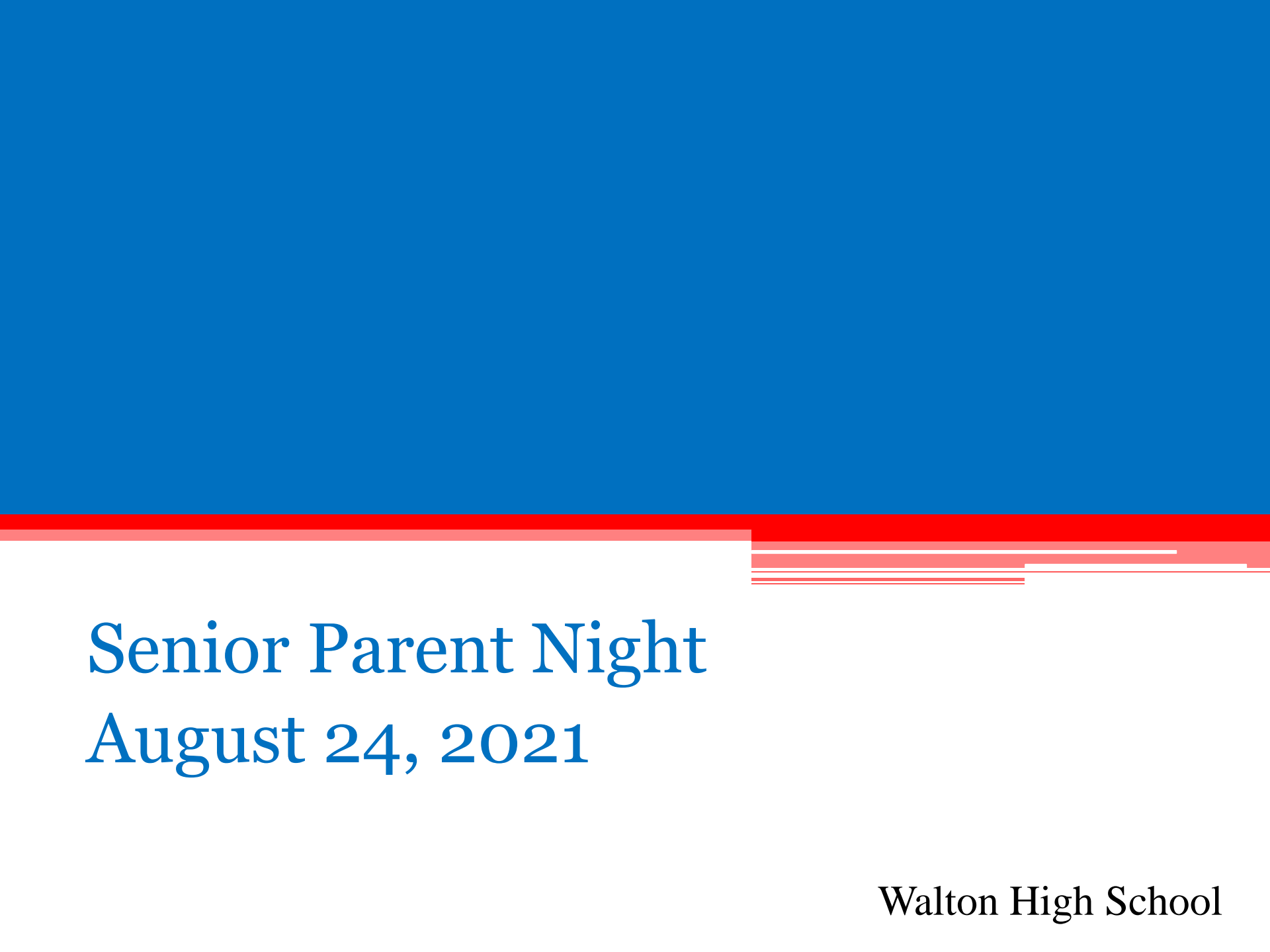


# Welcome to Senior Parent Night

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid red horizontal bar that spans the width of the slide. Below this bar, on the right side, there are several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors, including red and white, creating a stylized, layered effect.

Our presentation will begin shortly.



