



Briarcliff High School

COUNSELING OFFICE

444 Pleasantville Road
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510
(914) 769-6299, Ext. 3125
Fax: (914) 432-8210

August 2019

Dear Senior Student/Parent or Guardian,

The college application submission process includes the following components: The Counselor, The Teacher, Standardized Tests, and of course, you, The Student and The Parent. Your counselor will generate and send your Transcript, the Secondary School Report (SSR), the Counselor Letter of Recommendation, and the School Profile to the colleges to which you're applying. Your chosen teachers will submit your Teacher Recommendations after you request them in Naviance. The College Board and ACT will send your test scores *per your request*. It is your responsibility to send your test scores by way of The College Board and/or ACT. You must also complete and submit your applications.

In order for this process to begin, you must complete the first five steps by **August 23, 2019**:

- 1. Complete the attached Transcript Release Form and return it to Guidance in the enclosed envelope.** If you do not return this form, we will not be able to send your transcript to the colleges. Your comprehensive high school transcript to date is included in this mailing. It is imperative that you review all aspects of this transcript including senior year courses in progress, courses completed, final grades, Regents exams and grades, and final weighted GPA. Remember, Physical Education/Dance and Community Service are not calculated into your final GPA. Furthermore, Community Service is not included on the transcript we send to colleges. **If you find any errors on your transcript, please contact your counselor when he/she returns on August 26th.**
- 2. Create a Common Application account.**
 - Go to www.commonapp.org. Click "Create an Account." Select "First Year Students," "create an account," "First year student." You will then be asked to enter your email address and a password.
 - Enter your name on the Common App exactly as it appears in Naviance (the program we use to submit your documents electronically). See step four if you want to log in to Family Connection and check your name.
 - Create a contact in your phone labeled "Common App." Use this to store the email address and password you used to create this account. It will create havoc for you if you do not remember this information later in the fall.
- 3. Complete the FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) Waiver in the Common App.**
 - Click the "Common App" tab, skip ahead to the "Education" section and complete the "Current or Most Recent Secondary/High School" section.



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- Next, enter one Common Application college to which you may apply to by clicking the “College Search” tab, search for a school, and click the “+” button. You will be able to delete this college later if you change your mind.
- Click the “My Colleges” tab, click the down arrow next to the college you just added, and select “Recommenders and FERPA.” You only need to do this once.
- Click the FERPA Release Authorization button. Check the box: “I have read and understood the FERPA Release Authorization explanation above” and click “Continue.”
- Check the box “I acknowledge that every school that I have attended may release all requested records and recommendations to colleges to which I am applying for admission. I also understand that employees at these colleges may confidentially contact my current and former schools should they have questions about the information submitted on my behalf.”
- Select: “I waive my right to review all recommendations and supporting documents.”
- Select: “I understand that my waiver or no waiver selection above pertains to all colleges to which I apply and that my **selections on this page cannot be changed once I sign and click Save below.**”
- **IF YOU DO NOT SELECT THE OPTIONS OUTLINED ABOVE YOUR COUNSELOR AND TEACHERS CANNOT WRITE AND SUBMIT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON YOUR BEHALF. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR COUNSELOR BEFORE CLICKING ANYTHING OTHER THAN WHAT IS RECOMMENDED ABOVE.**
- Sign your name, enter the date, and click “Save and Close.”
- The counselors will be meeting with all seniors at the beginning of the school year to assist with the other sections of the Common Application.

4. Log into your Family Connection account.

- Go to www.briarcliffschools.org. At the top of the page, click “Students” and “HS Students.”
- From the page, click on “Family Connection.” If a blank page pops up, try using a different browser.
- Enter your username (BHS email address: first name initial, last name, 20@briarcliffny.org - example: FBueller20@briarcliffny.org)
- Enter your password.
- If you try to login and get an error message you do not need to register. You are already registered; you just entered the wrong password.
- If you forgot your password, click “Forgot your password?” on the bottom. Enter your BHS student email address in the space provided and click reset password.



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Family Connection will send a new password to your school email account. To log into this account, use your BHS user id number followed by @briarcliffny.org as your username (example: 80712345@briarcliffny.org). Your password is your network password.

- Create a contact in your phone labeled “Family Connection.” Use this to store the email address and password for this account. You should do this for all college application portals you create throughout this process.

5. Match your Common App in Family Connection.

- In Family Connection, click “Colleges”
- Click “Colleges I’m applying to”
- Click “Match Accounts”
- Enter your Common App email address and check your date of birth.
- Click “Match Accounts.”

NOTE: Parents can use Family Connection as well. Go to www.briarcliffschools.org and click “Parents” at the top of the page and select “HS Parents.” From the page, click on “Family Connection.” If a blank page pops up, try using a different browser. Enter your parent portal email as your user name and then enter your password. If you cannot login, please email your counselor and he/she will reset your password. Parents only have viewing rights; parents cannot edit information. Changes to information can only be done through the student account.

