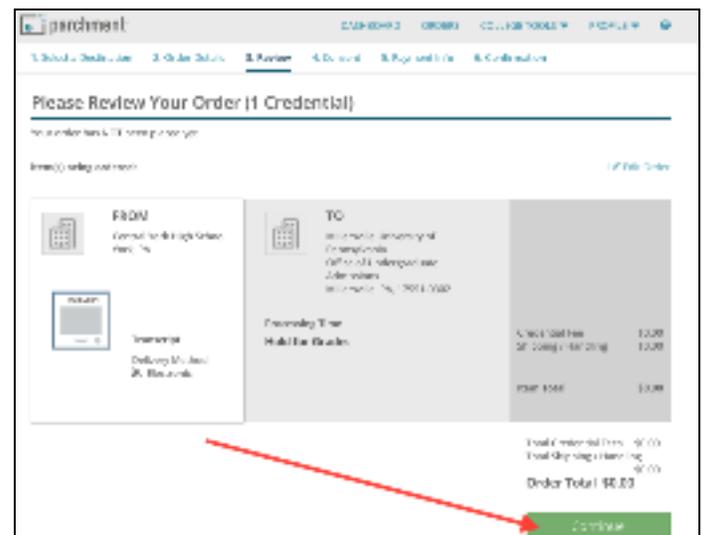


If a semester is very close to ending or has just ended, change “Send Now” to “Hold for Grades” on this screen.

- Click “Continue” to place your order.

- At the next screen, sign your name and submit the order.

- Feel free to track your order by clicking on your “Orders” at the very top of the screen. Most transcripts are sent by CYHS within 2 business days, but it could take up to 10 business days -- so please don't wait until the last minute to request your transcript. It is fine if colleges receive your transcript before you submit your application, so feel free to request transcripts ahead of time!



Supporting Your Student: A Checklist for Families

College is about defying expectations, breaking the mold, and finding yourself. You have an important role to play in your student's journey to college whether or not you've been to college yourself. Use the timeline below to empower your student as they take this important step and reach higher.



“No matter where you come from, or how much money your family has, I want you to know that you can succeed in college, and get your degree, and then go on and build an incredible life for yourself.”

—Michelle Obama, Former First Lady of the United States and first-generation college graduate

Your Checklist

AUG - OCT

- Visit CommonApp.org/Explore to discover nearly 900 colleges—many of which have no application fee and flexible testing policies.

NOV - JAN

- Support your student in completing college applications.
- Help them gather materials, and visit CommonApp.org/Ready for a guide.
- Keep an eye on deadlines.
- Offer to review and give feedback on their application and essays.

APR - JUNE

- Help your student decide where to attend college. The deadline is usually May 1.
- If possible, go together to visit the colleges where they were accepted.
- Review financial aid award letters when they arrive.

OCT

- Complete financial aid forms together, including the FAFSA*. You'll need to have these things ready: Tax Returns, Bank Statements, ID and other documents.
- Don't wait! Complete the FAFSA as early as possible because federal funds and state grant programs may be limited.

DEC - MAR

- Encourage your student to apply for scholarships to reduce the cost of college. They can come from colleges and many nonprofit organizations.
- After submitting an application, your student can connect with Scholar Snapp through their Common App account.



QUESTIONS? VISIT [COMMONAPP.ORG](https://CommonApp.org) FOR SOME KEY RESOURCES.

Facts About Financial Aid

When reviewing financial aid award letters with your student, here are a few things you need to know.

- Don't hesitate to call the college's financial aid office with questions. It's a complicated process, and things aren't always described the same way.
- Cost of Attendance (COA) means tuition and fees plus estimated costs for room and board, books, transportation, and personal expenses.
- Net costs are students' Cost of Attendance minus any gift aid. They include loans, money you pay directly to the college, and estimated funds your student might need.



Types of Student Aid



Gift Aid: Pell Grants, grants from colleges, scholarships which don't need to be repayed

Federal Loans: money that is borrowed to pay for college that you repay with interest

Work-study: the amount a student can earn on hourly paychecks from on-campus jobs if eligible

newamerica.org/education-policy/policy-papers/decoding-cost-college

Helpful Questions to Ask College Admissions Representatives

1. Is it better to take the SAT or ACT and how should a student decide which one to take?
2. How do colleges weigh admissions test (SAT/ACT) scores versus high school grades? What other factors are considered?
3. How important are extra-curricular activities to the admissions process?
4. How important is it for the students and parents to visit the colleges they are considering?
5. Must the students declare a major before they begin attending college?
6. If a student attends a community college first, how likely is it that the credits will transfer?
7. How important are the courses and grades from the senior year of high school?
8. How is it viewed when students take fewer classes in their senior year?
9. When should students begin taking SATs or ACTs and how often should they take them?
10. If a student does poorly on one type of admissions test (such as the SAT), but does very well on the other (the ACT) or vice versa, will having the lower set of scores on their transcript hurt their chances for admission?
11. Is it better to take an honors class and risk getting a lower grade or to take a standard level class and earn a higher grade? How does this factor into admissions?
12. If your college or university offers an honors program, what is the advantage to being in an honors program?