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# What do you want to do?

- College?
- Military?
- Trade school?
- Workforce?
- Still thinking about it?



# There is a place for everyone!



Class of  
26

# Post-Grad Planning

The steps you need to take, when you need to take them

Mrs. Jakubik, College and Career Readiness Advisor

So What Should I Do...And  
When?

# March-August 2025

- Make your college or trade school list based on your goals
- Request fee waivers for college entrance exams or application fees
- Take or schedule your ACT and/or SAT
- Write your college essays
- Update your resume
- Tour your schools if you haven't already
- Consider which teachers you will approach about writing letters of recommendation
- Create your account on your application platform of choice

# September-October 2025

- Reapply for free/reduced lunch if you qualify
- Continue to work on your applications on your platform of choice
- Attend the district college fair on October 1 (Travis HS) or 8 (Marshall HS)
- Complete your FAFSA/TASFA (October) and upload proof in SchoolLinks to satisfy graduation requirement
- Update your SchoolLinks account with your personal email address
- Request teacher letters of recommendation in SchoolLinks
- Request counselor recommendations and/or School Reports in SchoolLinks
- Request initial transcripts in SchoolLinks

# November 2025-February 2026

- Start applying for school-based scholarships
- Submit applications to colleges with November-February deadlines to ensure you don't miss out on scholarships
- Take the ASVAB if you are planning on joining the military
- Ensure mid-year transcripts are sent to your schools who require them (mid-January)
- Bookmark all portals and save the passwords to them

# March 2026-May 2026

- Apply for housing
- Take the TSI if necessary
- Submit all scholarships earned into SchooLinks
- Make final transcript request in SchooLinks
- Register for New Student Orientation at your university
- Schedule your meningitis shot
- Request OnRamps or Dual Credit transcripts from UT or HCC
- Graduate and celebrate!



# Making a List of Colleges and Trade Schools In SchooLinks



# Before You Do Anything...

- Ask yourself...can you get into SchooLinks?
- It's the FBISD software platform that supports students as they navigate their college and career planning process
- Students access SchooLinks through Clever (1Link)
  - Parents can also access SchooLinks with a claim code from their student
- If you have never been in SchooLinks, you need to do that soon!





# How to Make A College List

- Plan to make a list of 5-7 schools
- Two Target Schools, 1 Reach School, two Safety/Likely Schools
- In SchoolLinks, click on Colleges/School Search
- Adjust the filters to meet your needs, based on School Type, Campus Location, Acceptance Rates and more
- Click the heart to add any school to your list of favorites
- Go to Final List and add the colleges from your Favorites list to one of the four categories

# College Admissions and Enrollment Exams

# College Entrance Exams



- Some schools are test-required, some are test-optional
  - Be sure you know what is required for your schools of choice
  - It might change in the summer
- Most schools accept either the SAT or the ACT
  - All FBISD juniors took the SAT on March 5, 2025
  - Test scores can be used for merit-based scholarships
  - Test scores can be used for TSI exemption at public Texas schools
- Students on free/reduced lunch are eligible for a fee waiver
- See me for fee waivers and the testing schedule



# College Enrollment Benchmarks

- Many schools require that students demonstrate college readiness in order to enroll in classes
  - Enrollment is different than admission
- Texas public colleges and universities require students to exhibit this through test scores

**ACT**<sup>®</sup>

Reading & Writing 40  
Math 22

**SAT**<sup>®</sup>

EBRW 480  
Math 530

**TSI**  
TEXAS SUCCESS INITIATIVE

English 945/5 or 910-949/5/5  
Math 950 or 910-949/6

# Creating Your Application

# College Application Platforms

- ApplyTexas
  - [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
  - All Texas public and most Texas private colleges and universities
- Common App
  - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - 20 Texas universities and more than 1000 others worldwide
- Coalition Application
  - [www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org](http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org)
  - Six Texas universities and more than 175 others nationally
- Common Black College Application
  - [www.commonblackcollegeapp.com/](http://www.commonblackcollegeapp.com/)
  - More than 50 HBCUs on one application
- College and university websites
  - Many schools have their own application process
- Regardless of which platform you choose, please create your account with your personal email address
  - Your school email address will shut down at graduation and you might need access to these sites afterward





# The College Application Process



# College Application Deadline Types

- Early Decision
  - A *binding* commitment in which if you are accepted, you are obligated to attend
  - You can only apply to *one* school
  - Most ED deadlines are in November. Only apply if school is your top choice and you are sure you will attend
- Early Action
  - Non-binding commitment and you can apply to multiple schools
  - Most EA deadlines are in November-January
  - Restricted Early Action allows only one application but is not binding like ED
- Priority
  - Non-binding and you can apply to multiple schools
  - Most Priority deadlines are in November or December and will provide early consideration for scholarships
- Regular
  - Deadlines are in January or February and you can apply to multiple schools



