



College Planning Night Part II

**College Planning Resources | College Preparation
| College Essay | Spring 2024**

College Planning Part I
was scheduled for
January, but was canceled
due to weather
conditions.

Junior Focus Day happened
this morning ~

Amazing opportunity for juniors and their
post-secondary plans.

Session Topics Included:

- College Admissions Q&A
- College Application Essentials
- Employment Resources
- Exploring Your Strengths
- Finding Fit in the College and/or Career Process
- Meaningful Experiences: Volunteering & Internships
- Resume Building
- Two-Year College Options & Certificate Programs

Academic Advising

- ★ **Academic Advising is now complete.**
- ★ **During Academic Advising, school counselors met with students for their course selections for next school year.**
- ★ **As part of this meeting, school counselors also discussed plans for life after high school.**
- ★ **If students would like to update their courses or have additional questions, please have them reach out to their counselor.**

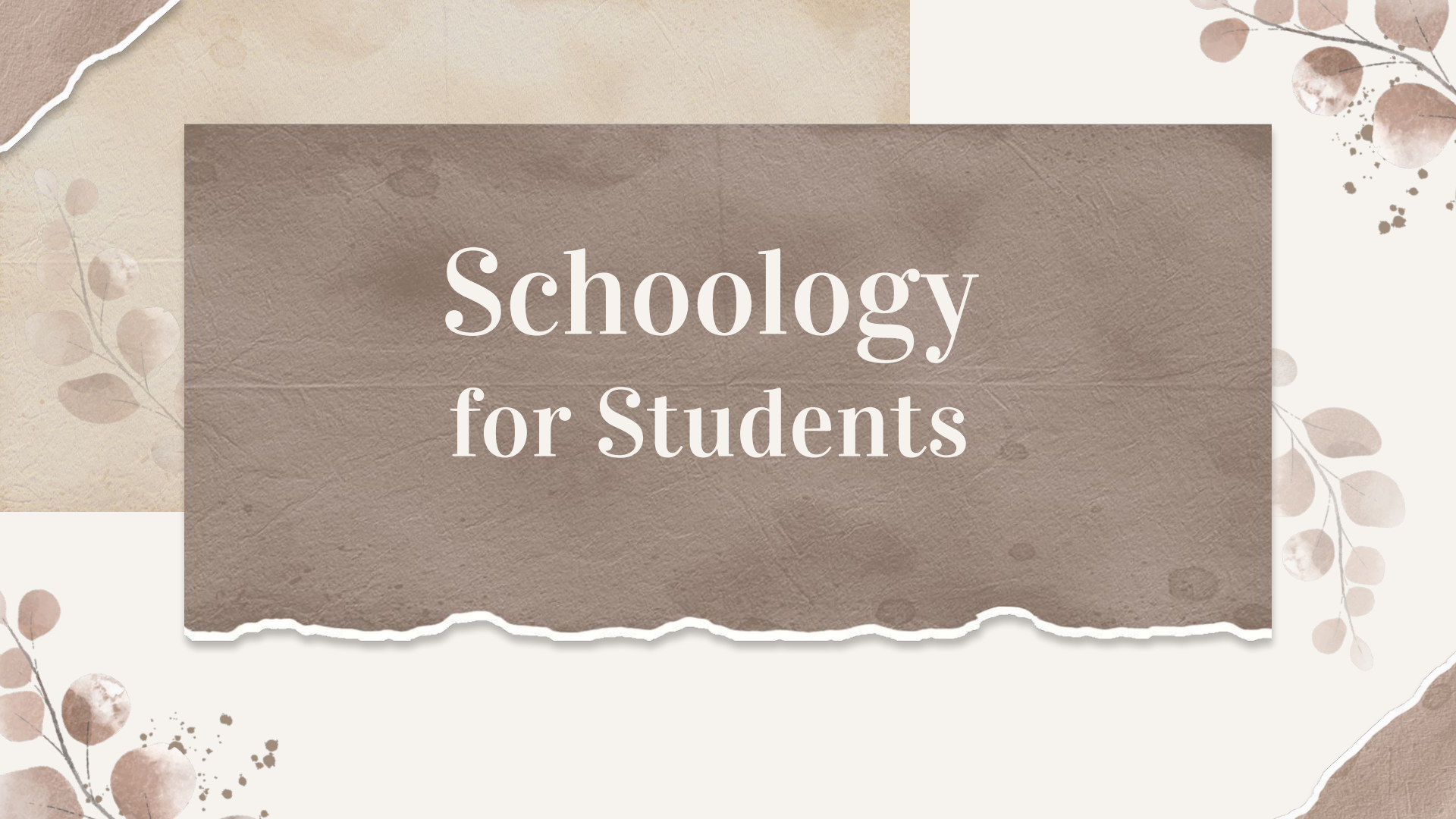


College Planning Resources

What Should I Be Doing Now?

College Research

- ★ Explore college websites to gather information
- ★ Submit “Request Information” forms online for colleges you are interested in
- ★ Visit colleges & attend college fairs: Attend virtual or in person information sessions/college tours/open house events. Check college websites for updates and related information for the colleges you are interested in.
- ★ Follow social media outlets for colleges of interest
- ★ Enjoy the process of researching colleges
- ★ Create a system to keep college information organized, include deadlines!
- ★ Use [Naviance](#): College Search, Scattergrams, JMHS Acceptance History & more
- ★ Use the resources in [Schoology](#)

The background features a collage of brown paper textures. A large, dark brown rectangular area with a deckled bottom edge is centered, containing the title text. The surrounding areas are lighter brown and decorated with faint, artistic illustrations of branches and circular leaves or berries. The overall aesthetic is warm and rustic.

