Valley Stream Central High School District
School Counseling Department
Presents:

SENIOR
COLLEGE INFORMATIONAL NIGHT

September 17, 2026

Presenters: Kelly Whitney-Rivera, Brittany Balboa, Marissa Diel, Karen Miller, Katherine Morse, Joanne Philippe, Amanda Pincus, and Camile Shaw

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Be sure you have all the courses, credits and exams you need for graduation
- Sign up with your counselor to retake any Regents exams, in January or June 2026, needed for graduation or an Advanced Regents Diploma
- Finalize your college choices and inform your counselor. If you are still unsure, see your counselor immediately to discuss. Utilize Naviance (you will need the email and password you created) to perform a final college search and make sure your list includes:
  - **Safe**
  - **Target**
  - **Reach**
- You must list these schools in Naviance (we will discuss later in the presentation). Always have a safe school for financial reasons as well. This may be a local school, a State University (SUNY) school, a City University (CUNY) school or a community college. VISIT the school virtually if you have not done so yet.
- Register for the Common Application at: www.commonapp.org and save your username and password. You will need to input your Common Application username and password into the Naviance System.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT Tests. Be sure to send the Score Reports directly from College Board or ACT to each college that you are applying to.
- Input the colleges you are thinking about into Naviance. This will allow you to request on-line your letters of recommendation from your teachers.

Ms. Katherine Morse

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER (Cont'd)
SAT Registration

Location	Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration (Fee Applies)
In School	October 8th & March 16th	District Registering	NO FEE
South	November 7th & May 1st	Oct 23rd & April 16th	Oct 27th & April 20th
Central	November 7th, Dec 5th, May 1st, & June 5th	Oct 23rd , Nov 20th, April 16th , & May 21st	Sept 23rd, Nov 24th , April 20th & May 25th
North	December 5th & May 1st	Nov 20th & April 16th	Nov 24th & April 20th

You can register for either test directly on the internet at the College Board website at www.Collegeboard.org.

PLEASE NOTE: ***Students with Special Testing Accommodations*** **should see their school counselor to ensure proper registration procedures.**

Ms. Katherine Morse

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER (Cont'd)
ACT Test

Registration

Test Date	Deadline	Late Registration (Fee Applies)
October 17	September 11	September 29
December 12	November 6	November 29
February 27	January 22	February 9

Registration can be done online at www.actstudent.org. Students with disabilities should see their school counselor to ensure proper registration procedures.

ACT Tests Dates are not administered in the Valley Stream Central High School District

Ms. Katherine Morse

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER (Cont'd)

- File NCAA Athletic form if you plan to play college sports (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net)
- If any of the colleges you are applying to require the CSS Profile Financial Aid Form, register online following the links to paying for college on https://profileonline.collegeboard.org
- Prepare college applications – if you decide to apply early, all applications must be in the guidance office in the beginning of ***October*** . Applications for ***SUNY*** (State University of New York) and ***CUNY*** (City University of New York) are due by the end of ***October***. Applications for colleges with rolling and regular admissions should be in the guidance office as early as possible and no later than Thanksgiving.
- ***All other applications are due to your counselor's office by Thanksgiving***.
- Although you ***MUST*** email the teachers personally ***FIRST*** to ask them to write a letter of recommendation, you must also utilize Naviance to request these letters of recommendation from teachers and school coaches. Ask employers and others who know you well if you need an additional letter. *Please note: NCC and other community colleges do not require Letters of Recommendation.*

Marissa Diel

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER (Cont'd)

Requesting Teacher Letters of Recommendation via Naviance

- Go to Naviance Student:
  - Central - https://student.naviance.com/vschs
  - North - https://student.naviance.com/vsnhs
  - South - https://student.naviance.com/vsshs
- Go to the tab marked '***Colleges***'
- Click on '***Colleges I'm Applying To***'. Although we complete this list for you once you have reached your final decision, clicking here will give you the opportunity to request '***Teacher Recommendations***'
- Click the '***Letter of Recommendation Section***' link – click on add requests. Where it says '***Add New Requests***', click on the dropdown menu of the '***Select Teacher Box***'. Highlight the appropriate selection (these are arranged by the teacher's last name).

