

Welcome



Class of 2025 Parent/Guardian College Kick Off Meeting

Presented by: LHS College & Career Center
September 2024

Agenda

- Senior Year Timeline
- LHS Graduation Requirements
- 2 Year Colleges
- 4 Year Colleges
- Types of College Admission Deadlines
- Finalizing Your College List
- Parts of the College Application
- Naviance
- Financial Aid
- Upcoming Events

Review Senior Year Schedule for Graduation & College Admission Requirements

Continue to Visit Colleges; Fall Open Houses

Finalize College List (*Develop well-balanced list!*)

Stay engaged with your extracurricular activities and commitments outside of school

Register for SATs/ACTs *if you plan to take them*; many colleges are test optional: fairtest.org

Attend College & Career Center (CCC)

Events:

College & Career Fair
College Representative Visits
CCC Workshops, Events, & Flex Blocks
College Week Activities
Financial Aid Night

Meet individually with your guidance counselor

Complete Common Application, supplements, and/or college specific applications

Finalize College Essay(s)

Send test scores to colleges *only if you are applying with test scores*

Naviance Tasks

Add Colleges to "Colleges I'm Applying To"
Match Naviance & Common App accounts
Request Transcripts
Request Letters of Recommendation (both in person & on Naviance)
Update Resume

Keep track of admissions deadlines and application requirements; submit all application components prior to deadlines

Early Action / Early Decision deadlines

Apply for Financial Aid *sooner rather than later!* FAFSA opens October 1 at fafsa.gov
CSS profile (if applicable)

Apply for scholarships; check Naviance

Additional application materials as required; For example auditions, portfolio, interviews

FALL

Senior Year College Timeline

Be organized & stay on top of deadlines!

Apply for Financial Aid if you have not yet done so: FAFSA & CSS profile (if applicable)

Send in your application materials for schools' regular decision deadlines if you didn't apply early!

Complete Naviance

Tasks as necessary:

Add Colleges to "Colleges I'm Applying To"
Match Naviance & Common App accounts
Request transcripts
Request Letters of Recommendation (in person & on Naviance)
Update Resume

Confirm colleges/universities have all your application and financial aid materials

LHS Honor's Night Scholarship Process

Apply for scholarships; check Naviance

Early Action and Early Decision Results released

Midyear Transcript sent to colleges

WINTER

Regular Decisions released

Keep your grades up!

Review college acceptances and compare financial aid packages

Continue to apply for scholarships

May 1st: deadline to make your final college decision and send in enrollment deposit

Naviance Tasks

Update College Acceptances
Update "College You are Attending"
Complete Senior Survey

Take AP exams (if applicable)

Graduation! 

Plan for summer orientation, course registration, and housing (if applicable) at the college you have enrolled in.

SPRING



Naviance
student.naviance.com/lowellhs

College & Career Google Classroom

Common App
commonapp.org

College Board / SATs
collegeboard.org

College Board Big Future
bigfuture.collegeboard.org

FAFSA
fafsa.gov

CSS Profile
cssprofile.collegeboard.org

MEFA Financial Aid
mefa.org

uAspire Financial Aid
www.uaspire.org/For-Students

Virtual College Tours
youvisit.com

NCAA Student Athletes
web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3

LHS Graduation Requirements

Are you on track?

- ★ Fulfill the standard requirement of earning at least 90 credits.
- ★ Pass the MCAS exams in ELA, Mathematics, and Science or meet Competency Determination.

| Content Area | Number of Credits Each semester course is 2.5 credits |
|--|--|
| English** | 20 Credits |
| U.S History I and II** <i>(must include 1 semester of Civics)</i> | 10 credits |
| Mathematics <i>(1-full year of Algebra and Geometry)</i> | 10 credits |
| Natural or Physical Sciences | 10 credits |
| Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Education or Equivalent*• Health (A and B) or Equivalent* | 15 credits 10 credits 5 credits |
| Electives | 25 Credits |

What are my options after high school?

- 2 & 4 Year Colleges
- Technical/Trade Programs
- Military
- Employment



Today's focus



Workshops &
events offered
on all options

The College Landscape - Three Pathways

Path 1

2 Year Colleges /
Community College
= Associate's Degree
Low Cost or Free

*Some stop their
education with the
associates degree - see
Path 3 if you want to
continue your education*

Path 2

4 Year Colleges /
Universities =
Bachelors Degree
Higher Cost,
sometimes reduced
by Financial Aid

Path 3

2 Years at
Community College
(Associates Degree)
AND
2 Years at College or
University =
Bachelor's Degree
Lower Cost as two
years are free

2 Years at a MA community college can be free for Massachusetts Residents. By combining the community college and associates degree with a four year college / university, students are able to save money.

2 Year Colleges / Community Colleges

Associate's Degree

- Any student with a high school diploma or GED can attend
- Generally, no GPA requirement or SATs (check specific program)

For example: Health programs will have additional requirements

- Quick application process
- Transcript required
- *May* need to take placement exam before selecting classes (*prepare!*)

MassTransfer

Once you have completed your Associate's Degree (2 year degree) at a Massachusetts Community College, you can then transfer to a 4 year college to complete your Bachelor's Degree through a program called the Mass Transfer Program.



MassEducate



Free Community College is Here.

No matter your age or income: community college is now free in Massachusetts!

The MassEducate program allows all Massachusetts residents who have not yet earned a bachelor's degree to attend a Massachusetts community college for **free**.

To be eligible for MassEducate, you must:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*
- Apply to your local community college and enroll in an approved program of study.
- Have physically resided in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of your first enrolled term.
- Have earned a high school diploma or the equivalent.
- Are enrolled in at least six credits (usually two classes) per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the college's requirements.