# Senior Parent Night

## August 24, 2021

Walton High School

# Counselor Assignments

- A - Ch Laura Clary
- Ci - G Betsy Alpert
- H - K Donna Dunham
- L - N Erica Watford
- O - Sl Tina Harwood
- Sm - Z Lisa Fay
  
- College Advisor Laurel Gross
- Records Melissa Schrenk

# “What are we going to talk about?”

- What Colleges Consider
- SAT/ACT/ SAT Subject Tests
- Exploring College Options
- College Applications
- Walton Application Procedures
- Financial Aid Information
- Naviance
- Questions?
- Highly Selective College Information

# What Colleges Consider

## Primary Factors

Quality/Rigor of Academic  
Classes

Academic Performance/Grades

Test Scores  
(SAT, SAT Subject Tests, AP<sup>®</sup>,  
etc.)

## Additional Factors

Extracurricular Activities

Essay(s)

Letters of Recommendation

Demonstrated Interest

# Other Considerations

- Positive recommendations from educators
- Personal statement and essay(s) demonstrating writing ability and self-expression
- A “demonstrated interest” that shows enthusiasm for the colleges to which your child is applying
- Extracurricular activities, including participation in sports, performing/visual arts, volunteering, assisting parents with younger sibling care, etc.
- Community involvement, part-time work or internship
- Interview (if applicable)

# Impact of COVID-19 on College Admissions

- **Standardized Testing**
  - **University System of Georgia schools require SAT/ACT scores**
  - **Many colleges will remain test optional – what does that mean?**
- **College Visits**
  - **Check the College websites for on campus and virtual tours and information sessions**
- **Focus on what you have done, not on missed opportunities**
- **COVID-19 Essay Question**
  - **COVID-19 has affected students in dramatically different ways.**
  - **If you need to describe the impact of these events on you, the COVID-19 and natural disaster question in the Additional Information section (on the Common Application) is a place for you to do this. The question is not intended to be an extra essay. There's also no need to describe how your school responded to these events.**
- **College Deadlines and Requirements**
  - **Check the college's website for the most up-to-date information.**

# BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

**“Reach schools”** are those where your student’s academic credentials fall below the school’s range for the freshman class.

**“Match schools”** are schools where your student’s academic credentials fall within or perhaps slightly exceed the school’s range for the freshman class.

**“Likely schools”** are schools your student will almost definitely get into because their academic credentials are much better than the typical range for their freshman class.

## REACH SCHOOLS

Apply to 1 or 2

## MATCH SCHOOLS

Apply to 2 or 3

## SAFETY SCHOOLS

Apply to at least 1



# Other Factors to Consider

- Size and diversity of student body
- Location
- Academic programs
- Campus life —athletics, activities, housing
- Graduation and retention rates
- Job placements
- Financial aid and scholarship opportunities
- *Above all, think about where your child will be the most happy and successful in their college life.*

# DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for  
College Admission Counseling  
*Guiding the way to higher education*

## STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST SUITS YOU?

### Non-Restrictive Application Plans

#### Regular Decision

##### DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Rolling Admission

##### DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

#### Early Action (EA)

##### DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

### Restrictive Application Plans

#### Early Decision (ED)

##### DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

##### COMMITMENT:

BINDING

#### Restrictive Early Action (REA)

##### DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

##### COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

# Grades & Course Work

- Your student's high school academic record is one of the most important factors in college admission. Colleges will look at a few aspects:
  - **Course selection: Challenge from a rigorous course load and high-level classes, including AP or honors courses, especially in chosen major.**
  - **Grades: Every year counts, starting with freshman year.**
  - **GPA trends: Keep improving through every grade level. Finish senior year strongly.**
  - **Class Rank – CCSD does not disclose class rank.**

# SAT & ACT

- Recommend taking SAT & ACT at least once
- Georgia public colleges still require test scores for admission
  - Students meeting Zell Miller scholarship eligibility under HOPE must also meet test score requirements
  - SAT 1200; ACT 26 (one sitting)
- Some out-of-state colleges are test optional for Fall 2022 acceptance – continue to check college websites
  - For testing requirements and deadlines to submit scores
  - To determine if other criteria is weighted differently in the absence of test scores
  - To see if test scores are required for scholarship consideration and honors or special programs
- Superscore
  - When colleges take the highest score from each subsection and combine them to get a new, higher score
  - SAT – most schools
  - ACT – some schools

# Upcoming Test Dates (2021-2022)



**SAT**



- **August 28 \***
  - **October 2**
  - **November 6 \***
  - **December 4 \***
  - **March 12**
  - **May 7 \***
  - **June 4**
  - **September 11 \***
  - **October 23 \***
  - **December 11 \***
  - **February 12 \***
  - **April 2**
  - **June 11**
  - **July 16**
- Test dates indicated by sponsoring organization and may be subject to change/cancellation
  - Test administration tentatively scheduled at Walton High School (\*)
  - Check the college's website for test deadlines!