Marissa Diel

Requesting Teacher Letters of Recommendation via Naviance - Cont'd

- Input a personal note in the box using this or a similar message:
  - Dear _____,
  - Would you be able to write a letter of recommendation for me. I need it for _____ (specific college or list of colleges or just in general). You were my teacher for _____ (class/average you had in that class/the grade you had this teacher). I have participated in the following activities (list both in school and out of school activities, volunteer work or employment). I am thinking of majoring in _____ (if you know). I need this by _____. Thank you.
- Do this for each teacher who you are requesting a letter of recommendation.
- Click on Submit Requests

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER (Cont'd)

APPLYING TO COLLEGES

- Your application is a crucial document in the admissions process. It demonstrates the quality of your writing, thinking and tells the college how you have spent your time. A thoughtfully prepared application is important, while a poorly prepared application can be detrimental.
- There's no surefire formula that will guarantee a good application, but you can help yourself by keeping the following in mind:
  - Read through all the information received before completing any part of the application.
  - Utilize the Common and SUNY Applications as much as possible.
  - After completing the application- ***DO NOT HIT SUBMIT*** – have your counselor review the application first. *Be aware of application deadlines*. You will increase your chances of producing a strong application if you allow yourself plenty of time.
  - Do a rough draft of the application. Revise your application, as necessary.
  - Make sure you have your English teacher review your essay(s).

Joanne Philippe

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER (Cont'd)

APPLYING TO COLLEGES

➢Remember, the application is your opportunity to make a statement to an admissions committee; do not lose this opportunity.

➢You may apply to as many colleges as you wish. Your final list of colleges typically includes at least two colleges which are "***Reaches***," two which are "***Targets***" or where you have a better than ever chance, and two which are "***Safeties***" or where admission is reasonably certain. Make sure that every college that is on your list is one you would be happy to attend.

➢Please keep in mind that each college you apply to has their own application fee.

➢***IMPORTANT***: One of the "safe" schools should be financially affordable for your family as well.

➢Save a copy of everything you submit. Complete all supplements!

Joanne Philippe

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER (Cont'd)
APPLYING TO COLLEGES

- Your completed application should be reviewed by your counselor before you ***hit submit***.
- Remember, the Guidance Office needs ***at least three weeks*** in advance of the college deadline to electronically submit your transcripts and other forms to the college.
- You ***MUST*** submit a ***College Application Transcript Request Form*** listing ***EVERY*** college you are applying to your school counselor.
- PLEASE NOTE:
  - PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO EARLY ADMISSIONS DEADLINES!!!

Marissa Diel

SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER (Cont'd)

- Visit with college representatives through the Guidance office.
- take advantage of in-person and virtual campus tours and attend college fairs as they become available.
  - NCA Fall College Expo @ Adelphi, Tuesday, September 29th 5 -8pm
  - Hispanic College Fair
  - SOAR's College Resource and Scholarship Fair September 26 @ Jamaica Educational Campus
  - 15th Annual Black College Expo @ LIU Brooklyn Campus
  - HBCU College Tour through Jack and Jill
- Stay informed of available scholarships and their deadlines
  - You can view these on the Valley Stream Website www.vschsd.org and on the welcome page to Naviance Student
- Review your high school transcript with your counselor
- In English 4 and AP English Literature, seniors will have an opportunity to write and edit their college essays. See your English teacher if you have any questions.

Camile Shaw

OCTOBER
Financial Aid Information

- Begin to review the FAFSA form online (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Register for FAFSA PIN # prior to applying
- Attend a Financial Aid Workshop-
- Submit FAFSA in December/ January
- ***Attend Financial Aid Night, Thursday, October 15th 7pm South Hall***
- ***Attend FAFSA Completion Night (these building events are subject to change and will be scheduled through district office as the date gets closer)***
  - ***Central: Tuesday, October 20th 7pm***
  - ***North: Wednesday, October 21st 7pm***
  - ***South: Thursday, October 22nd 7pm***

