

Fall 2021 Senior Meetings

SWHS Counseling Department

September 28, 2:30 PM

September 29, 10 AM

September 30, 1:45 PM

October 1, 9 AM

October 4, 10 AM

College Planning

- ▶ Average: apply to 4–6 colleges
- ▶ Research Colleges
 - Consider what's important to you:
Location, size, majors, campus life, cost
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- ▶ Do you have at *least one*:
 - Safe admittance school – I can definitely get in.
 - Safe financial school – I can definitely pay.

College Planning

- ▶ Do you understand the different types of admission?
 - Early Decision (Binding)- if admitted, you must attend
 - Early Action- student finds out early if he/she is admitted but must reply by typical deadline of May 1st.
 - Regular Admission- may apply to many schools, review offers and financial aid and then make a choice
 - Rolling Admission- schools review applications and admit students as they receive them instead of waiting for a specific deadline

College Planning Cont'd

- ▶ Know your deadlines for each college:
 - When is the application due?
 - When is the Financial Aid deadline?
- ▶ Where do you apply?
 - On the college's website
 - Through the [Common App \(www.commonapp.org\)](http://www.commonapp.org)
 - Using send.edu [SENDedu](http://send.edu)
- ▶ What else does the application require?
 - Transcript
 - Letters of Rec?
 - Essay?
 - Special requirements? (i.e. art portfolio, music audition, hours shadowing for PT school)

Transcript

- ▶ Your transcript is located in your community portal.
- ▶ This is your “unofficial transcript.” Use as needed.
- ▶ Your GPA and class rank found under 11th grade
 - GPA is on a 4.0 weighted scale
- ▶ Are your test scores on your transcript?
 - If missing, log into College Board account, screenshot or print test scores and send to Counselor.
 - SOME colleges require SAT scores to be sent directly from the College Board while others will accept them as listed on your transcript

Requesting Transcripts

- ▶ Two ways to send a transcript:

- 1) **Electronic/Upload** – You enter counselor information/email address, I upload your transcript

Common Application is one example (One transcript upload is sent to all Common App schools)

- 2) **Paper copy** that must be mailed

Request a paper copy here: [SWHS Transcript Request](#)

Read application directions carefully and follow up with your counselor if there's any confusion.

Letters of Recommendation

- ▶ Some colleges/scholarships require this, some don't.
- ▶ Ask recommender politely and make it personal (stop by room if you can, send detailed email if you must)
- ▶ Provide recommender with your unofficial transcript, a list of activities/community service, and/or resume.
- ▶ Make your polite request AND IN PERSON a *minimum of two weeks* in advance.
- ▶ Ask your recommender to send a copy to the Counseling Office to be placed in your file (electronic and paper copy).

Letters of Recommendation

- ❖ If you need a recommendation from your school counselor, you **MUST** complete the google information doc **BEFORE** he/she writes your letter.
 - Completing this enables your counselor to highlight and share information about you in a more genuine and substantial way (a more “robust letter” with better details)
 - This google link will be sent to you by your school counselor

Requests for these letter of recommendations should be made **AT LEAST** two weeks in advance of when they are needed.

If you use the Common App, invite teachers as recommenders and they can simply upload the letter that they write for you

Ima B. Learner

Academic:

GPA (6 semester): 4.14/4.0

Rank: 35/310

Career Goals

- In college I plan to study Biology
- After earning a Bachelor's Degree, I would like to pursue further studies as a physician's assistant or a physician

Honors/AP Classes

Mathematics:

- Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II, Honors Pre- Calculus, Advanced Placement Statistics

Science:

- Honors General Science, Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry, Advanced Placement Biology I & II,

Social Studies:

- Honors World Cultures, Advanced Placement Psychology

Other:

- Honors Anatomy & Physiology, Honors English 9

School Activities

- Key Club (4 year member) volunteering over 50 hours per year
- Link Crew member: Freshman transition program leader
- Music Department, choral program member (Freshman & Sophomore years)
- Mini Thon Committee (Junior Year, special events)
- Girls Tennis Athlete (Sophomore & Junior Year)
- Selected to be a Rotary Student of the Month (senior year)
- Parent Advisory Board Class Representative (junior & senior year)

Employment

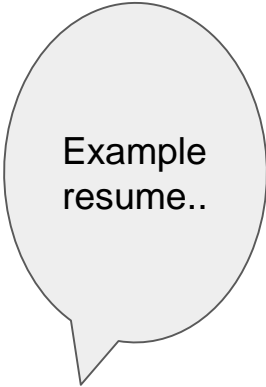
- At the local family entertainment center, Hickory Falls, I currently work in the café. From this position I have learned how to work under pressure and communicate with other employees and customers.
- summers : 25-30 hours a week
- during school : 16 hours a week

Volunteer

- Vacation Bible School (15 hours each week; 6 years)
- Sunday school (2 hours on Sundays)

Outside of school activities

- Dance : ballet, jazz, contemporary, pointe, musical theatre (12 years ; 8-12 hours a week)



Example
resume..

