Welcome to the Virtual Senior Family Night

Hosted by your McEachern High School Counselors

McEachern High School Counseling Team:
Dr. Brandy Brady - Last Names A-C - x049
Brandy.Brady@cobbk12.org
Ms. Kristy Royer – Last Names D-I - x091
Kristy.Royer@cobbk12.org
Ms. Berenice Flores – Last Names J-N – x054
Berenice.Flores@cobbk12.org
Mr. Reginald Hurns –Last Names O-S – x030
Reginald.Hurns@cobbk12.org
Ms. Melissa Lynch – Last Names T-Z – x034
Melissa.Alexander@cobbk12.org
Ms. Renee Doty – Registrar – x082
Renee.Doty@cobbk12.org
Ms. Edwine Estime – Counseling Clerk – x070
Edwine.Ernest@cobbk12.org
Ms. Dennise Voyles – Records Clerk – x077
Dennise.Voyles@cobbk12.org
Ms. Cami Joubert – Graduation Coach – x024
Jacqueline.Joubert@cobbk12.org

A Welcome from one of your Senior Administrators

Mr. James Lockhart

GRADUATION INFORMATION FORMS

▶ Access Student Portal via https://studentportal.cobbk12.org

▶ Students will sign in using their CCSD student email address.
Ex: James.Lockhart@students.cobbk12.org

▶ Choose Graduation Form from the menu on the left

▶ Complete and Follow all instructions for the following sections:

▶ Name	Name Note
▶ Pronunciation	Graduation Plans
▶ Commencement Plans	Contact Info

▶ **Click SUBMIT, Click OK, and LOGOUT**

Please join the Senior Parent Remind by texting the following to 81010:

Last Name A-C @9287a3b
Last Name D-I @423k39k
Last Name J-N @3ba729
Last Name O-S @49d8g86
Last Name T-Z @76gh6a8

Workforce/ Apprenticeship

On-the-job short-term or long-term training is provided by an employer at the beginning of a new job.

Training can last 1 - 5 years, **often paid.**

The completion of an apprenticeship is generally associated with skilled labor.

These kinds of programs can **lead to secure and well-paying jobs without the need for any college expenses.**

Military/Armed Forces

1

High School Diploma **is required**

2

Take the **ASVAB (10/27/2023 @ MHS)**

3

Contact a branch recruiter

4

Request your final transcript in May

Trade School

- Typically completed in two years or less
- **Certificate or Diploma programs**
- **Career-focused**
  - Trains students for a specific job in a career field
- Examples of jobs:
  - Welding
  - Cosmetology
  - Construction Worker
  - Automotive, HVAC, Electrician
  - Dental Assistant
  - Carpenter
  - Plumber
  - Practical Nurse

Check with individual school to see if the SAT/ACT is required- may take the **Accuplacer Exam** instead

Two-year school requirements –
Requirements vary by 2-year College and Technical School. Check website for current requirements

Transcript Requests – Most will require a minimum of your final transcript for proof of graduation. Follow transcript request process.

2-Year Colleges & Technical Colleges

4-Year College/University

- Typically have higher admission requirements
    - i.e. higher GPA, higher test scores
- On average it takes students four years to complete
- Students work towards a Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist's, Doctorate.
- SAT/ACT Test Scores are usually required

FACTORS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

Extracurricular Activities

Essays

Letters of Recommendation

Demonstrated Interest

RIGOR OF CLASSES

GRADES & GPA

TEST SCORES

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

"Reach schools" are those where your academic credentials fall below the school's average range for the freshman class.

"Match schools" are schools where your academic credentials fall within or perhaps slightly exceed the school's average range for the freshman class.

"Safety schools" are schools you will almost definitely get into because your academic credentials are much better than the typical average range for the freshman class.

REACH SCHOOLS

Apply to 1 or 2

RANGE SCHOOLS

Apply to 2 or 3

SAFETY SCHOOLS

Apply to at least 1

Points to Consider

- Check Admissions Requirements **by visiting College Website**

- GPA Admission Requirements vary from school to school

- Weighted and unweighted GPA's will be reported on your CCSD transcript

- Class rank **will not** be included on transcripts or reported on secondary reports.

- Colleges want students who show an interest in their school.

University System of GA test optional info

For Academic Year 2024-2025, the remaining institutions have two options to make admission decisions:

Freshman index: Includes high school grade point average and test scores for either the SAT or ACT.