Camile Shaw

NOVEMBER

- **ALL** applications are due to your school counselor by Thanksgiving
  - In Person College Fair @ Central High School November 6th
- Test Optional- have a discussion with your school counselor about sending your SAT or ACT scores to the colleges that you are applying to. Competitive programs still require scores
- If you decide to send SAT and/or ACT results, they must be sent directly to colleges through CollegeBoard and ACT.
- Continue to check for scholarship information
- Check status of Letters of Recommendation

Camile Shaw

NOVEMBER (Cont'd)

- On-Site Admissions will be held for local colleges:
  - Adelphi University
  - Long Island University (C.W. Post Campus)
  - Hofstra University
  - Molloy College
  - St. John's University
  - NYIT
- Queensborough and Nassau Community College Application Completion Days
- Update your Naviance List

Camile Shaw

ON-SITE ADMISSIONS

- Colleges that provide on-site admissions are:
  - ***Molloy College***
  - ***LIU(CW Post Campus)***
  - ***Adelphi University***
  - ***St. John's University***
  - ***Hofstra University***
  - ***New York Institute of Technology***
  - Benefits of on-site:
    - No application fee, if you meet application requirements (will be posted at your school) you generally are admitted "***on the spot.***"
    - Some of the schools even award scholarships "***on the spot.***"
    - Please make sure you have met the criteria for acceptance through the on-site admissions process.
    - On-Site visits take place in person during the school day.

Brittany Balboa

DECEMBER/ JANUARY

- Did you submit a *College Application Transcript Request Form* listing all the colleges you are applying to? (see form)
- Are all your applications submitted?
- Continue to check for scholarships
- ***Check with your school counselor that you have met all graduation requirements!***

Brittany Balboa

FEBRUARY/ MARCH

- Any application still not submitted should be completed as soon as possible if the deadline allows.
- ***Notify your counselor of all college:***
  - ***Acceptances***
  - ***Rejections***
  - ***Wait listed status***
- Continue to check for scholarships

Brittany Balboa

APRIL / MAY

- Students can ask their school counselor for prep materials for the ACCUPLACER exam. The ACCUPLACER is a placement test for Nassau Community College (NCC) and many other colleges. STUDY by going to websites that specialize in preparation for this test.
- Make final decisions about colleges – submit necessary deposits, including dorm deposit
- Meet all college deadlines to ensure your place in the college of your choice
- Take AP exams- Students participating in Advanced Placement Courses are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam(s) in order to receive the AP designation on their transcript and to receive the course weighting accruing to AP Courses
- Report your final college choice to your counselor
- Report all scholarships, grants, and awards to your counselor

Brittany Balboa

June

- Meet all graduation requirements
- Speak with your counselor if you have been Wait Listed or provided a Unique Admissions to help decide what works best for you
- Final transcripts will be sent to colleges. Do not risk jeopardizing your admissions with a lackluster second semester

Brittany Balboa

APPLYING ONLINE

Electronic Submission of School Forms

The Valley Stream Central High School District is sending all necessary documents to colleges electronically including transcripts, secondary school reports and teacher letters of recommendation. To be successful however, you must ***avoid certain pitfalls*:**

A. ***DO NOT hit the submit button before your counselor reviews the application*** you will not have the opportunity to have your counselor help you check for accuracy, spelling and to read your essays

B. ***College Application Transcript Request Form***

A. The student is responsible for submitting this form to their school counselor with all of the colleges they are applying to at least 3 weeks before the college application deadline.

   A. List all colleges, deadlines and the way you are submitting – e.g. via the Common Application, CUNY SUNY, etc.

B. This form tells your counselor to review your application. In addition, your counselor will advise you as to when you should pay and submit your application.

C. The secondary school report, mid-year report, and letters of recommendation will be sent by your counselor to the colleges listed on your ***College Application Transcript Request Form***

Amanda Pincus

APPLYING ONLINE (Cont'd)
Electronic Submission of School Forms

C. ***If you do not inform your school that you have applied online, the high school forms will NOT be sent, delaying the decision. In the past students have missed application deadlines and thus were rejected when this happened.*** Applications are not complete until ***ALL*** forms are submitted to the college. Many, if not most, colleges will not review an application until ***EVERYTHING*** is received.