Schoolology for Students

Schoolology for Students



Madison Student Services 2023-24

Student Services: Madison High School

Madison High School

Materials

- Updates
- Grades
- Mastery
- Members
- Lucidchart
- Tutor.com
- Zoom

Information

Grading period
2023-2024XYR

All Materials

- [Jobs, Volunteer, Scholarships & Enrichment](#)
- [Class of 2025](#)
- [Class of 2024](#)
- [College & Career Center](#)
Jobs | Volunteer | Enrichment | Scholarships | Apprenticeships | Career Prep | College Prep | College Essay | College Interview | College Essay | Military, ROTC, ASVAB | Resumes
- [Gap Year Information](#)
- [NOVA | Northern Virginia Community College](#)
- [Money for College | Financial Aid & Scholarships](#)
Opportunities Booklets | School and Local Scholarship Applications | Scholarship Info for Military Families
- [Standardized Testing \(SAT, ACT, TOEFL\) & Test Prep/Tutor Info](#)
SAT | ACT | TOEFL | FREE Tutor.com | Test Prep & Tutor List
- [x2Vol | Service Learning | Naviance](#)



Naviance for College & Career Planning

Naviance

STUDENTS & PARENTS have access to Naviance, a college and career planning tool. JMHS specific college statistics are in Naviance. www.fcps.edu/naviance

The screenshot displays the Naviance website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for Home, Self-Discovery, Courses, Careers, **Colleges** (highlighted with a red circle), and Planner. A user profile icon and the text "11th Grade" are visible on the right side of the navigation bar.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Demo's Future Planning:** A large banner with the text "Plan Your Future" and a sub-headline "Quickly access your path highlights, favorite information from your school, and more from this page." Below the banner is an illustration of a school building with green graduation caps flying around it.
- Find Your fit:** A list of tools including SuperMatch College Search, Scattergrams, Advanced College Search, and College Lookup.
- Research Colleges:** A list of options including Colleges I'm Thinking About, College Visits, College Compare, Enrichment Programs, and College Maps.
- Apply to College:** A list of options including Colleges I'm Applying To and Test Scores.
- Scholarships & Money:** A list of options including College-Specific Scholarships, Scholarship Search, and Favorite Scholarships.

Below the main content area, there are two "Career Goals" cards: "Librarians and Media Collections Specialists" and "Pharmacy Technicians".

The "College Path Highlights" section features a search bar with the text "Search for a College" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter name" and a magnifying glass icon.

On the right side of the page, there is a "Ready to get started?" section with a list of tasks:

- Check if there are any Tasks in your need to complete.
- Take a self assessment in the Self-
- Explore the tool on your own!

Below this is the "Tasks from My School" section, which includes a "Task Or To-Do" list with three items:

- Grade 11 SMART Goal Survey Task
- Grade 11 SMART Goal Task
- Complete/Revise Game Plan Task



Naviance | COLLEGE HOME PAGE | www.fcps.edu/naviance

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Fairfax, VA, United States
gmu.edu

Communicate ▾ Apply Online Learn More ▾

Overview Studies Student Life Admissions Costs

AVERAGE NET PRICE
\$24,730
Family Income
> \$110k ▾
More about Cost & Aid
from 2023

GRADUATION RATE
47%
4 Year 6 Year
More about learning environment
from 2023

ACCEPTANCE RATE
90%
Check out Scattergrams to see how this relates to you
from 2023

NEXT DEADLINE
November
1
Fall 2024 Term
Early Action Deadline
See all deadlines

Quick Facts

Website	gmu.edu
School Type	Public / Four Year School
CEEB Code	5827
ACT Code	4357
Undergraduate Enrollment	27,019
Student-to-Faculty Ratio	16 to 1
Average Classroom Size	30.1
Campus Surroundings	Suburb
Religious Affiliation	Not Applicable
Online Programs	Offered
Degrees Offered	Bachelor's Graduate Certificate Master's Doctorate