Test Optional: Use the high school grade point average on the required high school curriculum without a standardized test score at the following minimum grade point averages:

- **3.4** for research universities: **Augusta University** and **Georgia State University**.
- **3.2** for comprehensive universities: **Kennesaw State University, Georgia Southern University, University of West Georgia** and **Valdosta State University.**
- **3.0** for state universities: **Albany State University, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Fort Valley State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, Middle Georgia State University, Savannah State University** and the **University of North Georgia**.
- State colleges (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Atlanta Metropolitan State College, College of Coastal Georgia, Dalton State College, East Georgia State College, Georgia Gwinnett College, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College and South Georgia State College) continue to be test optional in accordance with Board policy.

Apply to College

- Complete and submit your applications as directed by the college.
    - Be sure to use Common App first if offered.

- Take your time completing your application and essays – this is a very important step!
    - Pay attention to grammar and punctuation. This will typically be a college's first impression of you.

Understanding Application Types

- **Regular Decision**
  - Deadline date established by the institution

_____

- **Early Decision (I &II) : Binding**
  - Cannot apply **early decision** to other colleges, can only apply regular decision.
  - If accepted, must attend (BINDING)
- **Early Action: Non-Binding**
  - Can apply early to other colleges, can apply regular decision
- **Single Choice/Restricted Early Action: Non-Binding**
  - Cannot apply early to other colleges, can apply regular decision

_____

- **Rolling Admission**
  - Open admission, decisions given throughout the year not at a specific time
- **Priority Deadline**
  - Similar to rolling admissions but priority given to those applicants who meet earlier priority deadline

SAT/ACT Test

▶ SAT/ACT registration is through the websites below.

▶ Our school's CEEB code is 112435

▶ Test scores must be sent directly from the testing agencies websites (Not from our office)

Please keep in mind that the SAT is going all digital as of March 2024!

www.collegeboard.org   www.actstudent.org

Common App

- The Common App is an undergraduate college admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of the 500+ member colleges and universities.

- **If a school uses Common App, use Common App.**

- You can access the Common App by going to **www.commonapp.org**

- Some schools are Common App exclusive, which means they do not accept any application other than the Common App. Some schools accept both the Common App and their own individualized, web-based application or the Coalition Application.

- Of course, this does not apply for schools who do not accept the Common App. To view the 500 schools that accept the Common App, check out the members page of the Common App website.

- Limit your Common App to 20 school maximum if possible.

Georgia Colleges Using Common App

- Agnes Scott College
- Augusta University
- Berry College
- Brenau University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Covenant College
- Emory University
- Georgia College
- Georgia Tech
- Georgia State University
- Kennesaw State University

- Mercer University
- Morehouse College
- Oglethorpe University
- Piedmont University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Savannah State University
- Spelman College
- University of Georgia
- University of North Georgia
- Wesleyan College

Non-Common App Schools

- Some colleges and universities have opted not to accept the Common Application or Coalition.

- Instead, they have created their own individual applications that, in most cases, are web-based and can be found via the school's undergraduate admissions website.

- Just because a school does not accept the Common App does not mean that they do not accept the transmission of important documents, like letters of recommendation and academic transcripts, through Naviance.

- When a non-Common App school allows us to submit documents through Naviance, it is called Direct to Institution. A Direct to Institution school is designated by this symbol.

Naviance

NAVIANCE IS A **DELIVERY SYSTEM** AND COLLEGE/CAREER SEARCH ENGINE, ***BUT IT IS ALSO HOW WE COMMUNICATE WITH YOU AND YOUR PARENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.***

Logging into Naviance

○ You can access Naviance from the CCSD homepage, your school's website, as well as your school counseling department's website.

○ If you are on a CCSD computer, then you will be automatically logged into Naviance.