- ***Please note:*** **It takes approximately 2 to 6 weeks for documents to be processed by the college – therefore do not get nervous if the college states that your application is not complete until after a month!!!!**

D. Fees can either be paid by credit card online or an e-check online, however you are responsible for making sure that this is done.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES ONLINE (Cont'd)

E. The student goes online to the Common Application website (www.commonapp.org) , the CUNY online application website (www.CUNY.edu) and the SUNY online application website (www.SUNY.edu) a specific college website (generally the website address is the name of the college followed by .edu) to complete this process.

F. The student reads the instructions for each question and answers them appropriately. The student writes the essay in ***Word*** to utilize ***spell check***, ***grammar check*** and ***word count***. Once corrected and finished, the student copies and pastes his/her essay into the Common App. The student checks if there is a supplemental application and completes that as well.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES ONLINE (Cont'd)

G. ***<u>The student completes the FERPA statement online when they complete the educational section of the Common Application</u>***. This will be done during classroom guidance lessons with all seniors.

H. Remember not to hit the submit button until your counselor reviews your applications.

I. The student completes the Request for Teacher Letters of Recommendation on Naviance following directions on slides 6 & 7.

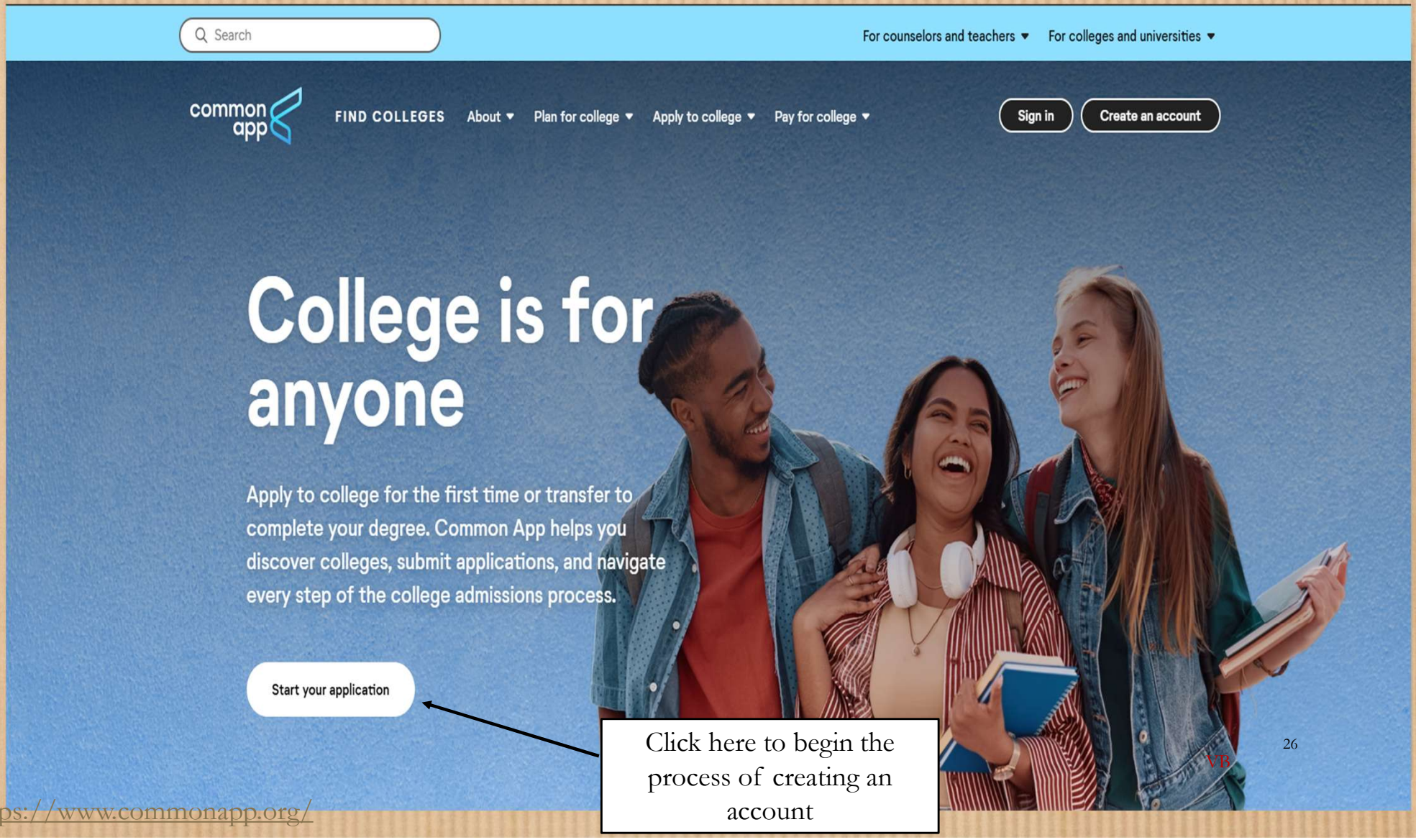
APPLYING TO COLLEGES ONLINE (Cont'd)