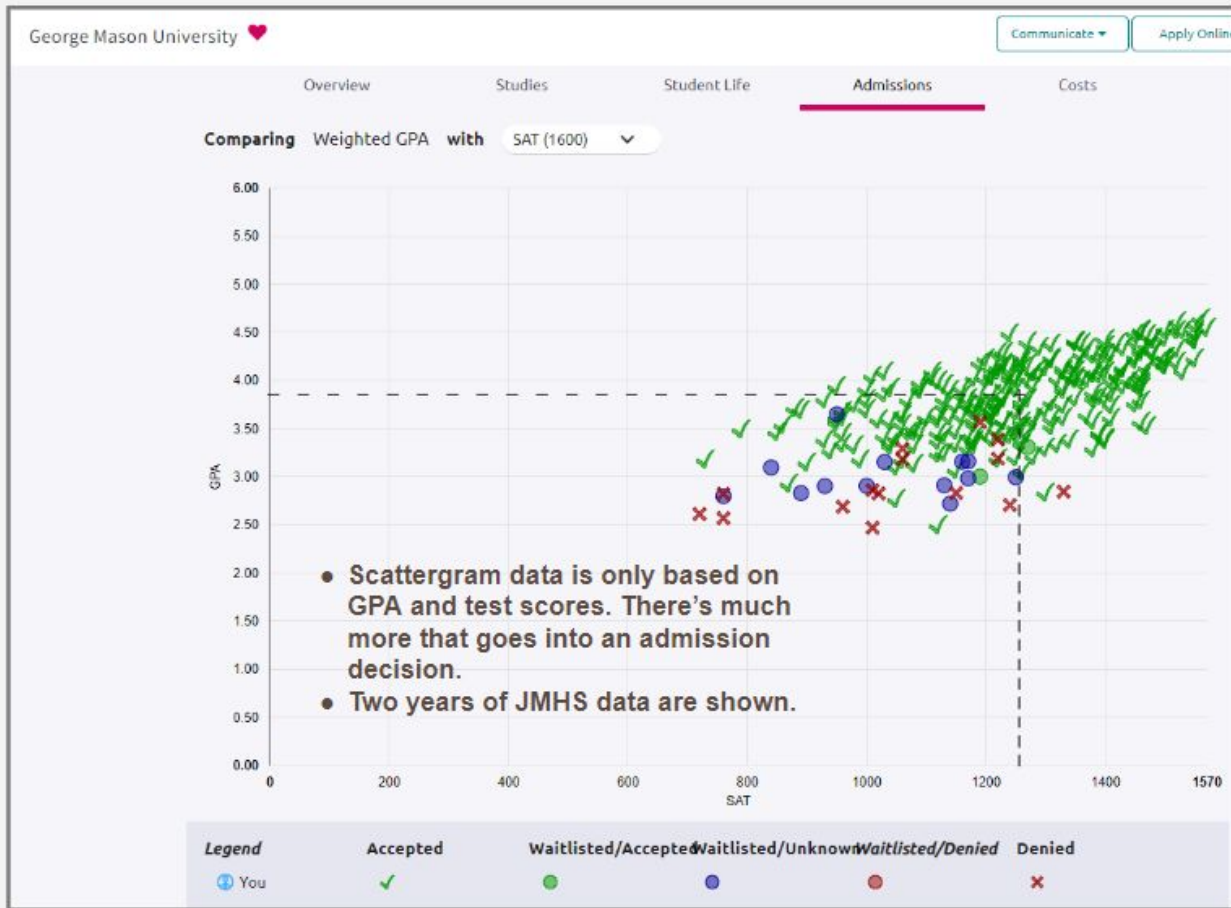


Naviance | COLLEGES I'M THINKING ABOUT | www.fcps.edu/naviance

The screenshot displays the Naviance interface for the 'Colleges I'm Thinking About' section. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Self-Discovery', 'Courses', 'Careers', 'Colleges', and 'Planner'. The 'Colleges' menu is expanded, with 'Research Colleges' circled in red. Below this, a list of colleges is shown with columns for 'College', 'Delivery Type', 'Added By', 'Application Deadlines', and 'Interest'.

College	Delivery Type	Added By	Application Deadlines	Interest
<input type="checkbox"/> Auburn University		Student	Deadlines	N/A More
<input type="checkbox"/> Clemson University		Student	Deadlines	N/A More
<input type="checkbox"/> George Mason University		Student	Deadlines	N/A More
<input type="checkbox"/> Longwood University		Student	Deadlines	N/A More
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Mary Washington		Student	Deadlines	N/A More
<input type="checkbox"/> University of South Carolina-Columbia		Student	Deadlines	N/A More
<input type="checkbox"/> University of Virginia Main Campus		Student	Deadlines	N/A More

Naviance | SCATTERGRAMS | www.fcps.edu/naviance



College Match

Colleges Other Students Like

Colleges That Have Accepted Students Like You

Why am I seeing these colleges?

We have analyzed applications from thousands of High Schools to determine what colleges are most likely to overlap with the colleges on your favorites list when students apply.

STUDENTS WHO APPLY TO

George Mason University

22021 applications analyzed

Also apply to...

James Madison University

91 miles from your school



Favorite

Also apply to...

Virginia Commonwealth University

93 miles from your school



Favorite

Also apply to...

Virginia Tech

206 miles from your school



Favorite

Also apply to...