# College Application Process

- Submit your application using your platform of choice
- Make sure that your application is listed in SchoolLinks
- Log in to your college portals as soon as you receive login information
- Pay your application fee or request a fee waiver in SchoolLinks
- Send test scores through College Board or ACT, if applicable
- Request teacher/counselor recommendations in person and follow up with SchoolLinks request


# College Apps in SchooLinks




- College apps must be added to SchooLinks in order to request transcripts, recommendations and application fee waivers and so that counselors can complete required Common App documentation
- Adding a college application to SchooLinks will automatically trigger a transcript request

1 Incomplete

Edit an application below to **request recommendations** or **update checklist**.

 The University of Texas at San Antonio


Regular Decision | Jun 1


 0/2


6 Completed & pending

Select a completed application below to **update results** or **track documents**.

6 Awaiting


 University of Houston


 Texas State University


 Texas Tech University

6 Accepted

Be sure to upload **award letters** and add an **enrollment decision**.

 Houston Community College

 Prairie View A & M University

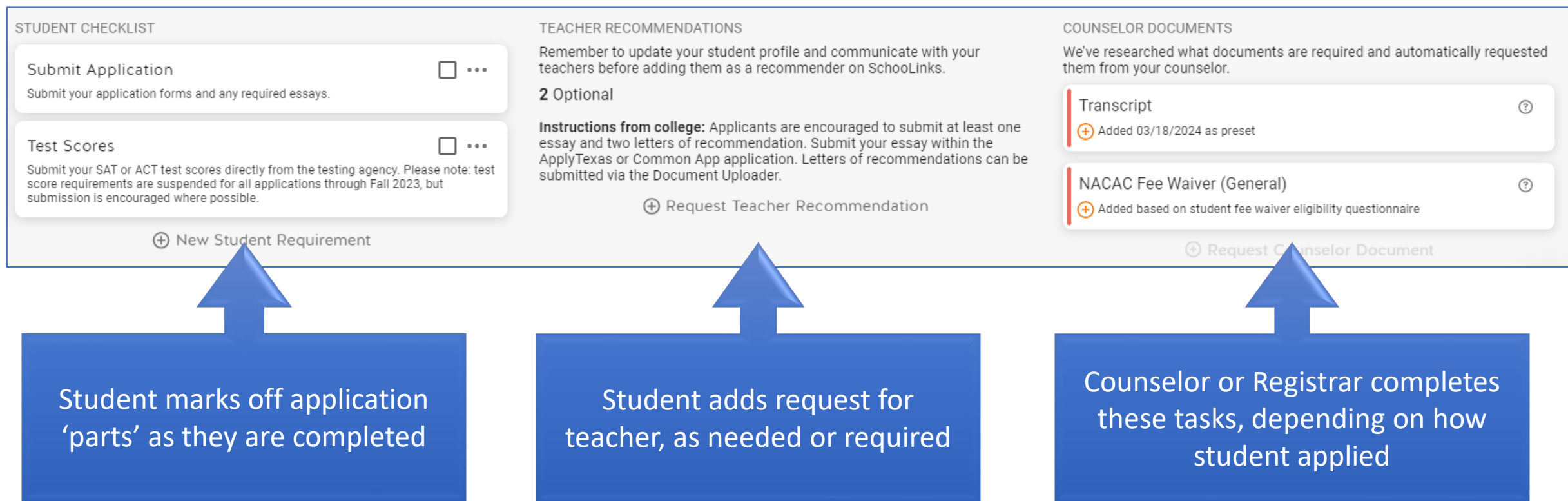
 Sam Houston State University

Enrolling



# College Apps in SchooLinks

- Expanded view of College Applications page





# What is Holistic Review?

- Holistic review looks at the entire student in and out of the classroom
- The review committee will examine the traditional test scores and classroom grades, but will also assess the applicant's achievements, work experience, extracurricular activities, essays and more
  - It looks at who the student is in their heart and in their head
- Pro: It provides colleges an expanded look at a student beyond the traditional
- Con: It takes longer to receive admissions decisions as the committees take adequate time to review
- While some schools still have auto-admit based on numbers, more and more are incorporating the holistic process to round out their student body



# How Important are Essays?

- Most colleges require at least one essay from applicants
- Common App, ApplyTexas and the Coalition app all have released their 2025-26 essay questions
  - You can find them on my website
- Start looking at them now and be thinking about what you will write
- Think about how you can share who *you* are with the admissions committee