- Tips for user IDs, email addresses and passwords.
- Please note (Important):
  - Use the same email address for ***EVERY*** application, for the SAT and ACT and share this information with your counselor
  - Use an appropriate sounding user ID and email address
    - i.e: jane.doe@gmail.com
  - When uploading files such as essays– make sure they are named appropriately as well
    - i.e: Common Essay 1
  - When you submit your common application, pay the fee. The college will not receive your application until your application fee is made.

COMMON APPLICATION

- Accepted by over 1000 colleges and universities –including most of the four-year ***SUNY*** schools but **NOT CUNY** or the community colleges
- Student completes one application which will be sent to all colleges applied to
- Each individual college requires additional information to be completed. These supplemental materials may include ***additional essays and/or information***. These are detailed on the Common Application website.
- Website: www.commonapp.org

Amanda Pincus



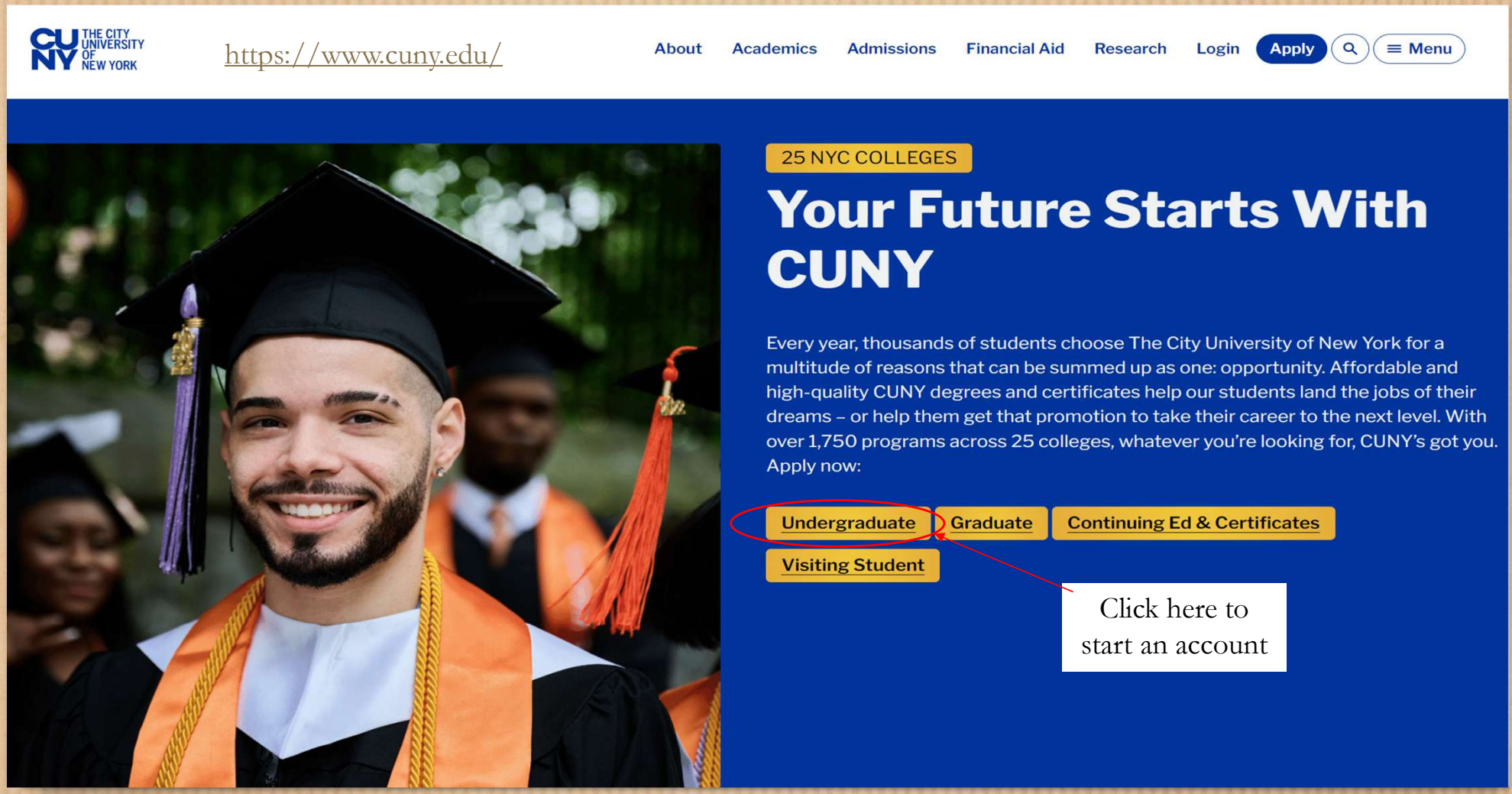
https://www.commonapp.org/

VB

CUNY ONLINE

- Go to www.cuny.edu click on Admissions, undergraduate
- Click on '***Apply Now***' and then read the instructions on ***'How to Apply'***
- Create your CUNY application account *(CUNYfirst account)* by clicking on the CUNY Application Page Link