Remember, all the above steps need to be completed **by August 23, 2019**. Students may continue with the remaining steps if they choose to:

6. Add other Common Application colleges to your Common Application.

- Enter more Common Application colleges to which you are applying in the “College Search” tab by clicking the “+” button.
- Note: Common Application colleges will automatically, *but not immediately*, populate to your Family Connection account. Once these colleges appear on your Family Connection list, click the pencil icon/Edit button to update the “App Type.” Early Decision, Early Action, Regular, Priority, Rolling, etc... These are the dates your counselor and teachers will use to send documentation. Make sure you click “Save College Application” at the bottom of the screen to update the deadline information.



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7. Add any non-Common Application colleges to which you are applying to your Family Connection account (i.e., Coalition Application schools and school specific applications)

- In Family Connection, Click “Colleges”
- Click “Colleges I’m applying to”
- Click the plus sign
- Look up the colleges to which you plan to apply, have started to apply to, or have submitted an application to.
- Enter the “App Type:” Early Decision, Early Action, Regular, Priority, Rolling, etc... These are the dates your counselor and teachers will use to send documentation. Change the submission of application (if applicable) and select “Add Application.” You do not need to request a transcript. Your counselor will automatically submit transcripts to all of the colleges listed on your Family Connection college list.
- **NOTE: Non-Common App colleges will not auto-populate to your Family Connection account without this step.** If a college is not on your Family Connection list, your counselor cannot submit transcripts or letters of recommendations and your teachers will not be able to submit their recommendations on your behalf.

THIS STEP MUST BE DONE TO ENSURE THAT TRANSCRIPTS ARE SENT. IT MUST BE DONE AT LEAST 10 SCHOOL DAYS BEFORE THE COLLEGE DEADLINE.

8. Request a Teacher Recommendation in Family Connection.

- Click “Colleges”
- Click “Apply to College”
- Click “Letters of Recommendation”
- Click “Add Request”
- Select a teacher from the drop-down list.
- Hopefully you have already spoken with the teacher, so you do not have to write a personal note but you may want to let him/her know your earliest application deadline (likely between 10/15 and 11/15).
- Click “Submit Request” at the bottom of the screen.

NOTE: If any of your schools have the “postage stamp” icon, indicating they do not accept electronic submissions, you will have to make arrangements with your counselor and recommending teacher(s) to get them the stamped, addressed envelope.

9. Provide your counselor with a stamped envelope to the colleges to which you’re applying, IF NECESSARY. If there is a postage stamp symbol under “Submission Type”



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next to the colleges you've added to the list in Family Connection, this means we cannot send your transcript and other documents electronically and you must provide us with a stamped 6" x 9" envelope addressed to the college with BHS's return address in the upper left-hand corner. Please put two stamps on each envelope. Your counselor will require receipt of these envelopes at least TWO WEEKS prior to your college application deadline.

You can now proceed ahead (if you haven't already) to complete your college applications – either through the Common Application or through the individual college/university applications. Included here will be any supplement forms, if required, by the college/university to which you are applying. BHS counselors recommend using the Common Application if that option is available.

Other things to note:

Road Trip Nation:

This is a new career exploration feature on the Family Connection portal. College graduates went around the country and interviewed over 3,500 industry leaders in fields ranging from surf board designers, politicians, doctors, and the creator of Netflix! Parents and students can access this feature under the "Careers" tab of your respective Family Connection accounts. There is a great two-minute video tutorial that can help you get started. The most common first year major in the country every year is "undeclared." Of the students who enter college with a declared major, over 60% change at least once.

Senior Information Night/Financial Aid:

Financial aid forms may be submitted beginning in October and our Financial Aid Night will take place in September. It will be held in the District Auditorium on September 10, 2019 at 6:00pm. Senior College Information Night will directly follow at 7:15pm in the District Auditorium. All senior families are welcome at both, though if you do not plan to apply for need based financial aid, it is not necessary to attend the financial aid portion of the evening. Please spread the word about the Financial Aid Night to other members of the community, as this event is open to all district families.

Sincerely,

The Briarcliff High School Counseling Department



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The counselors will be available, **on a first come, first served basis** on the following days:

Monday, August 26 th		1:00PM-3:00PM SENIORS ONLY
Tuesday, August 27 th	8:00AM-12:00PM	1:00PM-3:00PM
Wednesday, August 28 th	8:00AM-12:00PM	1:00PM-3:00PM

Senior Counselor Break Down:

Michael Muranelli	(students with last names beginning with A-G) mmuranelli@briarcliffschool.org	914-488-8227
Nathan Heltzel	(students with last names beginning with H-L) nheltzel@briarcliffschools.org	914-488-8229
Erin Ryan	(students with last names beginning with M-P) eryan@briarcliffschools.org	914-488-8226
Meredith Safer	(students with last names beginning with Q-Z) msafer@briarcliffschools.org	914-488-8228