



August 2020

Dear Students and Parents / Guardians of the Class of 2021:

Welcome to another exciting year at Naperville North High School! While the end of last school year and the beginning of this year have been unconventional, your school counselors are continuing to work diligently to meet important senior year deadlines. Below we have highlighted important items for the start of your Senior Year:

- **Student Services Canvas Classes**
Naperville North Counselors will have a presence in Canvas, to provide information and resources to all grade levels. Students should frequently check their class' Student Services Canvas page, for upcoming events and time-sensitive information.
- **Unofficial Transcript**
Students can locate an unofficial copy of their transcript in Infinite Campus, by logging into their student account and clicking on the **Reports** section. Please review this document carefully. If you notice any errors, please contact your school counselor so that we can get the transcript corrected. Unofficial transcripts can also be used when students are completing self-reporting college applications.
- **Invitation to our Inaugural (Virtual) Parent University: September 14-20**
The focus of this program is for the Class of 2021. The format of this program will allow students & their families to gather information from multiple targeted presentations, to help students navigate postsecondary planning. For more information regarding our Parent University, and how this year's virtual program will work, please make sure you bookmark the following link:

<https://www.naperville203.org/ParentU>

- **SchoolLinks & the College Application Process**
This year, Naperville North Seniors will utilize **SchoolLinks** to complete the college application process. From researching colleges, to requesting transcripts & letters of recommendation, to tracking applications, **SchoolLinks** will be a major tool in helping you complete your college applications. You will also be able to use **SchoolLinks** to sign-up for virtual college visits. More information on how to utilize **SchoolLinks** in the college application process will be shared with you in the coming weeks.
- **NEW THIS YEAR: ** FAFSA Graduation Requirement ****
Public Act 101-0180 went into effect on June 1, 2020. Beginning with the 2020-21 school year, in addition to all other graduation requirements, a student must meet one of the following requirements to receive a public school diploma: 1) File a FAFSA Application; 2) File an Application for State Financial Aid; 3) File a waiver/opt out with the school district. For more information, visit our [FAFSA Requirement FAQ](https://www.naperville203.org/FAFSA-FAQ) (<https://www.naperville203.org/FAFSA-FAQ>).

As always, we look forward to working with our families throughout the school year. Should you need assistance or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school counselor, or me at blaporte@naperville203.org. We look forward to connecting with you this semester & making this Senior year a great one!

Sincerely,

Brian La Porte
College & Career Counselor





Naperville North High School Invites You to Attend...

Class of 2021 Virtual Parent University

September 14 – 20, 2020

<https://www.naperville203.org/ParentU>

Students & Families are Encouraged to Participate!

Breakout topics/presentations will include:

- Senior Year Overview
- Financial Aid / FAFSA Overview
- NCAA/NAIA Eligibility
- Standardized Testing Overview
- Senior Year Overview (en Español)

We hope to see you (virtually) there!





Deadlines, Deadlines, Deadlines!

Seniors and families need to be cognizant and vigilant when it comes to the college application process. Please use the following to determine when letters of recommendation, school reports, or supplementary information should be **requested by students**. Please understand that many teachers and counselors are writing a significant number of evaluations and recommendation letters during the fall, so the more time you give them to complete your request, the better!

APPLICATION DEADLINE

November 1 & November 15

December 1 & December 15

January 1 & January 15

Recommendations should be requested no later than:

October 9

November 6

December 4

Remember, NNHS staff needs time to draft and edit letters, upload or mail documents, and schedule a meeting with you, when appropriate. You can do your part by having the [Class of 2021 Recommendation and Scholarship](https://www.naperville203.org/RecSurvey) (<https://www.naperville203.org/RecSurvey>) survey completed & please share it with your counselor.

Additionally, **please make sure you are contacting any teachers you would like to write you a letter of recommendation via email or Zoom first.** *A digital request in SchoolLinks is not designed to replace personal dialogue*, and many teachers will have questions or documents/requirements they would like you to complete before they are able to write you a letter of recommendation.

Please consult *Due North: The Naperville North Postsecondary Planning Guide*, available on the Student Services website (<https://www.naperville203.org/DueNorth>) for information on financial aid, writing the college essay, campus visits, and more.

A FEW CLOSING THOUGHTS:

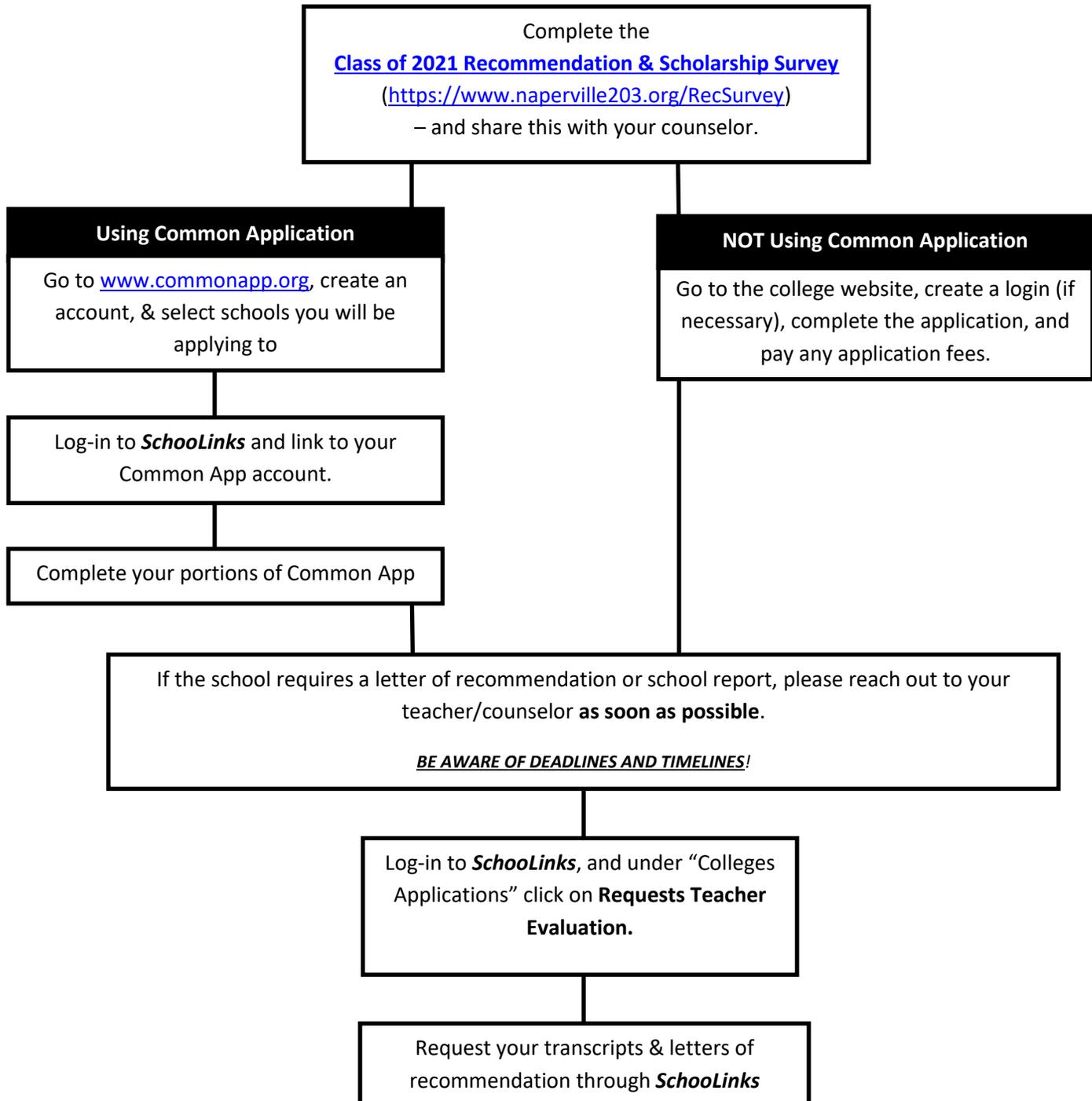
Students may believe that once college acceptance is secured, high school coursework no longer matters. This is false, and some students' dreams have been shattered by uncontrolled "senioritis."

Remember, students apply to colleges and universities and reveal, in good faith, current progress as well as their senior year schedules. Colleges and universities want to see students maintain high levels of rigor and achievement for **all eight semesters**. If a student drops a class or alters his or her schedule in a significant way during and/or after the application process, the student is obligated to notify the specific college or university. Counselors will not make changes without verification of this.





Application Flow Chart





Helpful Reminders

1. Refer to the Student Services Website & the **Class of 2021 Canvas Class** for all updated senior information.
2. Make sure you attend your **Senior Week** presentation (more information will come from your Comm Arts teacher). These will take place **September 9 & 10**.
3. Check your **SchoolLinks** account frequently:
 - Sign up for virtual college visits with college representatives (this must be done at least 24 hours prior to the visit)
 - View scholarship information & opportunities
 - Check the status of your transcript & recommendation letter requests
 - Additional Student Services information will also be posted here
4. Make sure to check your email regularly – for both Student Services updates, as well as follow-up requests from colleges/universities you apply to!
5. DEADLINES – Time frame begins after the face-to-face conference with your counselor or teacher assuming the following:

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December 1 & December 15

January 1 & January 15

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6. Admissions Categories:
 - Rolling
 - Priority
 - Early Decision and Early Decision II*
 - Early Action and Restrictive Early Action
 - Regular Decision

*Make certain that you completely understand what you are indicating. Early Decision, for example, is a binding agreement with colleges and universities read the fine print!
7. **You are responsible for sending your standardized test scores directly through the testing agencies.** Transcripts do not include these scores. And, if you are applying to a college or university that super-scores, you will probably want to send more than one score!

****Class of 2021:** Many colleges are NOT requiring ACT/SAT for acceptance, due to limitations from COVID-19. Please check with the colleges you're applying to directly, or visit [FairTest.org](https://www.fairtest.org) for to see if you will need to send any standardized test scores.**

