

## **Class 2024 AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - College Planning**

### **APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

**YOU DO NOT APPLY TO COLLEGES VIA SCOIR - APPLY VIA COMMON APPLICATION**

**NO EMAILS FOR TEACHER & COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATION INVITES**

[TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS IN COMMON APPLICATION OR SCOIR \(Pronounced SCORE\)](#)

#### **General Tasks:**

- ☐ Join the Class of 2024 Life After ARHS Google Classroom [LINK](#) Class Code: **7ah6kvr**
- ☐ Review the Junior Handbook (In the 2025 Life After ARHS Google Classroom)
- ☐ Explore careers in Scoir ([LINK](#)) or MEFA Pathway ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Thinking about GAP year? [Americorps](#) [DIAL/SELF](#) [Literacy Lab](#) [GAP Year Guide](#)
- ☐ Check out apprenticeships if you are interested in a trade ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Do Summer - relax, work, intern, have fun, volunteer, stare at cloud shapes ([LINK](#)) [Great Video](#)
- ☐ Great timeline ([LINK](#))

#### **Teacher Recommendations**

- ☐ Enter your teacher recommendations using the Google Form ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Sign FERPA Waiver in Scoir (it is advised to waive seeing recs [LINK](#))
- ☐ Enter the names of teachers who have agreed to write recommendations for you in Scoir *AFTER THEY HAVE AGREED TO DO SO* ([How To](#))
- ☐ When you enter teachers for [Teacher Recommendations in Common Application](#) - **DO NOT LIST THEIR EMAIL! Select "No" for Teacher Evaluation.**
- ☐ *You do not need to print the .pdf documents for the teachers writing recommendations.*
- ☐ **List your Teacher Recommender NAMES ONLY in Common Application (copy from SCOIR) Yes, we wrote that TWICE!!!**
- ☐ Outside recommenders are "Other Recommenders" list in Common Application and include email address.

#### **School Counselor Recommendations**

- ☐ School Counselor Recommendations - you will hear from your guidance counselor. Either they or Ms. Cuffee-Gray will meet with you for your School Counselor Recommendation
- ☐ When you enter your School Counselor in Common Application **DO NOT LIST THEIR EMAIL! (Outside ARHS recommenders do need an email address)**

#### **College Essay Guy Bootcamp - Summer Personal Statement and Application Support**

- ☐ Not too late to sign up for College Essay Guy Boot Camps Personal Statement/Application (but it will soon be! - [LINK](#))

#### **Building Your List - Wildcards, Reaches, Targets, and Likelies**

- ☐ ***Please do not list colleges as "APPLYING" until September - Summer is time to EXPLORE***
- ☐ Read and listen carefully to the "How to Choose a College" vlog - ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Create a copy of the TRACKING College List and add and evaluate your schools ([LINK](#))
- ☐ List your schools as Far Reach (Wildcard), Reach, Target, and Likely in Scoir

#### **Scoir Preparation**

- ☐ Complete the Scoir "Life After ARHS" Surveys for Life After ARHS Meeting with Ms. Cuffee-Gray (also required for teacher & school counselor recommendation with your Guidance Counselor) - **Life After ARHS & Teacher Recommendation Information Form**
- ☐ Complete the College Preferences survey in Scoir to learn about good matches

**Transcript, Teacher and School Counselor Requests Must be Made Three Weeks Prior to Your 1st Deadline**  
**Late Requests Risk Less Thoughtful Recommendations and Late Material Submissions**

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#### **Scoir and Common Application**

- ☐ Complete Personal & Education Section part of Common App (Common App colleges only - [LINK](#))
- ☐ Complete FERPA Waiver in Common Application (one time for one college and all the rest apply) - [LINK](#)
- ☐ DO NOT list Teacher or Counselor emails in Common Application
- ☐ Check NO for Teacher Evaluations
- ☐ List the schools that you are applying to in Scoir ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Complete short answer part of Common App (Common App colleges only) - AFTER AUGUST 1st

#### **Standardized Tests Are Not Required! College Board and ACT**

- ☐ Consider whether or not you want to take the SAT or ACT - sign up using above links
- ☐ Most all schools are Test Optional ([FAIR TEST](#))
- ☐ Study on your own with [Khan Academy](#), a study group with friends, a class, or a tutor
- ☐ If you are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch you are eligible for a Fee Waiver (Ms. Garrity [garrityc@arps.org](mailto:garrityc@arps.org))

#### **Beginning of Senior Year**

- ☐ Make appointment with Ms. Cuffee-Gray for your Senior Class of 2024 Life After High School - (LINK active in late August in the Google Classroom)
- ☐ Watch for college and Life After ARHS Workshops
- ☐ Make appointment with your guidance counselor or Ms. Cuffee-Gray (depending on who is writing for you) to talk about your School Counselor recommendation
  
- ☐ Complete FERPA Release and FERPA Waiver in SCOIR ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Scoir AND Common App ([video](#)) - You must enter information in BOTH Scoir and Common Application
- ☐ Complete college essay - College Essay Guy has great resources! ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Review Supplemental Essay Requirements and write them (in Common App and Admissions sites - great advice on supplements [LINK](#))

#### **Financial Aid, FAFSA, and CSS Profile**

- ☐ Get FSAIDs for you and parent from FAFSA.ed.gov ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Complete FAFSA ([LINK](#)) - the FAFSA will not be released until late December. You and caregivers complete your [FSA ID](#) NOW!
- ☐ Complete CSS Profile if required by your college (private selective colleges - [LINK](#))
- ☐ Sign up with Going Merry to search for scholarships this summer! [LINK](#)
- ☐ If you receive Free or Reduced Lunch, you are eligible for an application fee waiver ([LINK](#))

#### **Transcript Requests in Scoir**

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- ☐ Request transcripts in Scoir by listing as Applying and Deadline ([LINK](#))
- ☐ Request recommendations in Scoir three weeks before first deadline
- ☐ Request TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS in Common Application (No Email Address for ARHS teachers) and Scoir ([LINK](#))

Applying Early Decision or Early Action? Be ready to submit to your Plan B schools in mid-December. Review the application and supplements so that you don't have to scramble.

If you have a January 1st or 15th (or beyond) deadline, work to complete your application by the first week of December so that we are able to fully support your application process.

**Please do not hesitate to ask for assistance from your guidance counselor, Ms. Garrity, or Your Friendly Neighborhood College and Career Advisor, Ms. Cuffee-Gray**

#### **College Admissions Representative Advice on the College Essay - VIDEOS**

Admissions reps from Beloit College, Sarah Lawrence, Suffolk University, & Bennington College ([link](#))

Admissions reps from Boston University, Kenyon College, Grinnell College, & The New School ([link](#))

#### **College Essay Guy - awesome podcasts**

How to Improve Your Essay in 20 Minutes

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/podcast-stream/how-to-improve-your-personal-statement-in-20-minutes>

Great College Essay Test

Podcast

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/tgcet>

Document

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/527cc9ffe4b06105448def23/t/57435710a3360c42406e858c/1464031003744/CEG+-+The+Great+College+Essay+Test.pdf>

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