

# RISING SENIOR CONNECTION

## PTSO Information

A brief overview of SCOIR  
and how to prepare for the  
world of college  
applications.

April 15, 2025



## PTSO Senior Events Committee Class of 2026!

### Co-Chairs: Anne Divers and Jenn Ward

- The committee is made up of parent volunteers
- We will be putting together Senior Packages for purchase which will include 2 different levels (Both include the Cuthbertson High School Class of 2026 yard sign)
- The package information/pricing will go out in May
- The Senior Events committee will have monthly events (breakfast, luncheon, cafe time, winter cavaland, just to name a few) for all Seniors that purchase the Senior package



## PTSO Senior Events Committee Class of 2026!

- There will be a sign up genius for most events where parents can sign up to volunteer (must be approved volunteer) for an event and provide donations. The sign up genius will only go out to parents of those students who purchased a package
- Please be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks:
  - Our email address is [CHSseniorevents2026@gmail.com](mailto:CHSseniorevents2026@gmail.com)
  - Our Instagram is [@cuthbertson\\_seniors\\_2026](https://www.instagram.com/cuthbertson_seniors_2026)
  - Our Facebook page is Cuthbertson High School Class of 2026 “Seniors”
- We are so excited to celebrate our Seniors next year!!



# WHAT TO EXPECT THIS EVENING ...

**What are colleges looking for?**

**Junior/ Senior Year Timeline**

**SCOIR**



# THINGS TO KNOW: WHAT ARE COLLEGES LOOKING FOR?

The admission process varies from university to university. In general these factors are important when admissions offices consider your application:

- Grades (GPA): weighted vs. unweighted varies by school
- Rigorous course selection based upon what we offer at CHS (Honors and AP)
- ACT/SAT Scores
- Class Rank (May express as a top % of class)
- Extracurricular Involvement and leadership
- Community Service
- Essay responses, if applicable
- Letters of recommendation, if applicable



# THINGS TO KNOW: GPA/ CLASS RANK

**Unweighted GPA:** Uses a 4.0 scale despite the level of rigor.

**Weighted GPA:** Takes into account the additional quality points for honors and AP level classes.

Many universities look at weighted GPA but some look at unweighted GPA. Check out the college website to find out which one they use.

**-Class rank** allows admissions counselors to see how your grades compare to others in your grade.

- Weighted GPA is used to determine rank.
- Expressed as 1 out of 402. The closer to number 1, the better.



# THINGS TO KNOW: TYPICAL PARTS OF AN APPLICATION

There are a few things you will want to make sure you submit with your application:

- **Application**
- **Transcript**
- **ACT / SAT Scores (CHS does not send these and check to see if the college is test optional or not)**

\* It is the student's responsibility to follow up with colleges to make sure all components of the application are received. It can take up to 4 weeks for items to post to your student account.



# THINGS TO KNOW: POTENTIAL PARTS OF AN APPLICATION

- Letters of Recommendation (if required)
- Personal Statement
- Essays
- Some majors within a university require a separate application, portfolio or audition.
- There may also be a separate application to apply to honors colleges and/or school-specific scholarships.
  - Call or email the admissions office with questions, they are there to help you!





# THINGS TO KNOW: HOW TO APPLY

You can use one of a variety of methods:

- University Website
- Common Application
- Coalition
- You can access all colleges through SCOIR. CHS will utilize this program for the submission of all school application items.
  - You will need to enter your Common App ID in SCOIR so it links your paperwork with your application
  - Remember account rollover: August 1st
  - Since we are a SCOIR school, you will no longer enter recommendation requests via Common App OR Coalition.



# THINGS TO KNOW: APPLICATION DEADLINES

**Early Decision:** Binding decision. If accepted, a student must enroll and withdraw all other applications. Students may apply early decision to one school.

**Early Action:** Non-binding. A student may apply early to several colleges and will receive a response during January or February.

(Acceptances for ED / EA applicants are more selective)

**Regular Decision:** Non-binding. A student applies during the regular application timeframe and receives a response in the spring.



# WHY APPLY EARLY?

You may have more access to scholarships within the university.

You may have to meet an early deadline for honors college consideration.

You receive an earlier admission response.



# THINGS TO KNOW: TRANSCRIPTS

## **All transcript requests will be sent through SCOIR:**

- As soon as you move a college over to the “**applying**” column, it generates a transcript request.
- Do this as soon as you decide you are applying so we can prepare and send your documents.
- Some schools require you to upload your transcript and/or to complete the SRAR/SSAR, be sure to research this.
- Please allow 10 business days to process your request (20 business days if your request includes a letter of recommendation).
- There is no charge for transcripts.
- You can track the submission of your transcript via your SCOIR account.
- ***Counselors will not send transcripts prior to the 10th day of the fall semester. This is a UCPS directive.***



# ADDITIONAL APPLICATION ITEMS

Mr. Ward

Test Scores

Essays

Recommendations

Brag Sheet



# TEST SCORES

## Test Scores

- Submission of test scores (ACT and SAT) to each university is the student's responsibility as part of their application.
- For scores to be considered official, they need to be sent directly to the college from College Board (SAT) or ACT.org (ACT).