- See Future Students Apply Here using Application Account and then start your application
- Fill out a Freshman Admission Application
- CUNY FREE WEEK NOV 10TH -21ST

https://www.cuny.edu/



SUNY ONLINE

- Go to www.suny.edu
- Click on Apply
- Click on ***Click here to apply now!***
  - Read all directions
  - Preview the application
- Create your account
- Complete your application but DO NOT SUBMIT
- **SUNY Free Application Week – students may use EITHER the CommonApp or the SUNY App. OCT 20TH - NOV 3RD**

ADMISSIONS
WHAT IS SUNY?
WHY DOES SUNY MATTER?
Search
SUNY A-Z
GIVE
SUNY
The State University of New York
Apply
Campuses
Programs
Free Associate Degrees for Adult Learners
SUNY Reconnect
Click here

HBCU COMMON APPLICATION

- Go to HOME - commonblackcollegeapp.com
- Click to read the instructions on how to apply
- Click on apply to any number of the 66 HBCUs and create an account

HOME
START APPLICATION
STUDENT DASHBOARD
SCHOOL COUNSELOR LOGIN
INSTRUCTIONS
commonblkcollap
commonblkcollap
Common Black College Application
20
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
OFFICIAL CBCA
GET EDUcated!
EDU, Inc.
COMMON BLACK COLLEGE APPLICATION
APPAREL
APPLY TO ANY NUMBER OF THE 66 HBCUs BELOW FOR ONLY $20.
INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE YOUR 2024 – 2025 APPLICATION