# Sending Your SAT/ACT Scores

- SAT/ACT scores must be sent directly from the testing agency websites
- Can send scores to 4 schools for free if coded on test registration by the ninth day after the test
- To send scores to additional colleges at a later date, students must log into their SAT or ACT account to request test scores:
  - SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)
  - ACT: [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
  - **Our School's CEEB code: 111987**
- SAT Score Choice™ enables you to choose which scores you send to colleges by test date and by individual test for Subject Tests.

# College Campus Visits:

- Many college campuses are open for tours
  - Must pre-register online on college website
  - Space is limited; register early
  - Fall break is the perfect time to tour college campuses
- Many virtual options offered
  - Take a virtual campus tour
  - Attend a virtual information session (may need to register online)
  - Sign up for the college mailing list – open your email and read it!
    - Colleges use email to track demonstrated interest
  - Email or speak with an admission counselor (many offer virtual meetings)
  - Ask about financial aid opportunities
  - Contact the academic advisor/recruiter for a college academic program – find out if you can virtually sit in on a class of interest
  - Talk to students and faculty

# Walton College Visits

- Each year, over 100 college admissions counselors come to Walton to present information about:
  - Academic and special programs
  - Admission requirements
  - Campus life
- College visits provide students an opportunity to:
  - Ask questions
  - Introduce themselves to the college representative
  - Show demonstrated interest
- College visits are in person this fall:
  - Open to junior and senior students (only)
  - Students must sign up in Naviance at least 12 hours in advance.
  - A complete list of visiting colleges is updated regularly in **Naviance Student**; encourage students to check the list often



# Walton College Visits

## Meet the President

**Friday, September 3rd 9:30 am**



**Dr. Stuart Bell, president of The University of Alabama, will share informaton on:**

- **The latest admission news**
- **Academic programs**
- **Scholarships**
- **Special opportunities for National Merit Scholars**
  
- **Program open to senior and junior students (only). Sign up in Naviance Student today!**

# Letters of Recommendation

- *Teachers of 11th or 12th grade core academic subjects* who can speak to the ability to do college-level work
- Provide counselor the full, completed senior recommendation packet (available on the school counseling page of [www.waltonhighcounseling.org](http://www.waltonhighcounseling.org) and assigned as part of English summer assignment).
- Please have your child email **only** the teacher form from the recommendation packet to the requested teacher recommender(s).
- Students must give counselors/teachers **3-4 weeks' notice** prior to their first college deadline.
- Students will "invite" their teachers to upload and send recommendation letters through Naviance.
  - **It is important that the student assign the teacher to specific schools and not to "all applications."**

# College Essays

- Considered an integral component of the college application, especially in a holistic review
- No longer viewed as "just" a writing sample
- It is not just a narrative or a resume of what the student has done
- The college essay is the student's megaphone, representing:
  - their voice
  - their personal reflection
  - their view of the world
- The essay should tell a story with passion
  - Use personal, entertaining anecdotes
  - Showcase character, interests, values, life experiences, ambitions and even sense of humor
- The correct spelling, grammar and punctuation are critical
  - Use grammar, syntax and writing with a level of sophistication that shows you're ready for college
  - Never use text-style abbreviations or rude or profane language.

# College Essays & Supplemental Questions

**Provide opportunities to showcase multi-dimensional aspect of student:**

- Explain with knowledge and passion why you want to study at this particular college rather than at others.
  - **Tell why the school's size, curriculum, social atmosphere, location, professors or history influenced your choice.**
- Demonstrate your interest in and passion for a particular major area of study, career or activity (if applicable), referencing:
  - **Internships, summer courses and programs, service projects, extracurricular activities or lab work that show steps your taken to learn about that subject/field/cause.**
- Show how those personal experiences have influenced your point of view, including:
  - **What you learned, what you know now, what you wish you knew, what you would have done differently, how has this event/experience changed your perspective**
- Hafeez Lakhani of Lakhani Coaching summed up the essay this way: “Every college is like a dinner table. What will make you the most interesting contributor to that dinner table conversation? What will make you help everyone else have a more interesting experience?” A good essay, rich with anecdotes and personality, will answer those questions and stand out from the pile.