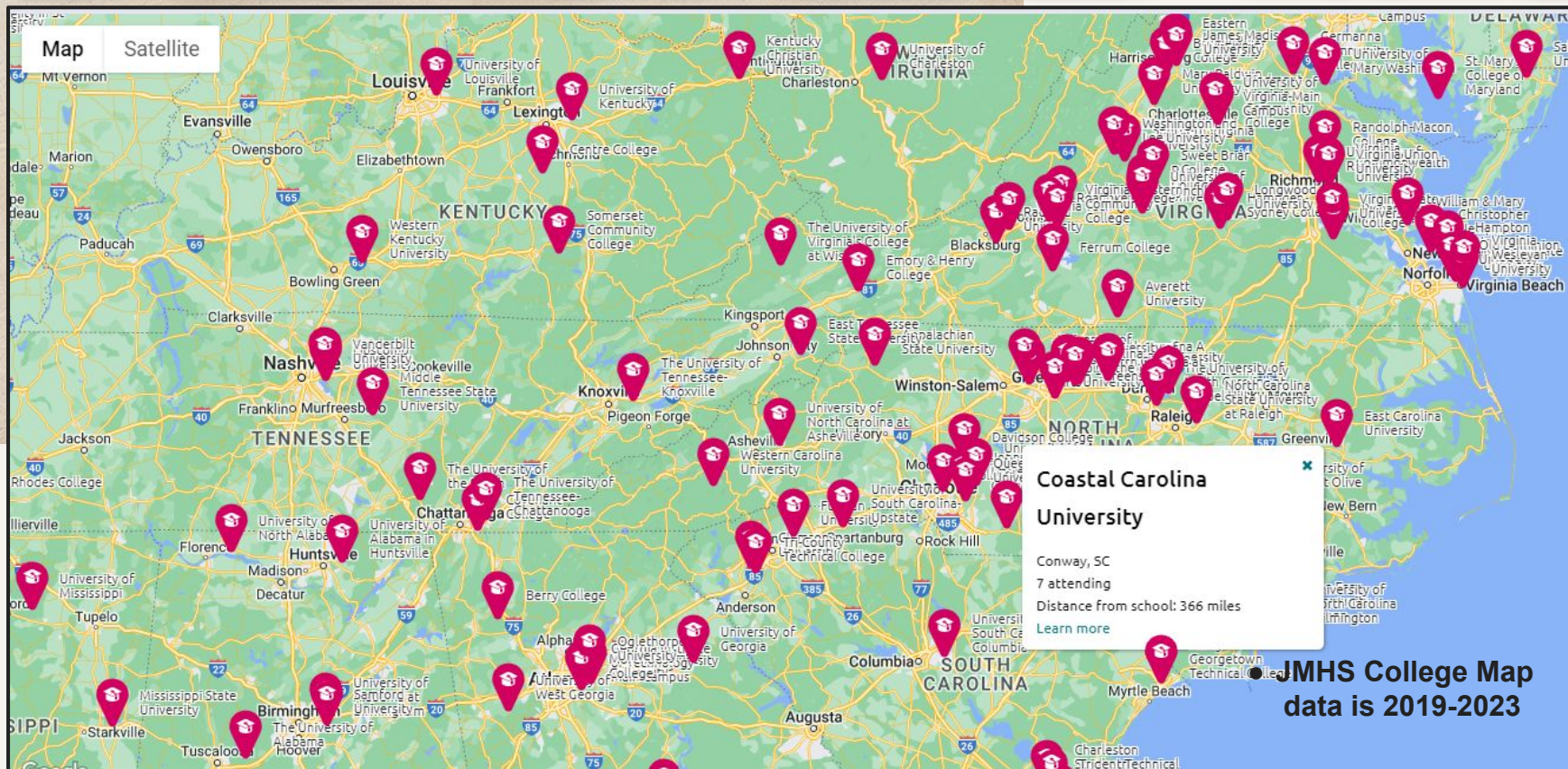
University of Virginia-Main Campus

89 miles from your school



Favorite

Naviance | COLLEGE MAPS | www.fcps.edu/naviance



FCPS College & Career Resources



College and
Career
Resources

Home

▼ College

Financial Aid

Employment

Military

Gap Year Programs



COLLEGE AND CAREER RESOURCES



College
RESOURCES



Financial Aid
RESOURCES



Employment
RESOURCES



Military



Gap Year



**Training &
Apprenticeships**

Service Learning

Service Learning Hours | x2VOL

x2VOL is the tool that FCPS middle and high schools use to support students with finding, tracking, and verifying service hours electronically. Students login to x2VOL through [this Naviance link](#).

- ✓ Students should track their hours in [x2VOL](#).
- ✓ Students are [able to earn a diploma](#) in the Commonwealth of Virginia [without completing service hours](#)
- ✓ 40 hours = black service learning cord to wear at graduation.
- ✓ 50 hours with additional criteria = apply for [The Board of Education's Seal of Excellence in Civics Education](#)
- ✓ 50 exclusive hours related to science service with additional criteria = apply for [The Science & Environmental Seal](#)
- ✓ Students who do not complete yearly service hours or who complete fewer than 40 hours over the course of high school will still be able to graduate
- ✓ **Seniors must log their hours no later than April 19, 2024 to receive credit for the black service learning cord.**
- ✓ **Hours served after July 1 (prior to entering 9th grade) may be applied towards high school service learning hours.**

Notes:

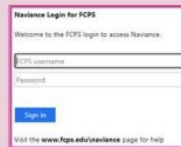
- When adding hours in x2VOL, if you are involved in a youth service organization such as, NCL, YMSL, JVL, Scouts, etc., **create ONE entry for the total number of hours you are claiming.** In the description you should list the dates, hours served, specific organization or project (if applicable) and any additional details.
- If you volunteer on a consistent basis at your church, a local non-profit or other organization, **create ONE entry for the total number of hours you are claiming.** In the description you should list the dates, hours served and any additional details.

HOW TO ACCESS x2VOL:

1. Go to the Naviance login page, www.fcps.edu/naviance



2. Log into your account.

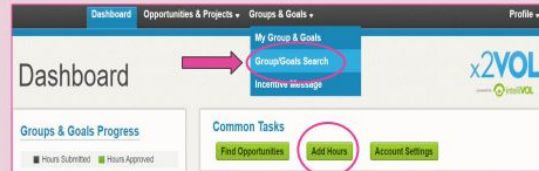


3. Click on the Careers tab and select "x2VOL"

If you have never signed into x2VOL, follow the prompts and complete your profile. ****Assign yourself to the Class of (year you will graduate)**** and this information will be verified by JMHS.

4. The Dashboard is where you will Add Hours, Find Opportunities, View Groups & Goals Progress.

You can also search for a specific Honor Society and/or club to join that group.



Students must use x2VOL to get credit for their service learning hours.

Class of 2025 College Guide | AVAILABLE FALL 2024 |

2023-2024 version available [here](#)

JMHS Seniors and Families ~

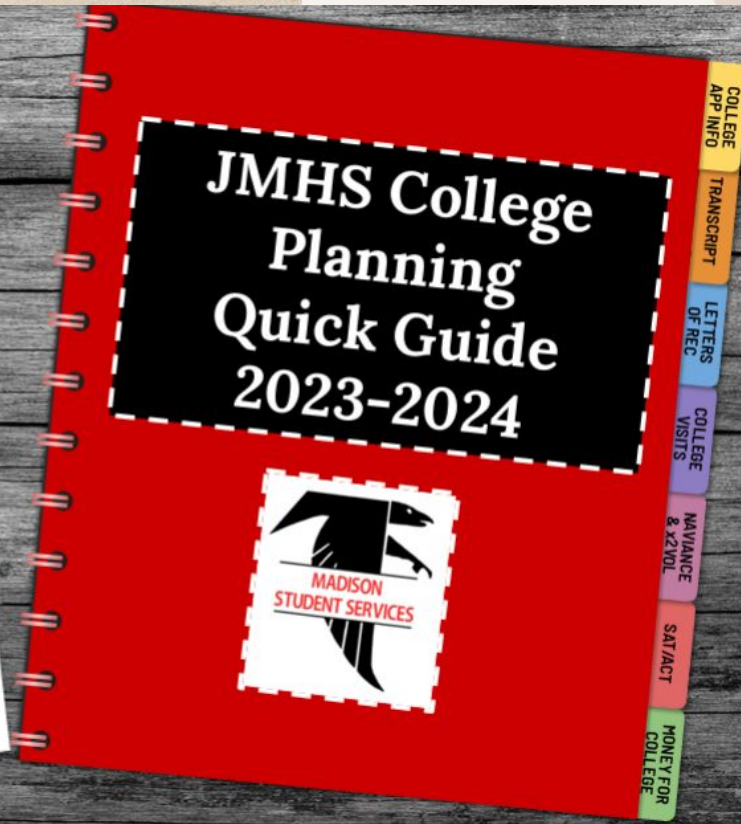
We look forward to working with you in the college planning process!

