



Class of 2026 Parent Information Night



Presented by:
BHS School Counseling
11/14/24

Agenda:

- Post-Secondary Pathways
- Spring and Summer 2025
- Senior Year
- Burlington City and Lake Semester
- Dual Enrollment and Early College
- College and Career Search Resources
- College Search Characteristics
- College Visits
- College Applications: Quick Overview
- VSAC Resources (Managing College Costs)
- College Preparatory Testing
- Upcoming Events
- Questions





Postsecondary Pathways

- 2- and 4-year college or university
- [Gap Year](#)
- Military
 - Active duty and Reserves options across five branches of service
- Workforce entry
 - [VT Dept. of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program](#)



Spring and Summer 2025

- Explore interests
- Seek employment
- Visit schools and programs
- Work on your college essay or resume
- Consider potential letters of recommendation
- Enroll in a summer Dual Enrollment course
- Research and apply for internships
 - *Examples:* [ECHO Leahy Center](#) and [State of Vermont](#)
- Complete community service
 - 40-hour graduation requirement
(*average of 10 hrs per year*)



Senior Year

- Minimum of 5 classes each semester
- Maintain or increase the rigor of your program of studies
- Continue or look for new challenges and areas to expand interests
- Consider Burlington City and Lake Semester
- Consider Dual Enrollment





Burlington City and Lake Semester

- BCL meets off-campus at the Old North End Community Center on Blue Days
- White Days are scheduled with other classes from the *Program of Studies*
- Students earn four credits per semester:
 - 0.5 English
 - 0.5 Social Studies
 - 1.0 Elective
- Applications open in December for 2025-2026 enrollment
- We welcome applications from a wide range of learners
- Learn more by visiting btvcityandlake.org



Dual Enrollment

Juniors and seniors have access to free tuition for **TWO** college classes.

- Participating colleges: UVM, CCV, Vermont State University, Landmark, Champlain College, and Saint Michael's College
- Students receive high school credit **and** college credit for successful completion of course
- See what college campus feels like, learn professor's expectations and get a head start on your college degree!

Contact Kate Stein at kstein@bsdvt.org



Early College 2025-2026

Complete your senior year of
high school with college courses

Students participate in a full-year alternative to a senior year in high school.

- Students must enroll in courses full-time for both the fall and spring semesters with the expectation courses meet graduation requirements.
- Students pay for textbooks, lab fees, materials fees, housing, food, and any other costs associated with this year.
- Students are eligible to play sports at BHS while enrolled in Early College.
- CCV's Early College program application is open. **Priority deadline May 1, 2025.**

Contact Kate Stein at kstein@bsdvt.org



College and Career Search Resources

- [Naviance](#)
 - [BigFuture](#)
 - [Vermont Student Assistance Corporation](#)
 - [Ruggs Guide](#)
 - [NCES College Navigator](#)
 - [US Dept. of Education College Score Card](#)
 - [New England Tuition Break Program](#)
- 1:1 conversations with School Counselors
 - Learn about the decision making process from
 - teachers
 - coaches
 - neighbors
 - mentors
 - siblings and peers
 - Interview a person in a field or career in which you have an interest; *how did they get there?*
 - Campus interviews with enrolled students

... *and many more!* Students and parents have their own favorites!



College Search Characteristics

- Geographic location and setting
 - urban, suburban, small town, rural
- Size of campus and student enrollment
- Admission requirements
 - average GPA, test optionality, selectivity, etc.
- Majors and programs
- Costs, tuition, room & board, fees, financial aid
- Type of school
 - (2- or 4-year), religious affiliation, male/female/co-ed, etc.
- Housing opportunities
- Athletics, intramural sports, clubs, activities, Greek life
- [Finding Colleges That Fit \(PDF\)](#)
- [College Comparison Chart \(PDF\)](#)
- [How to pick the right college for you](#)