○ To log into Naviance from home, you will use the following:

-Go to www.cobbk12.org

-Click on "**Find It Fast**"
-upper right-hand corner

-Choose "**Naviance**" from the menu

-If prompted, use your CCSD student ID and password

Username:	Password:
Microsoft 365 Username	Microsoft 365 Password

You can also use Naviance for…

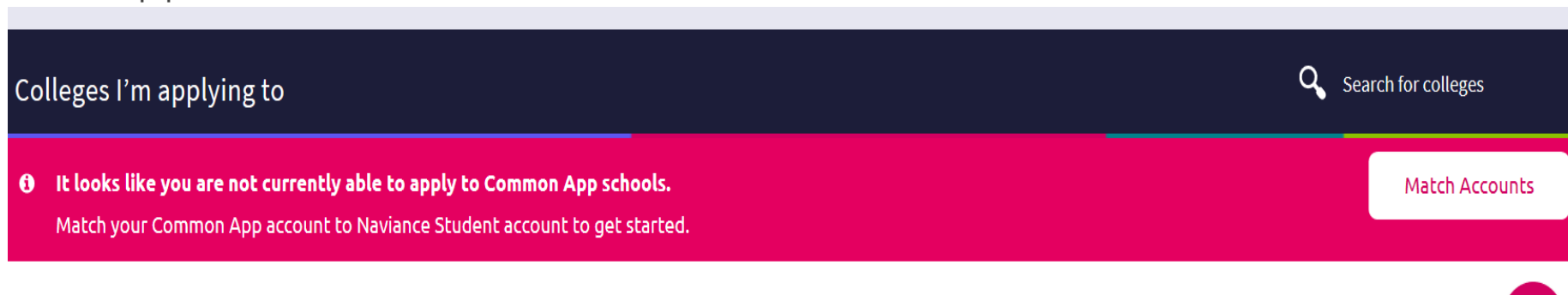- Career Planning
- College Planning
- Resume Building
- Communicating with your Counselor
- Scholarship Searches

Common App Matching

▶ For Common App schools, students are required to match their Common App and Naviance Student accounts.

Colleges I'm applying to   🔍 Search for colleges

ⓘ **It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools.**

Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started.   **Match Accounts**

▶ In order to match the Common App account, students must first complete the following steps in their Common App account:

- ▶ Complete the Education section of your Common Application
- ▶ Add at least one college to My Colleges tab
- ▶ Sign the FERPA Release Authorization

Click to watch video on common app matching.

Teacher Recommendations

- Allow **at least 3-4 weeks** for teachers to complete their recommendation portion of your application!

- **ASK EARLY!!!**

- Students "invite" their teachers to upload and send letters of recommendation in two steps:

  1. Provide teachers with a copy of your recommendation packet with a list of schools to which you are asking the teacher to write.

  2. Add the request digitally under your "Colleges I'm Applying To" tab.

  3. **IMPORTANT: ASSIGN YOUR TEACHERS TO SPECIFIC SCHOOLS, NOT "All Applications"**

     -It is your responsibility to research which schools require a letter of recommendation on their website.

     -If they do not ask for a letter of recommendation, they do not use it in the admissions process. *DO NOT ASK YOUR TEACHER FOR ONE IF THIS IS THE CASE!*

Adding Teacher Recommendation Requests on Naviance

Cancel   Submit Req

1. Who would you like to write this recommendation?*

Select A Teacher ▼

2. Select which colleges this request is for:*

⦿ Choose **specific** colleges from your *Colleges I'm Applying To* list

Colleges ▲	Due ▲
☐ Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) - - required / 1 allowed / 0 requested	Jan 01 2018
☐ Kennesaw State University - - required / - - allowed / 0 requested	Mar 01 2018
☐ University of Georgia - - required / - - allowed / 0 requested	Jan 01 2018