This Quick Guide has been created to provide basic information for college planning.

The Student Services Schoology Course will also have many additional resources for post-secondary planning.

-JMHS Student Services


9/2023



Class of 2025 College Guide | AVAILABLE FALL 2024 | 2023-2024 version available [here](#)

COLLEGE APP INFO
TRANSCRIPT
LETTERS OF REC
COLLEGE VISITS
NAVIGANCE & X2VOL
SAT/ACT


Money for College



The FAFSA is changing. This section will be updated as information is received.

The 2024-25 *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) includes unprecedented changes to how students and families apply for federal student aid and how we determine eligibility, giving students a better and simpler experience with the FAFSA form. Improvements include a direct data exchange with the IRS for income data elements, a new “Who’s My Parent?” wizard, and a single consolidated portal for all FAFSA help resources.

Types of Aid and Eligibility Video



Better FAFSA Better Future Video

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

College Access Fairfax
Opening Doors to the Future

STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Class of 2025 College Guide | AVAILABLE FALL 2024 | 2023-2024 version available [here](#)

COLLEGE APP INFO
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SAT/ACT
MONEY FOR COLLEGE

Money for College

School Based (JMHS) Scholarships for Seniors

These scholarships, ~~once they become available~~, will be advertised to students with eligibility requirements, additional details and application due dates. **These scholarships are based on the previous school year, please note that any changes will be reflected when the scholarship application is available for the current school year.**

JMHS PTSA Making a Difference Scholarship: Three seniors will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship for "Making a Difference" (i.e. involvement at school, volunteer work, community service, paid work such as babysitting, helping their families, or other ways of enriching the lives of others). Seniors who plan to attend a two-year or four-year college or a professional/technical school. Essay (500 words or less) required explaining what you did to "Make a Difference" in the lives of others. Letter of recommendation also required.

JMHS Athletic Boosters Warhawk Pride Scholarship: Four \$1,000 scholarships will be presented to JMHS athletes who best exemplify Warhawk Pride. Scholarships will be awarded to four senior athletes. Athlete must be a current senior who plans to attend a two or four-year college or professional technical school. Any athlete receiving a full academic scholarship is not eligible. Minimum GPA of 2.5 through the first semester of senior year.

The **Kristin Kylo Dream Big Memorial Scholarship**, Two \$5,000 scholarships are available for JMHS seniors who are planning to attend a four-year institution. The application requires a one page typed essay about yourself, life experiences and brief description of your financial need. Clearly write about how this scholarship would make a difference for your future education. This essay should focus on you and your situation.

The **Lenny Schultz Scholarship** will award a \$2,000 scholarship to a student planning to attend a two-year or four-year college, who has played football **and/or** wrestled **or** who has been a team manager for either of these two sports **or** any student in the special education program who has uplifted others in the community, school, or other involvements. The application requires a one page typed essay, resume, and a letter of recommendation.

Disclaimer: Advertisement of this opportunity does not constitute sponsorship or endorsement of the sponsoring organization or the enrichment opportunity by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or a specific FCPS school. This opportunity may utilize a technology tool that has not been assessed by the Fairfax County Public Schools Department of Information Technology. Students should gain permission from their parent or guardian before engaging in any non-FCPS enrichment opportunity and families should review and agree to the Terms of Service and User Agreements for any technology platform that enrichment opportunity may use before participating.

★ School Based Scholarships

★ Local Scholarships

Local Scholarships

This scholarship offers up to **\$5,000 (\$2,500 per semester)** per student for expense towards an Associate Degree at NOVA or a Certificate Program as part of a need-based scholarship is to help students further their education with potential if criteria is met.

Vienna Optimist Essay Contest: The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna sponsors an annual Essay Contest for high school students. Amount is **\$1,000 with potential for up to \$2,500**. Available for students in grades 9-12.

Vienna Optimist Clyde Rees and Paul Booze Vocational Scholarship, \$2,500: The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna sponsors a scholarship for students who plan to pursue an apprenticeship, trade or technical school or occupational field, such as, plumbing, auto mechanic, auto repair, carpenter, HVAC technician, electrician, cosmetologist, culinary arts practitioner/chef, etc..

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Scholarship, \$1,000: Applicants must have been accepted at an accredited college, university or technical school. 500 word essay on the benefits of volunteering in a community.

Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) Scholarship, \$2,500: <http://vys.org/offering-vys-scholarships> VYS will award two scholarships to high school seniors who have participated as players in the Club and plan to further their education at a college or university. Seniors who have demonstrated exceptional standards of sportsmanship, dedication, leadership, community service, and/or perseverance.

VVI Scholarship/MVP Awards: <http://vvi.org/Page.asp?n=5460>. Visit www.vvi.org for details.

VHSL Allstate Achievement Scholarship, \$1,500: <https://www.vhsl.org/scholarships/> is awarded to seniors who have excelled in the classroom and in athletic and academic activities.

VHSL Saveged Award, \$500: <https://www.vhsl.org/scholarships/> is awarded to a senior who has participated and excelled in school publications (magazines, newspapers, yearbooks) and for at least two years demonstrated outstanding personal qualities such as leadership, writing proficiency, design aptitude, creativity, teamwork, and character.

VHSL Vito Perriello Citizenship Award, \$1,000: <https://www.vhsl.org/scholarships/> is awarded to a senior who has demonstrated outstanding traits of citizenship in their high school career. Student must have previously participated in one or more VHSL activities which can include serving as an athletic training student aide (ATSA) with a Virginia licensed athletic trainer within their high school.