Joe Mustang

200 Bowman Road
Hanover, PA 17331
(717) 632-2548
j.mustang@gmail.com

Education

South Western High School
100 Bowman Road
Hanover, PA 17331
(717) 633-4807

(August 2015 - May 2019)
GPA - 4.49

Related Coursework: Chemistry H, Algebra II H, Biology H, Pre-Calculus H, Business Essentials, AP Calculus, AP Government & Politics, AP Literature, AP Psychology

Work Experience

RC Theaters (February 2018-present)

- Employee, snack bar, box office, and admittance worker, operating a register, checking/cleaning theaters, stocking goods

Lawn Care (Summers of 2015-18)

- Mowing & trimming grass for friends, relatives, and neighbors

Church community work (2014-2017)

- Work in cafeteria at church providing break/food/lunch

Achievements


- Distinguished Honor Roll for 11 straight semesters (Fall 2015 - Fall 2019)
- SAT score of 1440
- Internship/shadowing experience with State Representative Kate Klunk

Activities

- High School Concert and Symphonic Band (2017-18)
- High School Track & Field (2016-17)
- High School Cross Country (2016-18)

Skills

- Generous and kind: lawn care & community service
- Good speaker and people person: working with a large audience at my job at the movie theater
- Team player: able to work with and communicate with others easily
- Hard, persistent worker: continuing my job and putting forth great effort in work and school



Example
resume....

College Essay

- ▶ Again, some colleges/scholarships require this, some don't.
- ▶ <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays>
- ▶ <https://apply.jhu.edu/application-process/essays-that-worked/>
- ▶ <https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts>
- ▶ Have at least one other person read to check for grammar, typos, style, and content – two people couldn't hurt!
- ▶ Save everything you write. You will likely be able to rework/edit an essay and use it multiple times.
- ▶ BUT when you reuse an essay make sure it still addresses the prompt and doesn't have college specific references.

College Admissions Tests

- ▶ Do your colleges require test scores this year?
- ▶ If you already took a test: Some colleges take scores off the transcript, others require you to send scores directly from the College Board/ACT. Read instructions carefully.
- ▶ If you need to take a test:
 - SAT – <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home>
Upcoming SAT dates:
 - October 2nd @ South Western
 - November 6th @ Delone or Spring Grove (deadline to register is October 8)
 - ACT – www.actstudent.org
October 23 @ Delone or Spring Grove (deadline to register is October 1st)
- ▶ [Local SAT Test Centers for 2021-2022](#)
- ▶ [Local ACT Test Centers for 2021-2022](#)
- ▶ Fee Waivers are available for students who receive Free/Reduced price lunch. Ask your counselor!

Financial Aid

- ▶ Financial Aid Webinar for SW families: **October 4th, 7 PM (virtual)**
 - Register Here: [SW Financial Aid Night](#)
 - [Financial Aid PDF](#)
- ▶ Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
 - Complete the FAFSA starting October 1st
 - Check your college(s) for their deadline
 - Go to www.fafsa.gov for more information and to apply
 - **SWHS FAFSA presentation October 26th (virtual)**
- ▶ PA State Grant
 - Follow link at the end of the FAFSA
- ▶ CSS Profile and Collegiate forms? – check with your college to see if they require any other forms.

Scholarships

▶ Scholarships from your College:

- Usually not a separate application, but ask the college
- Usually based on GPA and/or SAT scores
- Private colleges have more scholarship \$ to give.
- Class of 2021: 4.2 million dollars of scholarship \$ from their colleges

▶ Private Scholarships:

- Local scholarships: <http://swguidance.edublogs.org/> OR read your email OR check the file cabinet in our office.
- Class of 2021: \$576,000 in local, private scholarships
- National Scholarships:
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.scholarships.com

NCAA

- ▶ Planning to play Division I or Division II athletics?
- ▶ Register at the NCAA Clearinghouse
 - <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
- ▶ Important you meet the academic requirements
 - correct number of core classes
 - core GPA
 - SAT/ACT scores (submit official scores via College Board or ACT website)

- ▶ Take ownership! This is your future and no one else can do it for you.

- ▶ Organize yourself:
 - Create a google sheet or use a notebook to keep track of usernames/passwords, deadlines, application requirements
 - Use folders in your emails to organize emails from colleges, emails about scholarships
 - Use bookmarks to save frequently used websites (college sites, scholarship page, transcript request, etc.)

- ▶ Pay attention to details. Read instructions slowly.

- ▶ Set aside the time – recommend you sign up for 5th period GS activity to force yourself to work on college/scholarship applications

Other Resources

College Research, Application Process and More:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator

[SWHS Counseling Office Website:](#)

<https://hs.swsd.k12.pa.us/cms/one.aspx?portalid=28788949&pageid=31169203>

SWHS Scholarship Website

www.swguidance.edublogs.org