Tracking Teacher Recommendations

Letters of recommendation

Your Requests

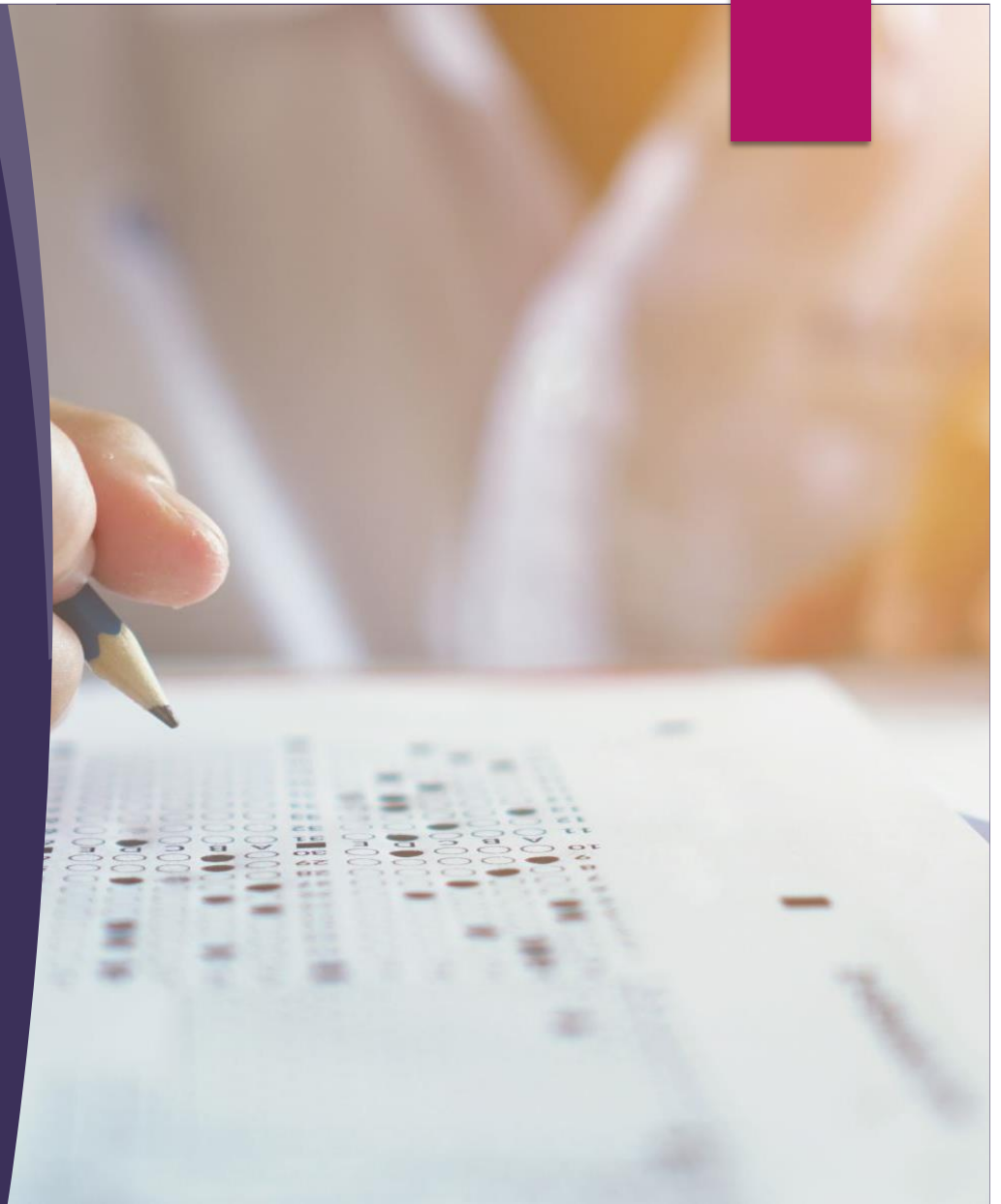You can request new letters of recommendation and track the most recent status of your requests here.

Add Request

Recommendation For ▴	Deadline ▴	Recommender(s)	Status ⓘ	Cancel Request
All Applications ⓘ	See applications	Christopher Williams	Cancelled	✕
Mercer University 1 required/ 2 allowed/ 1 requested		Christopher Williams	Requested	✕
University of Georgia - - required/ - - allowed/ 1 requested	Jan 01 2021	Christopher Williams	Requested	✕

Add Request

For Counselor Recommendations/ Secondary School Reports

▶ COMPLETE THE SENIOR BRAG SHEET IN NAVIANCE.

▶ TO ACCESS: LOG INTO NAVIANCE -> CLICK ON YOUR INITIALS IN TOP RIGHT -> UNDER SURVEYS, CLICK SURVEYS FROM YOUR SCHOOL -> SELECT SENIOR BRAG SHEET

▶ EMAIL YOUR COUNSELOR A REQUEST FOR A LETTER AT LEAST 2-3 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE! SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND BREAKS DO NOT COUNT

▶ PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ANY COLLEGE APPLIED TO VIA COMMON APP REQUIRE A COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION LETTER!

Add College to the "Colleges I'm Applying to"

- This is the section where students will spend most of their time.