# Requesting Transcripts: 2 Step Process


- 1. Students must add college they are applying to in Naviance.
  - *Log onto Naviance student account.*
  - *Select the COLLEGES tab.*
  - *Under COLLEGES select “Colleges I’m Applying To” in the “Apply to College” section*
  - *In top right corner, click on “+” icon, and add each college/university. Complete application information per college with deadline and modality of application (Common App, Direct to Institute, etc.)*
  - *Click “Add Application”*

(For Common Application documents, students MUST link their Common App account to their Naviance account--An instructional video on how to do this is located on the student's Naviance homepage.)

- 2. Students bring \$2.00 per college to the Records Room in the Counseling Suite and complete their transcript request card. C.A. schools-do anytime; Direct to Institute Colleges-wait until after apply to college.
  - **It is your student's responsibility to complete ALL parts of the above process, or transcripts will not be sent.**

We began accepting transcript requests on August 16, 2021.

# Application Types: Common App

- The Common App is a free admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of the 900+ member colleges and universities.
- In Naviance, a Common App school is designated by the symbol. 
- Students must first create a common app account on the <https://www.commonapp.org/apply> website, add a college within Common App, complete the FERPA release, and then link their account to their Naviance account.
- With Common App schools, your student can check within their CA college section to see when documents have been sent from Naviance and whether the college has downloaded the documents.

# Application Types: The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success

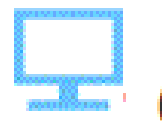
- “The Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success was developed to improve the college application process for all students as they search for and apply to their perfect college. The platform provides a single, centralized toolkit for students to organize, build, and refine their applications to numerous institutions.”
- Free online resources/tools are available on their website: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/>
- Over 140 institutions have joined.
- Students can choose whichever application they feel more comfortable with- no preference given.
- When a student applies via the **Coalition**, they should select **that they are applying “Directly to the Institution”** when adding a college to their “Colleges I’m Applying To” list in Naviance Student



# Application Types:

## College's Own Application

- Some colleges and universities have opted not to accept the Common Application or Coalition Application.
- These school-specific applications are web-based and can be found via the college's undergraduate admissions website. Some Georgia colleges will have the student apply through [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org).
- When a non-Common App school allows us to submit documents through Naviance, we call it "Direct to Institution." A Direct to Institution school is designated by this symbol.





# University of Georgia Admissions

“**Demonstrated academic achievement**” is the primary factor in first-year admission decisions at the University of Georgia. The academic review of first-year applications centers on three criteria:

- Student’s grade point average (GPA) is recalculated based on core academic courses
  - Use a standard 4.0 scale
  - One additional weight point for AP classes; no weight for honors classes
  - "Grades from high school and rigor of school curriculum make up about 75% of our prediction of academic success at UGA"
- Student’s best combination of scores on the SAT or ACT
  - Standardized testing scores make up the remaining 25% of prediction of academic success.

Additionally, applications are reviewed for:

- Satisfactory completion of all courses and completion of the required College Preparatory courses
  - Recommendations
    - Submit a school counselor evaluation letter
    - Optional academic Letter of Recommendation from a teacher . “A good letter of recommendation will be from a source who has seen you demonstrate and can vouch for your ability to complete rigorous academic coursework independently. . . . Less effective letters would be vague and less focused on academic performance. ”
    - Conduct issues
- UGA Admissions link: <https://www.admissions.uga.edu/admissions/first-year/>

# University of Georgia Admissions

## **Additional Factors in Admission Decisions**

UGA's Faculty Admissions Committee has identified several additional factors that may be considered in admission decisions or merit scholarship consideration including:

- excellence in academic achievement, intellectual pursuits, and creative endeavors
- an understanding of and respect for intellectual, social, and cultural differences
- significant commitment to citizenship through public service, school activities, community involvement, leadership, and/or family
- evidence of integrity and personal maturity
- ability to benefit from and contribute to a culturally and intellectually diverse community of scholar-citizens

A more detailed description of the first-year admission process at UGA can be found under First-Year Admission Criteria:

<https://www.admissions.uga.edu/admissions/first-year/first-year-admission-criteria/>