COLLEGE
APP INFO

TRANSCRIPT

LETTERS OF
REC

COLLEGE
VISITS

NAVIANCE &
x2 VOL

SAT/ACT

MONEY FOR
COLLEGE

Money for College

Local Scholarships (continued)

College Access Fairfax: <https://collegeaccessfairfax.org/scholarships/> College Access Fairfax offers quite a few scholarships to FCPS students.

DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Good Citizens Program and Scholarship is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. Students must actively demonstrate the qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. This award is open to all students in the senior class. Award amount is typically \$1,000 with potential to receive more. From the applicant pool, JMHS may nominate one student to receive this award.

Federal Water Quality Association (Environmental or Engineering), \$2,000: Awarded to graduating seniors who plan to pursue environmental careers.

Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award, \$20,000: Seniors who demonstrate a combine excellence of character, qualities of leadership and good citizenship. If selected, recommendation is required to be written by the principal or school counselor. E. Virginia may nominate one graduating senior for the Harry F. Byrd Leadership Award. From the applicant pool, one JMHS student will be selected and submitted to the sponsor. <https://byrdleadershipaward.org/>

Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators and Coaches Association (NVADACA) Scholarships: Seniors who have participated in a Virginia High School League sanctioned sport, cheerleaders or those who served as team managers or athletic trainers. Visit <http://www.nvadaca.org/scholarship-applications/> for details. Students who receive a full athletic grant are not eligible for a NVADACA Scholarship. NVADACA considers GPA, rigor or academic program, extent of athletic involvement, athletic contributions to team(s), contributions to school, community, church and work, writing skills, leadership and financial need. Financial need encompasses any family-perceived financial need. This may include other siblings in college, temporary unemployment, medical bills, overall low family income, etc. From the applicant pool, JMHS will forward selected nominees to the NVADACA Scholarship Committee. Last year scholarships were offered in the amount of \$4,000.

Note: When a scholarship comes along that is school based, county based or local, information will be advertised/posted in Naviance and the Schoology Madison Student Services Course.

Local Scholarships (continued)

Reston Hospital Scholarship, \$1,000: Seniors who will pursue a career in a health care-related field: Medicine, nursing, physical therapy, etc. One senior will be selected for this award. Students must submit a resume of related experiences in health care, such as, volunteering, coursework, efforts, accomplishments, research, etc. that you have been involved with. Only include items on your resume that are related to your efforts in health care. Be sure to include where you will be attending college and the major you will pursue. Students must also submit a brief statement about why you chose the field of study (not an essay, just one paragraph.) From the applicant pool, JMHS will forward selected nominee to the sponsor.

W. Harold Ford Scholarship Foundation, Teaching Scholarship, \$2,000: This is a local scholarship for with at least a 2.7 GPA who plan to attend a four-year college that offers a teacher certification program, major in education and plan to teach after college graduation. From the applicant pool, two JMHS student applications will be selected and submitted to the sponsor. www.fcps.org/scholarships for details.

FCPS Facilitated Scholarships

These scholarships are typically submitted to the JMHS College & Career Center. From the applicant pool, JMHS will forward selected nominees to FCPS for consideration.

Emily and Fred Ruffing ACCA Scholarship, \$2,000 per semester/renewable: This is a renewable, per semester, award. Available to a senior with a disability and academic achievement. Must plan to attend college full time. JMHS will submit all applications to FCPS.

Granville P. Meade, \$2,000/renewable: This is a renewable award for "worthy and needy" students going to a Virginia college or university. An undisclosed number of awards are available to VA seniors who are financially unable to attend college. Must attend a VA public or private college and be a VA resident. JMHS will submit all applications to FCPS.

Laura Ashley Piper Scholarship, \$1,000: Demonstrated integrity, leadership, service to school and community, academic excellence, athletic merit. JMHS will submit one application to FCPS.

Michell Merhige, \$1,500: Provide recognition and financial assistance to a FCPS graduating senior who demonstrates academic strength and potential, an ability to overcome adversity and a financial need. Priority will be given to those who have experienced homelessness, been in foster care or lacked substantial family support. JMHS will submit all applications to FCPS.

★ FCPS Facilitated Scholarships

★ And More!

Financial Aid Programs

College Access Fairfax

- ★ **Scholarships 101** is an overview of the scholarship application process. Learn how to search, apply and find scholarships and tips for a successful scholarship application.
- ★ **Paying for College** is designed to help current seniors and their families understand the financial aid process. Topics to be covered include the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), types of financial aid, scholarships, loans, definitions of frequently used terms, and timelines.
- ★ **FAFSA Line By Line** is an explanation of what information for each line of the FAFSA. FAFSA completion events will also be offer by College Access Fairfax.

Additional CAF Programs:

Financial Aid Nights | Understanding Award Letters
CSS Profile | FAFSA Completion





College Preparation

Factors in College Admissions

NACAC State of College Admission Report

1. Grades in College Prep Courses
2. Grades in All Courses
3. Strength of Curriculum
4. Positive Character Attributes
5. Essay
6. Student's Interest in Attending
7. Counselor Letter of Recommendation
8. Teacher Letter of Recommendation
9. Extracurricular Activities
10. Class Rank (N/A for FCPS Students)
11. Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)

College List | Applications

- ★ Begin to finalize your list of colleges. Be prepared to share your list of colleges in the fall with your school counselor.
- ★ Enter your college list in [Naviance](#), “*Colleges I’m Thinking About*”
- ★ Identify a broad range of colleges and their admission difficulty. You want a balance and range of colleges you are planning to apply to.
- ★ Consider [NOVA](#) or other two-year college options; economically feasible, and often helpful transition to a four-year college.
- ★ Look at application requirements and get organized to complete applications in the fall. College applications for 2024-2025 will be available online typically by early to mid-August.