- You can request TEACHER letters of recommendation within this section.

- You must also designate the application type within this section as well as indicate that you've applied to the school.

  - EX: did you apply through **CommonApp**?

  - Ex: did you apply **directly to the institution** or through GAFutures?

Requesting Transcripts

► 1. Add college you are applying to Naviance.

- Log onto your Naviance student account.
- Select the COLLEGES tab.
- Under COLLEGES select "Colleges I'm Applying To"
- Click on "+", add each college/university, including application information
- Click "Add Application"

► 2. Go to MyPaymentsPlus and fill out the transcript request form and pay $2 per transcript.

- For Common Application documents, you **must MATCH your Common App** account to your Naviance account before your counselor can send your transcript.

- **Upon completion, stop by the Counseling Office and fill out a Green Transcript Card with Ms. Etime.**

Submission Types

(Mail Only)-This icon represents colleges that only accept documents submitted via mail. The school does not accept documents electronically.

(Electronic)-This icon represents electronic destinations that accept documents electronically via Naviance eDocs

(Common App)-This icon represents Common App destinations that accept documents electronically via Naviance eDocs. It's important to note this icon means the student has explicitly chosen to apply via Common App and indicated "Yes" in **Family Connection > Colleges I'm Applying to.** However, on College tabs (showing the college profile) it indicates the fact that it's a CA college, but not whether the student is applying via CA.

(Unknown)-This icon is displayed when a student adds a Common App college but has not indicated whether or not he or she plans to apply via the Common App Online. This status does not prohibit you from submitting Common App forms for the student, but you will receive a warning message advising you that the student has not indicated their plan. A message is displayed to inform the school counselor that the student had not made a selection whether applying via Common App and submission would default to Common App delivery.

(Common App via Electronic)-This icon is displayed when a student has selected a Common App college and has indicated that he or she is not applying via the Common App Online. However, if the school is also an electronic destination (in addition to Common App) you can continue to submit documents (NACAC and other school forms, transcripts, and letters of recommendation) electronically.

(Common App mail only)-This icon displays when a student has selected a Common App college and has indicated that he or she is not applying via the Common App Online. However, the school is not an electronic destination so you will have to print and mail (other school forms, transcripts, and letters of recommendation) to the destination.

Financial Aid

- Financial Aid helps students pay for college

- **Types of Financial Aid:**
  - Scholarships
  - Grants
  - Student Loans
  - Work-study

- **Scholarships and Grants DO NOT have to be repaid**

- Student Loans MUST be repaid (amount borrowed + interest)

Scholarships

- Types of Scholarships:
  - Academic, Community Service, Athletic, Hobby/Extracurricular based, Identity based, Need based, Employer or Military

- Check the Scholarship Resources in Naviance on the Colleges Homepage
  - Scholarship List- Updated by County and HS

- Check the College Websites and online search engines.
  - **Pay attention to deadlines!!**

Free Application for Federal Student Aid
FAFSA

▶ An Application completed by students who want to go to college and want financial aid (help paying for college)

▶ **Will not be available this year until December**

▶ Requires tax information from student's family

▶ Determines how much money your family would be able to contribute to your cost of attending college

▶ This is the application for HOPE Scholarship, Zell Miller Scholarship, HOPE Grant, HOPE Career Grant, and Pell Grant

Federal Pell Grant

- Awarded to students who show financial need based on their FAFSA

- NO HIGH SCHOOL GPA Requirement

Maximum Amount Awarded:

$7,395 per school year (2023-2024)

HOPE Scholarship

▶ MINIMUM GPA of 3.0 (as GSFC calculates it)

▶ 4 courses of rigor

▶ Changes have been made recently to the HOPE program

▶ The most up-to-date and official information about the HOPE program can be found at GAFutures.org

▶ Your HOPE GPA can also be found at GAFutures.org

▶ **Your SSN must be updated in the Cobb student record system in order to receive HOPE funds!!**

HOPE Grant

- ▶ The HOPE Grant Program is for students seeking a technical certificate or diploma, regardless of the student's high school grade point average or graduation date.

- ▶ The HOPE Grant Award amount will cover a portion of a student's tuition.

- ▶ Full-time enrollment is not required.

- ▶ Students are required to have a postsecondary cumulative 2.0 GPA in order to maintain eligibility.