# University of Georgia Admissions

## Early Action or Regular Decision?

- When should I apply? Ask yourself, “Is my application ready now?”
- Applicants for Early Action (EA) and Regular Decision (RD) undergo the same holistic review
- Applicants ready to apply for Early Action are prepared to have their application for admission evaluated based on:
  - Grades through the end of junior year
  - Rigor of a student’s curriculum relative to the curriculum offered at his/her high school
  - Results of either the SAT or ACT taken AND requested by October 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Secondary criteria listed in previous slide

## Why apply early action (Oct 15)?

- Applying through Early Action allows students an expedited process to know an application decision sooner- typically before December 1
- Gives students admitted in EA more time to explore UGA before the commitment deadline

## Three possible decisions released for EA applicants:

- An offer of admission, a deferral of decision, or a denial of admission

## Why apply regular decision (Jan 1)?

- Regular Decision provides applicants an opportunity to be reviewed at a later date
  - Gives students additional time to add any updated test scores
  - Include first semester senior year grades
  - Add any additional supporting information

# UGA Admissions

## Freshman Profile – Class of 2025

- Applications – **39,400**
- Admit rate percentage – **39%**
- GPA – **4.0-4.27**
- SAT scores –**1350-1490\***
- ACT scores – **31-34\***
- # of advanced classes – **7-12**
  
- \*middle 50% for those who choose to submit a standardized test result and asked for them to be included in review

## Walton students

- Applications - **297**
- Accepted students - **125**
- Acceptance rate – **42%**
  
- *Averages of Accepted Walton Students:*
- SAT - **1470**
- ACT - **33**
- GPA – **4.15**
- # of advanced courses – not available

*Check out the [UGA Admissions Blog](#) for updates!*

# Georgia State Admissions

- **Freshman profile for Fall 2021:**
  - **High School Core GPA: 3.3 – 3.8**
  - **SAT: 1030 – 1220**
  - **ACT : 20 – 26**
- **Walton Class enrolling Fall 2021:**
  - **Applied – 188**
  - **Admit – 122**
  - **Enrolled – 48**

**Honors and Scholarship Application Deadline: Novemer 15th**

**Average GPA: 3.93 - 4.1**

**8 – 9 AP, IB, or DE classes**

**Georgia Perimeter Pathway \*\*\* Awesome Opportunity \*\*\***

Students can use the Panther Predictor on the Georgia State website to calculate their Freshman Index : <http://admissions.gsu.edu/panther-predictor/>

# KSU Admissions

- **Walton Class enrolling Fall 2021**
- **Total Applications: 265**
- **Total Accepted: 199**
- **Acceptance Rate: 75%**
- **Avg. SAT/ACT: 1195; 25**
- **Avg. GPA: 3.6**
  
- **Priority deadline – November 1**
- **HONORS College Application – Opens November 1st**
- **If you have a 3.5 or above apply for the Honors Program**

# Financial Aid Planning

- Determine all **college costs** – not just tuition.
- Check the “**Net Price Calculator**” on the college website to determine the EXPECTED Family Contribution (EFC) --
  - \*the estimated amount you will have to pay to attend that institution
- Search for Scholarships
  - **Remember to explore every opportunity.**

# Need Based Financial Aid

- Types of Student Financial Aid
  - *Grants: Federal/State/College*
  - *Loans: Federal (in student's name)*
  - *Loans: Private (in parent's name)*
  - *Work Study Opportunities*
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - *Application available at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)*
  - *Student/Parent: Apply for a PIN at [pin.ed.gov](http://pin.ed.gov)*
  - *FAFSA Submission: *After October 1, 2021**



# Steps to Institutional Aid: *CSS Profile*

- Many private colleges require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA. The CSS Profile is a financial aid application used to determine the family's financial need for **institutional financial aid**.
- Used by about 400 colleges, universities, and scholarship programs, especially private colleges with ED and EA admissions deadlines.
- CSS Profile: *Available October 1, 2021*
  - Fee: \$25 Original Application Fee/One College
  - \$ 16.00 additional college or program
- Comprehensive list of Schools:
  - <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

# Scholarships

- Types of Scholarships
  - Merit, Athletic, Organizational
- Where to look for Scholarship?
  - Prospective College's Websites
  - National Database in Naviance
  - School list in Naviance
    - Check for nominating scholarships
      - i.e. Jefferson, Wells, Belk
      - Scholarship Committee will decide on nominees.
  - Scholarship Websites