**CHS does not send test scores.**



# ESSAYS:

Essays allow the admissions counselor to get to know you. Think of the essay as an opportunity to help yourself stand-out; a chance for your application to come to life.

Essays should:

- Be unique to you, genuine.
- Be reflective (How did you grow? How did you change? How did you make a difference?)
- Be creative
- Be specific – it is better to zero in on a specific example than be broad and vague.



# THINGS TO KNOW: RECOMMENDATIONS

## Requirements vary –

You will request Letters of Recommendation in Scoir only for schools that **require them**. Some schools require that you send 1-3 recommendations, some schools are **optional** and some schools explicitly say **NOT** to send recommendations.

Scoir requires that you have colleges in your “Applying” column before you can request letters of recommendation.

- Please allow ample time **(20 business days)** for teachers and counselors to write recommendations.
- **You must enter your teacher’s and counselor’s name in the “letters of recommendation” section of SCOIR or they will not receive your request.**





# THINGS TO KNOW: BRAG SHEET SURVEY

- If you are asking **counselors** to write a recommendation, please be sure to complete the Brag Sheet Survey accessible via SCOIR.
- This information will help us write a more thorough recommendation for you, so elaborate and be specific.
- You must enter your counselor's name in the "letters of recommendation" section of SCOIR or we will not receive the request.
- The Brag Sheet Survey, and the request, must be received at least **20 business days** prior to your first deadline.



# JUNIOR/SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

Ms. Brown

Things you can do now to mark items  
off your to-do list



# THE SPRING OF YOUR JUNIOR YEAR

- Keep your grades up.
- Research five to seven colleges that interest you and add them to your “following” list in SCOIR.
- Visit colleges and create a list of questions to ask on campus visits.
  - Be sure to ask for documentation from the college that you visited for attendance purposes.
- Start or update an academic resume, update your profile and activities/achievements in SCOIR.
- Maintain good relationships with your counselor and teachers, they will be writing your recommendations.
- Register for the SAT and ACT (Juniors took the ACT in March at CHS.)
- If you plan to participate in athletics in college, you will need to register through the NCAA Clearinghouse and provide transcript.



# THE SUMMER BEFORE YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Continue to make college visits.
- Narrow down school choices to your top five and enter them into SCOIR. Be sure to adjust your application deadlines as well for ED, EA or RD. We prioritize the submission of college application items based upon the deadline listed in SCOIR.
  - Your list may include reach schools, competitive schools, and target schools.
- Finalize your resume, can be done in SCOIR.
- Begin or complete your Brag Sheet Survey.
- Complete your Common App, or school-specific, essays.
  - \* Remember account rollover begins August 1<sup>st</sup>.



# THE FALL OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- If you wish to test again, sign-up for and take the SAT / ACT.
- Be sure to record all application login information.
- Ask for recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers 20 business days prior to your first deadline (if needed).
- Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school. Visits are posted in SCOIR.
- Confirm, with colleges of interest receipt, of all application materials.
- Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college to which you have applied.
- Search SCOIR and the CHS website for current scholarship opportunities.
- Start the financial aid application process.



# THE SPRING OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR

- Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR) after the FAFSA is filed and compare financial packages.
- Continue to look for scholarship opportunities.
- Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision.
- Update admission decisions in SCOIR and indicate the school you will attend.
- Notify schools you will *not attend* of your decision.
- Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- Send thank-you notes to individuals who completed letters of recommendation on your behalf as well as those who awarded scholarships.
- Drop off copies of acceptances and scholarship notifications to Guidance...even the ones you do not plan to accept.



# SCOIR

A general overview  
Ms. Reder



# SCOIR

- One-stop shop for all things college and career related.
- Students can search, request letters of recommendations for colleges, search scholarships, create a resume and register for college visits held at CHS directly through this program.
- Students can also complete career interest inventories to determine majors/careers of interest.
- Senior survey will be completed and final transcripts will be sent through SCOIR.
- Instructional slides are posted on the CHS website.





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION LINKS

Students will be sent home on Wednesday with a Senior College Application Timeline and SCOIR directions.

Please visit the Counseling page of the CHS website for additional SCOIR information links!

This presentation will be posted pm our CHS counseling website under Senior Connection

Follow us on Instagram:  
**Cavs\_Counselor\_Connect**



# UPCOMING SENIOR CONNECTIONS

Senior Connection and College Applications

FAFSA Night

College Panel Night

Senior College Labs

College Visits



## Counselor's Caseloads:

A-C	Ms. Brown
D-Ho	Ms. Reder
Hu-Mc	Ms. Mills
Me-Sa	Mr. Ward
Sb-Z	Ms. Plank-Alonzo

# QUESTIONS?