# Transcripts and Ranking





# Ranking

- FBISD provides rank and quartile to a student separate from the transcript
  - The rank document is available in the Skyward Portfolio tab
- Juniors will next be ranked in June 2025, and again in September 2025
  - A transcript will also be run in September that includes all coursework up to and including summer 2025
  - This transcript and rank will be used for most college applications
- Students will have the ability in SchoolLinks to select if they want their rank shared with colleges
  - Please note that once a student has selected this option, they cannot change it



# Requesting Transcripts

- Unofficial transcripts can be found in your Skyward Portfolio or in SchooLinks under School/Record Requests
- Official transcripts are automatically requested in SchooLinks when you add a college application
- Need a transcript for a scholarship or a coach? Go to School/Record Request and select “Send official transcript” at the top
- Need a dual credit or OnRamps transcript? Request directly from HCC or UT for each school you’re applying to

**FBISD Policy: A student/parent cannot request an *official* transcript to be handed to them. They may only receive *unofficial* ones.**

# Scholarships and Financial Aid



# What are Scholarships?

- Scholarships are free money that the student does not have to pay back
- They can bridge the gap between the Cost of Attendance (COA) and the amount of money the student has saved for college or trade school
- Academic scholarships are based on GPA, test scores and academic achievements
- Merit scholarships stem from success in sports, arts or community service
- Needs-based scholarships support students who demonstrate financial need
- Specialized scholarships are targeted at specific demographics, majors or career paths
- Scholarships can be funded by colleges or external organizations such as the Houston Rodeo
- More to come when we meet in the fall

# Letters of Recommendation



# Letters of Recommendation

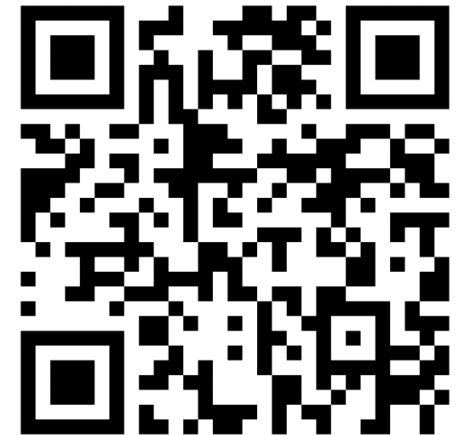
- Valuable tool in the holistic application process
- Know what your college or trade school requires
- Recommendation letter timeline
  - Now: identify and reach out to 2-3 recommendation letter writers
  - Senior fall: apply to colleges
  - Senior fall: In SchooLinks, make an official request to the letter writer.
- Recommendations will be uploaded into SchooLinks and sent directly to the student's school (not given to the student)
- I will train all RPHS staff on how to upload into SchooLinks

# What Do Lunch and College Have in Common?



# Free and Reduced Lunch: More Than Meals!

- If you qualify for Free and Reduced lunch your SAT and ACT fees, along with many college admissions fees, could be waived
  - If you're taking four admissions tests at about \$50 each, that's \$200
  - Admissions fees are between \$0 and \$95, so applying at 10 colleges could cost nearly \$1000
- How do you apply for a fee waiver?
  - Review the qualifications on the CCR website
  - Complete the form on the site





# Military Bound



# Military Service

- Military academies are highly competitive and prepare students for service in the officer corps of the Army, Navy or Air Force
  - The US Military Academy at West Point, the US Naval Academy, the US Air Force Academy
- The Reserved Officer Training Corps is a college-based program for training commissioned officers of the United States armed forces.
  - The ROTC scholarship is viable at many different colleges and universities and includes full tuition benefits
- Enlistment in active duty or in the reserves requires a commitment for 4-5 years, depending on the branch
- I can assist with:
  - Connecting you with a local recruiter
  - Helping to identify the variety of MOSs available that are tailored to your skill set
  - Registration for a local ASVAB administration to identify an appropriate military career

# Your Homework



# Your Homework

- Review the essay prompts draft responses for 1-2
- Sign up for your SAT/ACT tests if you still need one
- Create a personal email that belongs to only you
- Think about who you will ask for letters of rec and talk to them in advance
- Create your college/trade school list. Use the research filters in SchoolLinks. Check all deadlines and set reminders in your phone
- Have a parent apply for free/reduced lunch if you qualify
- Update your resume with education, employment and community service

And...Whew!



# Do you still have questions?

- That's OK!
- How do you get them answered?
  - Review Mrs. J's website
  - Come visit Mrs. J in the CCR Center (K145)
  - Email Mrs. J
  - Follow RPHS CCR on Instagram and Twitter



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Scan here for the website!