# HOPE Requirements

- HOPE Scholarship
  - **3.0 GPA for academic courses: English, Math, Social Studies, Science, and World Language.**
  - **This will qualify students for about 80% of tuition at the Georgia public colleges.**
  - **The money provided to HOPE Scholars varies and depends on the type of institution you are attending and your specific enrollment. Check [www.gafutures.org](http://www.gafutures.org) for details.**
- Zell Miller Scholarship
  - **3.7 GPA for academic courses, 1200 on SAT (Reading and Math, 1 sitting), 26 on ACT (1 sitting)**
  - **Full Tuition at Georgia public colleges.**

*The Class of 2022 is required to have four rigorous courses to be eligible for the HOPE and/or Zell Miller Scholarship. Check [www.GAFutures.org](http://www.GAFutures.org) for a list of rigorous courses and other eligibility criteria.*

**WE MUST HAVE YOUR STUDENT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ON FILE TO SUBMIT ACADEMIC RECORDS FOR HOPE ELIGIBILITY!**

# Financial Aid Night

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

6:30 p.m.

*Virtual presentation – link to be provided*

*Speaker: Mr. Marcus Hilliard,  
Georgia Student Finance Commission*

*FAFSA Virtual Workshop*

*Thursday, November 11th, Time TBD*

# Final Steps and Making a Decision

- Try to visit colleges where your child has been accepted.
- Compare financial aid packages.
- Send your deposit and apply for housing.
- Get ready to graduate!
- Request your final transcript before Graduation

*Congratulations, you're off to college!*

# How to Log into Naviance

## Student access to Naviance

- Access Naviance from Walton website ([www.waltonhigh.org](http://www.waltonhigh.org))
- If your student is using a CCSD computer, then he/she will automatically be logged into Naviance
- To log into Naviance from home, use the following:
  - Microsoft 365 UserName
  - Microsoft 365 Password

## Parent access to Naviance

### **Returning Parents:**


- **If you have set up your Naviance parent account:**
  - Go to <https://id.naviance.com/>; Enter your email address & password
  - Follow “forgot password” link if you don’t know your password
- **If you never set up a Naviance parent account:**
  - Email [Lisa.Fay@cobbk12.org](mailto:Lisa.Fay@cobbk12.org) to request log-in access


### **Parents new to Cobb County Schools:**

- You will receive an email this week with information on how to set up a parent Naviance account

# Naviance Student Homepage

Welcome, Demo Fay!

Search for Colleges 

 Type a college name

SEARCH

## Welcome to Naviance!

Welcome, Walton High students and parents!

Walton High School's Family Connection site is designed to assist our students with college and career planning. Utilizing the tools in the

## My Favorites



COLLEGES  
I'm thinking about



COLLEGES  
I'm applying to

# NCAA Testing Requirements

- NCAA has waived the eligibility requirement for standardized testing for high school students graduating in 2022. “Students who initially enroll full time during the 2022-23 academic year and intend to play NCAA Division I or II athletics will not be required to take a standardized test to meet NCAA initial-eligibility requirements.”
- These standards will be considered automatic waivers, which means students meeting the GPA and core class criteria are academically eligible to receive an athletics scholarship, practice and compete in their first year at an NCAA member school.
- [COVID19 Fall2022 Public.pdf \(ncaa.org\)](#)
- <https://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/ncaa-eligibility-center-announces-flexibility-initial-eligibility-2021-22>



## Division I Schools

- Meet core course progression before starting 7th semester
- Complete 16 core course units in the required subject areas
- Earn a core course GPA of 2.3 or higher in the required subject areas (no testing required for the Class of 2022)
- Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center

• **For more information go to:** <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3>

## Division II Schools

- Complete the 16 core course units in the required subject areas
- Earn a core course GPA of 2.2 or higher in the required subject areas (no testing required for the Class of 2022)
- Submit proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center

# Social Media/Website

- New and Improved Website:
  - <https://www.waltonhighcounseling.com/>



\*Comments are disabled/hidden on social media sites. Contact counselor if have any questions about posted info, since we will not be able to see questions posted on social media.

# QUESTIONS?

Thank you for coming!

We hope your student has a wonderful senior year!

---

We will have a Question & Answer period  
followed by the  
Highly Selective College Presentation  
in **10 minutes.**

There also will be a Q&A period after the  
Highly Selective Presentation as well.