College Admissions Options

NACAC

National Association for
College Admission Counseling

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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

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

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll and withdraw all other applications. 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.

Standardized Testing

- ★ The SAT and/or ACT is typically taken in the spring of junior year and then again in the fall of senior year.
- ★ SAT School Day in the Fall of 2024 @Madison
- ★ **Students must register to take the [SAT](#) or [ACT](#)** (JMHS CEEB Code: 472-278)
- ★ [Khan Academy](#) - FREE online courses, practice & lessons
- ★ [Tutor.com](#) - FREE tutoring and test prep for FCPS students
- ★ [ACT](#) also offers FREE test prep on their website
- ★ **It is the student's responsibility to register to take a standardized test.**
- ★ Parents - ask your student if they already have a [College Board](#) account, either from taking a PSAT and/or registering for an AP Exam. You **DO NOT** want to have multiple College Board accounts!

Standardized Testing

- ★ Check college websites for admission testing requirements & updates.
- ★ Verify testing policies for each of your colleges.
- ★ Some colleges may still be determining testing policies and/or have temporary policies in place. Look on individual college websites or ASK THE COLLEGE REPS during a visit or information session. Most recent updates:
 - UVA test optional through Fall 2025
 - W&M completely test optional
 - VT test optional for students entering through Fall 2025
- ★ IF you have a test score, that you feel looks favorably, ASK the colleges their opinion about submitting your score. Do your research!
- ★ ASK the colleges! VERIFY testing policies with the colleges/college websites!
- ★ [Fairtest.org](https://www.fairtest.org) - List of test optional colleges/universities - VERIFY with each individual college.

College Application Platforms

College Specific Application

- ★ Specific to the college/university

Common Application (“Common App”)

- ★ Over 1,000 colleges use the Common App - including almost all of the VA public institutions
- ★ VA: Bridgewater C, CNU, Eastern Mennonite U, Emory & Henry C, Ferrum C, GMU, Hampden-Sydney C, Hampton U, Hollins U, JMU, Liberty U, Longwood U, Mary Baldwin C, Marymount U, Norfolk State U, ODU, Radford U, Randolph C, Randolph-Macon C, Regent U, Richard Bland C, U of Richmond, Roanoke C, Shenandoah U, Sweet Briar C, UVA Wise, U of Lynchburg, U of Mary Washington, U of Richmond, UVA, VCU, VT, Virginia Wesleyan U, W&L, W&M (as of 3/31/2024)

Coalition for College Access (“Coalition App”)

- ★ Over 150 colleges use the Coalition App

Some institutions will still require supplemental information to be submitted.

Some institutions use more than one type, choose the application platform that works best for you!

Creating Your Common App Account

- ★ Students - now is a great time to create your Common App account.
- ★ Your account will “rollover” from year to year, using the same username and password.
- ★ There is a brief time, over the summer, when Common App is unavailable as it prepares/updates for the 2024-2025 application season.
- ★ Your college list and any other information you enter in the “general” section of the Common App will “rollover.”
- ★ Once you create an account, Common App will email you with reminders and information.
- ★ Take time over the next few months to explore and familiarize yourself with the Common App website.

Creating Your Coalition App Account

- ★ Take a look at the colleges and universities who use the Coalition App.
- ★ Students - now is a great time to create your Coalition App account if there are colleges you'll be applying to.
- ★ Once you create an account, Coalition App will email you with reminders and information.
- ★ Take time over the next few months to explore and familiarize yourself with the Coalition App website.
- ★ Depending on the colleges you'll be applying to, will help you determine if you should create a Coalition App account.

Letters of Recommendation

College Letters of Recommendations

- ★ Do I need a letter of recommendation? Who will write it? - CHECK college websites for requirements!
- ★ Think about which core teacher(s) you will ask to write you a letter of recommendation and even consider asking those teachers this spring! Each teacher has their own way handling this.
- ★ Counselor letter of recommendation
 - If a counselor letter of recommendation is required:
 - Students will complete [Student Self-Evaluation](#) (FCPS Google Doc)
 - Parents will complete [Parent/Guardian Information Form](#)
 - Forms are due no later than September 3, 2024.

Junior Prep List for Juniors Going into Senior Year

Junior Prep List Available
[here](#) online:

JMHS Website > Student Services >
Programs and Presentations

We'll send a follow up email
with links.

Junior Prep List ~ Class of 2025 For Juniors Going into Senior Year

4/2024

[Schooling | Student Services Course](#)

College Research

- Use [Naviance](#): College Search, JMHS Scattergrams, College Overlaps and more.
- Visit colleges & attend college fairs: Attend virtual or in person information sessions/college tours/open house events.
- Check college websites for updates and related information for the colleges you are interested in.
- Follow social media outlets for colleges of interest.
- Attend fall college visits with admission representatives scheduled through the JMHS College & Career Center.

College Essay

- Brainstorm potential essay topics - Colleges want to hear your voice and get to know you.
- Visit [Common Application](#) and [Coalition Application](#) for the 2023-2024 college essay prompts.
 - Over 1,000 colleges/universities utilize the Common App and 150+ utilize the Coalition App.
- Visit the [College Essay Guy](#) - Free guide to writing a personal statement and free resources.
 - [The College Essay Guy's Blog](#)
 - College Essay Resources in [Schooling](#)
- Begin or continue the essay writing process; plan to return to school in August with at least a draft of your essay.



College Letters of Recommendations

- Think about which core teacher(s) you will ask to write you a letter of recommendation and consider asking those teachers this spring. Find out what information they will need from you.
- Complete the [Student Self-Evaluation Form](#) and [Resume & Parent Information Form](#). Submit to your counselor by the due date.