Click here

Information Necessary for Applications

- ***Central High School:***
  - **Location:** 135 Fletcher Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580
  - **Guidance Fax # :** (516) 561-4479 **CEEB Code:** 335710
- ***Counselors:***
  - Kathleen Hardy: (516) 561-4427 Hardyk@vschsd.org
  - Amy La Personerie: (516) 561-4426 Lapersoa@vschsd.org
  - Kiahna Scala (516) 561-4429 Scalak@vschsd.org
  - Kathryn Sciocchetti (516) 561-4437 Sciocchk@vschsd.org
  - Samantha Cipriano (516) 561-4428 Ciprians@vschsd.org
  - Gina Brick (516) 561-4433 Brickg@vschsd.org
  - Amanda Pincus (516) 561-4409 Pincusa@vschsd.org
- ***Guidance TA***
  - Brittany Balboa (516) 561-4421. **Balboab@vschsd.org**
- ***Web Addresses:***
  - Naviance https://student.naviance.com/vschs
  - Common Application - www.commonapp.org
  - Valley Stream Central High School District website – www.vschsd.org
- Most VS email addresses are the first seven letters of the teachers' last name and their first initial followed by @vschsd.org
- ***MUST*** complete the ***College Application Transcript Request Form*** and list all colleges you are applying to and submit it to your counselor

KWR

Information Necessary for Applications

- ***North High School:***
  - **Location:** 750 Herman Avenue, Franklin Square, NY 11010
  - **Guidance Fax #:** (516) 705-0033 **CEEB Code:** 331986
- ***Counselors:***
  - Brittany Balboa: (516) 564-5511 balboab@vschsd.org
  - Janna Brodman/ Katherine Morse (516) 564-5516 Melaskyj@vschsd.org/ Morsek@vschsd.org
  - Joshua Brodsky: (516) 564-5525 Brodskyj@vschsd.org
  - Marissa Diel: (516) 564-5531 deilm@vschsd.org
  - Nicole Maier: (516) 564-5526 Maiern@vschsd.org
  - Joanne Philippe (516) 564- 5514 Philippj@vschsd.org
  - Camile Shaw (516) 564-5529 shawc@vschsd.org
- ***Web Addresses:***
  - Naviance https://student.naviance.com/vsnhs
  - Common Application - www.commonapp.org
  - Valley Stream Central High School District website – www.vschsd.org
- Most VS email addresses are the first seven letters of the teachers' last name and their first initial followed by @vschsd.org
- ***MUST*** complete the ***College Application Transcript Request Form*** and list all colleges you are applying to and submit it to your counselor

KWR

Information Necessary for Applications

- ***South High School:***
  - **Location:** 150 Jedwood Place, Valley Stream, NY 11580
  - **Guidance Fax #:** (516) 791-0356 **CEEB Code:** 335712
- ***Counselors:***
  - Vincent Baio: (516) 791-0342 Baiov@vschsd.org
  - Karen Miller: (516) 791-0326 Cooneyk01@vschsd.org
  - Russell Garcia: (516) 791-0325 Garciar02@vschsd.org
  - Michelle Lopez (516) 791-0327 Lopezm@vschsd.org
  - Deidre Tantillo. (516) 791- 0308 Tantilld@vschsd.org
- ***Guidance TA:***
  - Lori Dugan: (516) 791-0321 Duganl@vschsd.org
- ***Web Addresses:***
  - Naviance https://student.naviance.com/vsshs
  - Common Application - www.commonapp.org
  - Valley Stream Central High School District website – www.vschsd.org
- Most VS email addresses are the first seven letters of the teachers' last name and their first initial followed by @vschsd.org
- ***MUST*** complete the ***College Application Transcript Request Form*** and list all colleges you are applying to and submit it to your counselor

KWR

Conclusion

- Finalize List of Colleges
- Register and take standardized tests
- Request Letters of Recommendation on Naviance
- Prepare Activity List to utilize
- Write Essay(s) in English
- Register for the Common, CUNY, or SUNY Applications online
- Make sure you have created a list of the colleges you have interest in on Naviance and complete the FERPA statement
- Complete the College Application Transcript Request Form listing every college where you are applying
- Complete applications but do not press submit until it has been reviewed by your counselor
  - ***All application Transcript Request forms should be sent to your child's school counselor before Thanksgiving.***
- Review completed applications with your counselor
- Be sure to inform your counselor about EVERY college you apply to so transcripts and letters of recommendation may be sent
- Send/release SAT and/or ACT scores from College board and/or ACT when applicable
- Meet all graduation requirements and deadlines, it is your responsibility to submit your applications on time.

KWR