# Highly Selective College Presentation

Will begin in 5 minutes

# HIGHLY SELECTIVE COLLEGES

- What does "highly selective" mean?
  - Colleges that usually admit fewer than 25% of their applicants.
  - Any school that has an acceptance rate of less than 15 percent is a reach school even for the best students, and any school with an acceptance rate of less than 30 percent is still extremely selective.

# What Should You Do If You're Aiming for the Most Selective Colleges?

- There's no magic formula for acceptance.
- They are looking for students who have taken the most challenging curriculum we offer and have done exceptionally well in those classes.

# What should you do:

- Since you're competing with so many applicants, and most of them will have academic credentials that are just as good as yours, you need to find a way to demonstrate your value as a member of the college community that goes beyond grades and test scores.
- These schools appreciate passion, drive, and outside-the-box thinking.

# Ways to STAND OUT from the CROWD

- 1. DEMONSTRATED INTEREST --- cannot emphasize this enough
- 2. TESTING --- still matters –definite advantage for those with strong scores. EXAMPLE: 3 of 4 students accepted at Penn submitted test scores. Even though schools were "test optional" those with scores were stronger candidates than those without.
- 3. GO EARLY --- we continue to see a definite advantage for going Early Action or Early Decision to many schools. In fact, you can sometimes increase your odds of acceptance by 3 or even 4 times increase over regular decision.
- Take Brown University: overall acceptance rate of 5.45%,
- Early round acceptance rate was 15.97%, Regular round was 4.03%



# Standing apart from the crowd

- 4. WHAT IS YOUR "X" FACTOR? --- if everyone has amazing GPA's and Test Scores, what will help you stand out from the crowd?
- Research the schools on your list.
- Find out what the student body make-up is.
- Why are you interested in their school? Is there a specific major that interests you? Or a specific research program?
- What will you bring to make a difference on the college community and city?
- Are you an advocate for a special group?

# Standing out

- 5. RETHINK YOUR "TARGET/MATCH" and "LIKELY" Schools -- with the huge jump in applications, a school that you might have thought was a "Likely" school may now be within your "TARGET/MATCH" schools! If you are one of 35,000 applications, are you ok with those odds?

# Johns Hopkins University

- Great example is their approach:
- "We are looking to create a class of students who have different interests and perspectives because we believe that diversity of thought encourages original research ideas and meaningful collaboration within the Hopkins community."
- Holistic review – building a diverse class
- Check out their video: The Application Explained:
- [Admissions Tips: How We Review Applications - YouTube](#)

# The Tests

- SAT & ACT - optional again this year for many highly selective schools – the vast majority of accepted students had test scores!
- SAT Subject Tests
  - College Board announced earlier this year that it was discontinuing subject tests for all students.
- Optional Tests
  - In lieu of SAT/ACT test scores, and Subject Tests -
    - AP Scores may become more important
    - DE courses also may help you stand out

# The Interview

- **Alumni Interviews:** local alumni will conduct. These are sometimes used for admission, but often they are informational only.
- **Group Interviews:** may be done for scholarship purposes. Some done via Zoom/Teams.
- **Requesting Interviews:** often have a box to check in the application. The interview is scheduled after the application is submitted. Also check the college's website for local events. They sometimes offer interviews when they are in town for an event.
- Requests for interviews to occur on Walton's campus must be coordinated through Ms. Gross.

# The Interview: Tips

- Be yourself.
- Research and prepare.
  - Learn about the school through their website
- Be inquisitive.
  - Ask questions about the major you are interested in, specific departments, things you may not have learned from the website.
- Dress appropriately (business casual).

# The X Factor -- BE Different

- When two applicants appear similar on paper, the one who has "made an effort" to be known has the advantage over the other.
- Colleges want students who are genuinely interested in attending, not ones that are just applying randomly. This has become an important variable.
- “We recommend encouraging students to be true to themselves and to articulate thoughtfully and honestly their intellectual, extracurricular, and personal qualities.” -Stanford

# The X Factor (cont.)

- DO - get on a college's radar if you intend to apply. This will show demonstrated interest!
  - **How?**
    - Sign up for info on their website.
    - Sign up and attend the admissions rep visit at Walton.
    - Make an "official" visit to the school.
    - Attend any function the college hosts in the Atlanta area.
- When contacting admissions for any reason, the student needs to do so, NOT the parent.