- ▶ More info on GAFutures.org

Undergraduate On Campus

COST	UNDERGRADUATE|IN-STATE ON CAMPUS	UNDERGRADUATE OUT-OF-STATE ON CAMPUS
Books, Course Materials, Supplies, & Equipment	$1,500	$1,500
Fees	$1,336	$1,336
Loan Fees	$65	$65
Personal Expenses	$3,660	$3,660
Food	$4,547	$4,547
Housing	$8,480	$8,480
Transportation	$1,889	$1,889
Tuition	$5,562	$19,630
Total	$27,039	$41,107

SIX GREAT OPTIONS FOR
FINDING SCHOLARSHIPS

1 Going Merry by Earnest
THE NEW, COOL KID

- $20 billion database of scholarships and aid
- Lots of local scholarships
- Bundled scholarships - One application applies you to multiple opportunities!
- Apply directly on site, with auto-filled forms
- Filter, favorite, or ignore scholarships
- No advertisements
- iOS and Android apps

2 Fastweb
THE VETERAN

- Founded in 1995
- $3 billion in scholarships
- Clean interface with basic filters & favoriting
- Internship and part-time job search
- Android and iOS apps

3 Scholarships.com
THE GIANT

- $19 billion in scholarships
- Social comments section to get advice from peers
- Quick signup process
- Some advertisements (sponsored content)
- Android and iOS apps

4 Chegg Scholarships
THE ALL-ROUNDER

- $1 billion in scholarships
- Clean interface with basic filters & favoriting
- Additional student tools to: Research colleges, Buy/sell textbooks, Find tutors

5 College Board BigFuture
THE PLANNER

- $6 billion in scholarships
- College search and planning tools
- Many sweepstakes-style scholarships

6 College website
THE NEW "HOME"

Once you've gotten admitted and/or decided on a college, check out their financial aid page, which often has information on scholarships available to their students.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPS, AND ENJOY COLLEGE !

MCEACHERN
SCHOOL COUNSELING SMOKE SIGNALS

FALL 2023 WEEK 5

Welcome to week 5! Upcoming this week:

- M - 8/28 : College Campus visits coming soon
- T - 8/29: SENIOR FAMILY NIGHT!
- W - 8/30:
- TH - 8/31: CCSD Dual Enrollment Summit
- F - 9/1: Home Football vs. Douglas Co.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
"EVERY PERSON YOU MEET KNOWS SOMETHING YOU DON'T. LEARN FROM THEM"
H JACKSON BROWN JR.

Top 10 Most Common Scholarship Essay Prompts
- https://www.goingmerry.com/blog/common-scholarship-essay-prompts/

The College Scorecard (look up any college here).
- See "net price," or "true price" (cost of attendance, minus grants/scholarships).

Probe College Fairs Coming Soon!
- 8/31 at Marietta High School 6-8 PM
- 10/2 at Alexander High School 6-8 PM
- 10/3 at Paulding Co. High School 6-8 PM
- 10/4 at Cherokee High School 6-8 PM

College Trivia
This university currently boasts the highest tuition fee in the nation:
A) Columbia University
B) Harvard University
C) Georgetown University
D) Stanford University

A: Columbia University

College Admission Myth #3:
Myth: *You need to take both the SAT and ACT.*
Reality: Colleges will accept either SAT or ACT scores. You don't need to take both, and taking both is actually a poor use of your time; you could better spend that time on your extracurriculars or schoolwork.

Upcoming Dates:
- 29th Aug: Senior Parent Night via TEAMS
  Join on your computer, mobile app or room device
  Click here to join the meeting
  Meeting ID: 238 447 509 148   Passcode: PKpa2v
- 31st Aug: CCSD Dual Enrollment Summit 6-8 Cobb Civic Center
- 4th Sept: Labor Day Holiday
- 5th-22nd Sept: Senior Meetings/Lessons

Please visit our amazing website for more entertainment and information: www.mceachemcounseling.com

Closing Remarks from our Principal

MS. REGINA MONTGOMERY

Helpful Resources for Your Senior Year

Senior Parent Night Survey

- Counseling Website: www.mceacherncounseling.com
- FAFSA: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
- GAFutures: https://www.gafutures.org/
- Collegeboard: https://www.collegeboard.org/
- ACT: https://www.act.org/
- CommonApp: https://www.commonapp.org/