College Visits

- Virtual and in-person tours
- Official tours and admissions presentations can be booked in advance
- Start with a visit to local schools
 - University of Vermont, St. Michael's College, Vermont State University, Community College of Vermont and Champlain College
 - *Don't forget how close we are to Canadian schools!*
- If traveling, check out a school in the area
- December, February, April, and summer breaks
- Look ahead: Fall 2025 BHS campus visits with admissions representatives featured in the *Bubble Blast* emailed weekly to all students



College Applications: Quick Overview

- Deadline Types: Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, and Rolling
- What is the Common Application? Opens Aug 1
- Components of the Application:
 - Personal information
 - Activities, work, service, internships, job shadows, honors, awards
 - Essay(s) - summer start
 - Teacher and other recommendations
 - Naviance: Official Transcripts and Teacher Recommendations are requested and sent electronically through this program
 - Test Scores, *if required*
 - sent from the ACT or SAT companies
 - Application fee waiver
 - FAFSA & Financial Aid application



VSAC Resources (Managing College Costs)

Junior Year

- *Managing College Costs* presentation by VSAC Counselor Soren Dews
- College and Career Pathways events
- VSAC Talent Search Program (TS) for first-generation college students

Senior Year

- *FAFSA Forms Night* to provide assistance filling out your financial aid forms with a VSAC counselor

Our favorite VSAC resources:

- [Paying For Education](#)
- [Parent guide to paying for college and career training](#)
- [Your Financial Path](#)
- [VSAC Events Calendar](#)
- [VSAC Scholarship Information](#)

Stop by their table to say "hi" and learn more!



College Preparatory Testing Resources

SAT: to register for the SAT, click [here](#).

- Test Dates – Please check the College Board [website](#) for test date information.
- Please refer to the College Board [website](#) for what to expect when taking the SAT.
- For information about the SAT calculator policy, click [here](#).

ACT: to register for the ACT, click [here](#).

- Test Dates – Please check the ACT [website](#) for test date information.
- Please refer to the ACT website for what to expect on [Test Day](#).
- For information about the ACT calculator policy, click [here](#).

**Fee waivers are available for students who meet federal income requirements under the Free/Reduced Price Lunch Program (FRPL).*

The New SAT

VS

The ACT

The redesigned SAT sees a return to the **1600-point scale**. There are two section scores: **Reading and Writing, and Math**. The four timed sections of the SAT range from 25 minutes to 65 minutes. **The Essay is optional** and is scored separately. It does NOT factor into the total score.★

The ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36. There are four sections: English, Math, Reading, and Science. All four sections are averaged to generate the total composite score. The four sections of the ACT range from 35 minutes to 60 minutes. The Essay is optional and is scored separately. It does NOT factor into the composite score.★

A Quick Look

2 SECTION SCORES

Reading / Writing
and Math

200-800 > 200-800

1600 Total

4 SECTION SCORES

English / Math /
Reading / Science

1-36 > 1-36 > 1-36 > 1-36

1-36 Total



Neither the new SAT nor the ACT has a WRONG ANSWER PENALTY.

- ★ **Note:** The new Math section covers much more advanced topics than in the past, but is better aligned with the math the majority of high school students study during their Junior year.
- ★ **Note:** The Science section is not designed to assess students' knowledge of physics, chemistry and biology. It is designed to assess scientific-reasoning skills and the ability to interpret data, charts, graphs, and studies.

Upcoming Events

November: Dual Enrollment for Spring '25

January: CTE and BTC visit days and Explore [Program of Studies](#) for course selection ideas

February: Junior course requests submitted in Advisory and meetings with Counselors begin

March: SAT on Saturday, March 15, 2025 and April 8th or 9th (TBD), 2025 at BHS

[VSAC College and Career Pathways High School Event](#)

- UVM - Saturday, March 8, 2025 (family event)
- SMC - Thursday, March 20, 2025



Final Thoughts

The grades you earn in high school and the rigor of your courses are among the most important factors considered in the application.

Do your best during your junior and senior years!

Have fun with the search process; it is the start of an exciting transition. Try to not compare yourself with others. *It is your personal journey!*



Questions?

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**Thank you
for joining us
for this
presentation!**