College List/Applications

- Begin to finalize your list of colleges. Be prepared to share your list of colleges in the fall with your school counselor.
- Enter your list in [Naviance](#), "Colleges I'm Thinking About"
- Research colleges and complete college searches. Identify a broad range of colleges and their admission difficulty. You want a balance and range of colleges you are planning to apply to.
- Consider [NOVA](#) or two-year college options; economically feasible, and helpful transition to a four-year college.
- Look at application requirements and get organized to complete applications in the fall. College applications for 2024-2025 will be available online typically by early to mid-August.
- [Common Application](#) and [Coalition Application](#) - Many colleges/universities participate in these application platforms which allows for students to apply to multiple colleges using one application.

Standardized Testing

- Check college websites for updates to their testing policies.
- Register/prepare to take the [SAT](#) or [ACT Test](#) (JMHS CEEB Code is 472-278)
 - SAT: www.collegeboard.org
 - ACT: www.act.org
- [Tutor.com](#): Free tutoring and test prep for FCPS students
- [Khan Academy](#): Free online courses, practice & lessons | [ACT](#) also offers free test prep on their website
- [Fairtest.org](#): List of test optional colleges/universities. Verify information with each college.

Financial Aid Information

- [Federal Student Aid](#): An Office of the Department of Education
- [FAFSA](#): Free Application for Student Aid. The FAFSA application is expected to open in October 2025.
- [VASA](#): Virginia Alternative State Aid for students who are ineligible to complete the FAFSA. This is only for aid in the state of Virginia and does not provide federal aid.
- [College Access Fairfax](#): Financial aid workshops, scholarships and resources for FCPS students. Previous program recordings and presentations are available and can give you a sense of what to expect in the fall.
- [SCHEV](#): State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
- [Academic Common Market](#): Pay in-state tuition at participating out of state schools for certain majors not offered in Virginia
- Financial aid presentations will be offered through [College Access Fairfax](#).

What are you doing this summer?

- ★ Look at the Enrichment Programs that are listed in [Naviance](#) and the Volunteering & Service Learning information [here](#) on the JMHS website.
- ★ Scroll through the weekly Enrichment Program updates posted [here](#) in Schoology for students.
- ★ You don't have to fill every second of every day, it's important to take time for yourself.
- ★ Have a plan in place. Get involved (or continued to be involved) with something that works for you and fits your needs, calendar, etc.
- ★ Begin to work on your college essays.



The College Essay

The College Essay

- ★ Essays are the highest ranked non-academic feature in your college application
- ★ Essays are the one thing which students have absolute control over
- ★ College admissions officers are looking for these things:
 - Who is this person?
 - Will this person contribute something of value to our campus?
 - Can this person write?
- ★ Be original. Yes, we all have things in common. How can you share your experiences in ways to make you stand out?

“Start writing, no matter what. The water does not flow until the faucet is turned on.” ~ Louis L’Amour

The College Essay |

How many college essays will I have to write?

- ★ Will depend on the institution
- ★ Each institution will instruct you on how many essays they require
- ★ Often, it is possible to use an essay across multiple applications (or scholarship applications) with minor adjustments, depending on the prompts
- ★ If using [Common App](#), you will write one longer essay (650 max word limit, 250 word minimum) as well as other supplemental essays (~250 words) that may be required at each institution
 - Once you have added schools to your “My Colleges” tab in Common App, you will see which schools require the essay and which schools leave it as an optional writing prompt

The College Essay |

Common App 2024-2025 Essay Prompts

Below is the full set of Common App essay prompts for 2024-25.

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Common App will retain the [optional community disruption question](#) within the Writing section.

The College Essay | [COALITION APP ESSAY PROMPTS](#)

Below is the full set of Coalition App essay prompts for 2024-25.

1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
2. What interests or excites you? How does it shape who you are now or who you might become in the future?
3. Describe a time when you had a positive impact on others. What were the challenges? What were the rewards?
4. Has there been a time when an idea or belief of yours was questioned? How did you respond? What did you learn?
5. What success have you achieved or obstacle have you faced? What advice would you give a sibling or friend going through a similar experience?
6. Submit an essay of your choice.

“While there is no perfect length for an essay, we recommend you aim for 500-650 words” ~Coalition App

Writing Your College Essay

- ★ The best ideas come when you least expect it
- ★ Don't overthink the prompt. The questions are designed to spark thinking.
- ★ Write about experiences you care about. Don't tell a story you think admissions want to hear.
- ★ The essay content should fit YOU!
- ★ Write like you speak or are talking to your best friend, let your voice come through in your writing
- ★ There is no correct format (however, spelling and grammar COUNT!)
- ★ Ask yourself the HOW and WHY and tell about it

Writing Your College Essay

- ★ Read your essays aloud. This will help you identify problem areas.
- ★ Get *some* advice
- ★ Have a trusted person read them and give you feedback
- ★ Be specific, it's a snapshot in time
- ★ Write your essays during summer
- ★ Essay resources in [Schoology for Students](#)

JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT THE WRITER YOU WANT TO BE YET DOESN'T MEAN YOU'LL NEVER BE. KEEP WRITING.



Looking Ahead ~ Fall 2024

- ★ Senior College Planning Night
- ★ School counselors will meet with seniors individually
- ★ Counselor Lesson during Advisory/Warhawk Time
- ★ Financial Aid Presentations ([College Access Fairfax](#))
- ★ College visits to JMHS in the fall for students



Student Services

COUNSELOR

Mr. Anderson

Ms. Buckley

Mr. LaLone

Ms. Shin

Ms. Bacalis

Ms. Kennedy

Ms. Hoffman

Ms. Whitener

Mr. Buckley

Mrs. Otto

ALPHA

A-Burt

Bus-Duf

Dug-Hel

Hem-Lee

Leh-Mor

Mos-Rao

Rap-Sua

Sub-Z

Mr. Buckley
Director of Student Services

Mrs. Otto
College & Career Specialist



Questions?

Slides will be available on the
JMHS Website > Student Services > Programs & Presentations

Thank you for attending tonight's program!