# Selective College Scholarships that Require a Nomination

- Certain colleges across the US offer highly selective scholarships for high school seniors that require a nomination from a school official and are typically limited to 1 or 2 nominations per high school. They all require exceptional grades and test scores, active school involvement, and strong leadership experiences.
- **Beyond these qualifications, each one is looking for an outstanding strength or accomplishment such as original scientific research, spearheading a new organization, or an impressive leadership achievement.**

# Selective College Scholarships that Require a Nomination (cont.)

- University of Virginia – Jefferson Scholars
- Davidson College – Belk Scholarship
- Indiana University – Wells Scholars

Other selective scholarships (nomination not required):

- Boston University – Trustee Scholarship
- Washington University in St. Louis – Danforth Scholars
- University of Notre Dame – Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars
- University of North Carolina and Duke- Robertson Scholars

# Georgia Tech Admissions Factors

- Academic Preparation
- Standardized Testing
- Contribution to Community
- Personal Essays
- Recommendations
- Interview – only for non-native English speakers
- Major Selection
- Institutional Fit

Excellent Information on the Georgia Tech website about each of these categories.

# Georgia Tech Admissions

## Class of 2021:

- Applications received: **45,357**
- Admit rate: **32%** Georgia Admit Rate/**14%** Non-Georgia Admit Rate
- *SAT/ACT: Test optional last year; 37%* of applicants reported scores; **21%** of admitted students submitted test scores
- # of advanced classes—not tracked in admission process

## Walton Students:

- Applications: **193**
- Accepted students: **50** (Acceptance rate: **26%**)
- Students offered a Transfer Pathway: **69**
- Overall acceptance: **119** (overall acceptance rate: **62%**)

**Note:** *If a student is an international student (not a US Citizen or Permanent Resident), their application will also be reviewed in their home country cohort. The international admit rate in 2020 was around 7%.*

# Ivies Early vs. Regular Decision

Class of 2025	Overall Acceptance			Early Round Acceptance			Regular Decision Acceptance		
	Admit	Applied	%	Admit	Applied	%	Admit	Applied	%
Brown	2,537	46,568	5.45	885	5,540	15.97	1,652	41,028	4.03
Columbia	2,218	60,551	3.66	650	6,435	10.10	1,568	54,116	2.90
Cornell	5,836	67,000	8.71	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Dartmouth	1,749	28,357	6.17	566	2,664	21.25	1,183	25,693	4.60
Harvard	1,968	57,435	3.43	747	10,086	7.41	1,221	47,349	2.58
Penn	3,202	56,333	5.68	1,194	7,962	15.00	2,008	48,371	4.15
Princeton	1,498	37,601	3.98	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Yale	2,169	46,905	4.62	837	7,939	10.54	1,332	38,966	3.42
<b>Total Ivies</b>	<b>21,177</b>	<b>400,750</b>	<b>5.28</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>

# Selective schools by the #'s

Universities By Alphabet	2025			2024			2023		
	Admit	Applied	%	Admit	Applied	%	Admit	Applied	%
American	NA	NA	NA	7,527	20,072	37.50	6,515	18,500	35.22
Boston College	7,570	39,875	18.98	6,881	29,400	23.40	9,500	35,500	26.76
Boston University	13,884	75,733	18.33	11,278	61,006	18.49	11,260	62,210	18.10
Brown	2,537	46,568	5.45	2,533	36,794	6.88	2,551	38,674	6.60
Caltech	NA	NA	NA	520	8,008	6.49	537	8,367	6.42
Columbia	2,218	60,551	3.66	2,465	40,084	6.15	2,190	42,569	5.14
Cornell	5,863	67,000	8.75	5,514	51,500	10.71	5,183	49,118	10.55
Dartmouth	1,749	28,357	6.17	1,881	21,394	8.79	1,876	23,650	7.93
Duke	2,854	49,517	5.76	3,057	39,783	7.68	3,064	41,613	7.36
Emory	4,343	33,385	13.01	4,827	28,209	17.11	4,512	30,017	15.03
Florida	15,220	52,513	28.98	14,561	49,401	29.48	14,136	41,407	34.14
Georgetown	3,235	27,650	11.70	3,309	21,318	15.52	3,202	22,788	14.05



# QUESTIONS?

Thank you for coming!

We hope your student has a wonderful senior year!