



ROAD TO COLLEGE

SEP 21, 2025

Newsletter

Dear Students & Families,

September and October are the **make-or-break months** for seniors. Early Action and Early Decision deadlines are only weeks away. This is also the perfect time to highlight your **Passion** in applications, essays, and interviews. Colleges want to see **initiative, commitment, and impact**.

This week we're sharing specific opportunities and resources to help you transform your ideas into something meaningful.



TO DO LIST

Aim for straight A's. GPA starts now and top colleges want to see consistent academic strength. Pay attention to HW deadlines.

Choose 1-2 clubs/sports to commit to deeply (**quality over quantity**).

Brainstorm passion project ideas

Talk to your counselor about the application process. Ask about if you can get application fee waivers.



REMINDERS and DEADLINES

SAT: Oct. 4, 2025.

Registration deadline: Sept. 19, 2025

Early Action & Early Decision deadlines begin as soon as Nov 1. Draft essays early. Start drafting your Common App essay

Talk to your teachers about the letters of recommendation.



College Prep Tip: Show, don't just tell. When writing essays or filling out applications, describe *specific actions* you took in your passion project. Example: Instead of writing "I care about sustainability," write: *"I founded a recycling club at my school that collected 2,000 bottles in one semester."* Remember, "actions talk louder than words".

Passion Project Opportunities & Resources

Academic Research & Conferences

Harvard Science Research Conference (HSRC) [HSRC Info](#)

For high school students to showcase research and connect with peers passionate about science.

Regeneron Science Talent Search <https://www.societyforscience.org/regeneron-sts>

Nation's oldest and most prestigious STEM research competition.

Davidson Fellows Scholarship <https://www.davidsongifted.org/fellows/>

For students with significant work in science, literature, music, technology, or philosophy.

Check your school, community, and city Opportunities often start close to home. Look for: School clubs you can lead or expand, Community centers that need volunteers or fresh ideas, Local libraries, museums, or nonprofits with student programs, City youth councils, service boards, or leadership initiatives. *Sometimes the most impactful projects are right in your own backyard, and colleges love to see you making a difference locally.*

Community Impact & Leadership

DoSomething.org → <https://www.dosomething.org>

Join or launch campaigns tackling social issues (environment, health, equality).

Youth Service America (YSA Grants) → <https://ysa.org/grants/>

Funding opportunities for youth-led community service projects.

National Honor Society Project Database → <https://www.nhs.us/>

Explore successful service projects for inspiration.

Creative & Tech Innovation

MIT THINK Scholars Program → <https://think.mit.edu>

Supports high school students pursuing independent research projects.

Conrad Challenge → <https://www.conradchallenge.org>

Entrepreneurship and innovation competition for student teams.

Technovation Girls → <https://technovationchallenge.org>

For young women building apps to solve global problems.

Resource of the Week

- [BigFuture by College Board](#) (must have resource. Please put it in your bookmarks)

BigFuture is a free tool that helps you:

- Search for colleges that fit your goals and interests
- Explore scholarships and financial aid opportunities
- Create a step-by-step checklist for applications
- Learn about majors and career paths
- Keeps seniors **organized during application season**
- Helps you **track deadlines** for each college
- Offers a massive **scholarship database** (over \$6 billion in aid listed)