*If you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA and are an approved "High School Completer" under the Massachusetts tuition equity law, you can complete the Massachusetts Application for State Financial Aid (MASFA) and still attend for free.



MIDDLESEX
Community College

MCC College Information & Application Sessions will be held regularly in College & Career Center.

Tuesdays at 11AM (1x per month)

9/17, 10/22, 11/19, 12/17

[Register on Naviance](#)

Community Colleges Certificate Programs



Community colleges, such as Middlesex Community College and Northern Essex Community College, offer many certificate programs, such as these below. *This is a short list of hundreds of programs offered!*

- Dental Assisting
- Medical Assisting
- Hospital Management
- Culinary Arts
- Travel Management
- Medical Coding & Billing... and more!

4 Year Colleges / Universities

Bachelor's Degree

What are colleges looking at?

- Strength of classes
- GPA
- Essay
- Letters of recommendation
- SAT/ACT scores (*if* required)

Minimum Requirements:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math
- 3 years of Lab Science
- 2 years of Social Science
- 2 years of the same World Language

Selective Private Colleges (examples: BU and Northeastern) have more rigorous requirements including supplemental essays, interviews and 4 years of all core academic subjects.

Types of College Admission Deadlines

- **Regular Decision:** A set deadline which all materials must be submitted by (Example: 1/1, 1/15)
- **Early Action:** Non-binding early deadline
Often November 1st, if not sooner!
- **Early Decision:** Binding contract early deadline
You *must* attend, if accepted
- **Rolling Admission:** Applications are accepted & decisions are made on a rolling basis (as they come in) - *sooner the better!*

Note: Certain programs/majors (ex. Nursing), as well as scholarships, may have early deadlines.

Finalizing Your College List

REACH

- More selective/competitive colleges, your “dream” schools
- Your GPA/SATs fall at/below the average accepted students
- Acceptance rate is less than 30%
- You have reviewed their Net Cost to attend against your Net Price Calculator / SAI and you would be able to pay for this school

TARGET

- [Your GPA/SATs fit the school’s published data on accepted students](#)
- You have reviewed their Net Cost to attend against your Net Price Calculator / SAI and you would be able to pay for this school

LIKELY

- Your GPA/SATs are above the school’s published data on accepted students
- Acceptance rate is high (70% or higher chance of acceptance)



**A well-balanced
list typically has
7-12 schools:
2-4 Likely
3-5 Target
2-3 Reach**

[College Navigator](#) is
a great tool!

Parts of the College Application

Parts of the College Application

- Common Application
- Essay(s)
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- SATs/ACTs

Special Considerations:

- If participating in athletics, register for the [NCAA online](#)
- Auditions
- Portfolios
- Interviews

Common Application



- One application for over 1000 schools
- Students need to create an account
- Students add schools to their dashboard on Common App

Workshops available to help students with Common App!

[Common Application Student Instructions](#)

This detailed document guide students through each section of the Common App

Common Application

My Colleges Tab: College-specific questions / essays



Each section of the Common App needs to be completely & accurately filled out

Writing Section: The College Essay

Welcome, Jennifer!
[Practice Applicant](#) [Practice account FAQs](#)
CAID 31024589
jmagary@lowell.k12.ma.us [Sign Out](#)

- Dashboard
- My Colleges
- Common App
- College Search
- Financial Aid

- Common App
- Profile
- Family
- Education
- Testing
- Activities
- Writing
- Courses & Grades

Profile

Personal Information

Legal first/given name*

Would you like to share a different first name that people call you?

Yes

No

[Clear answer](#)

My first name*

You can update how we use this name in your [communication preferences](#)

Middle name

Need help?

Need Help?
Please use the link below to look for an answer to your question. Answers to most questions can be found in [Read more](#)

Transcripts

- Students' academic record throughout high school, includes weighted GPA
- Student must request transcripts in Naviance at least 2 weeks prior to your deadline
 - Transcripts are sent through Naviance by School Counselor

[How to Request Transcripts \(Video\)](#)

Letters of Recommendation

- Students are told to ask their teachers *in person* first
- Student must also request letters of recommendation through Naviance
- Check college admission website for recommendation requirements
- Please give teachers and school counselors adequate time to complete your letters (*at least 15 school days* prior to deadlines)

[How to Request Letters of Recommendation \(Video\)](#)

SAT/ACT

- Check individual schools to see if they **require** the SAT or ACT (found on their Admissions page)
- Sign up through CollegeBoard for SAT
- Sign up for ACT at actstudent.org
- Send your scores to college directly through CollegeBoard; they do not get sent through Lowell High School
- Assistance is available to help you sign up
 - Talk to your counselor, Trio/Gear Up advisor, or visit the College and Career Center

SAT Fall 2024



- SATs are now digital!
- Students are responsible for registering on [College Board](https://collegeboard.org)

| SAT Test Date* | Registration Deadline | Deadline for Changes, Regular Cancellation, and Late Registration** |
|----------------|---|---|
| Aug 24, 2024 | Aug 9, 2024 | Aug 13, 2024 |
| Oct 5, 2024 | Sept 20, 2024 Register | Sept 24, 2024 |
| Nov 2, 2024 | Oct 18, 2024 Register | Oct 22, 2024 |
| Dec 7, 2024 | Nov 22, 2024 Register | Nov 26, 2024 |

Test (SAT/ACT) Optional

Many, **but not all**, schools are test-optional.

Resource: [Fairtest](#)

The best place you can research what schools are test-optional, what test-optional means for that school, whether or not you should submit scores, etc., is *directly on the college/university website*. For example:

[Boston University's Standardized Test Policy | Admissions](#)

[No Test Option FAQ | Undergraduate Admissions | UMass Lowell](#)

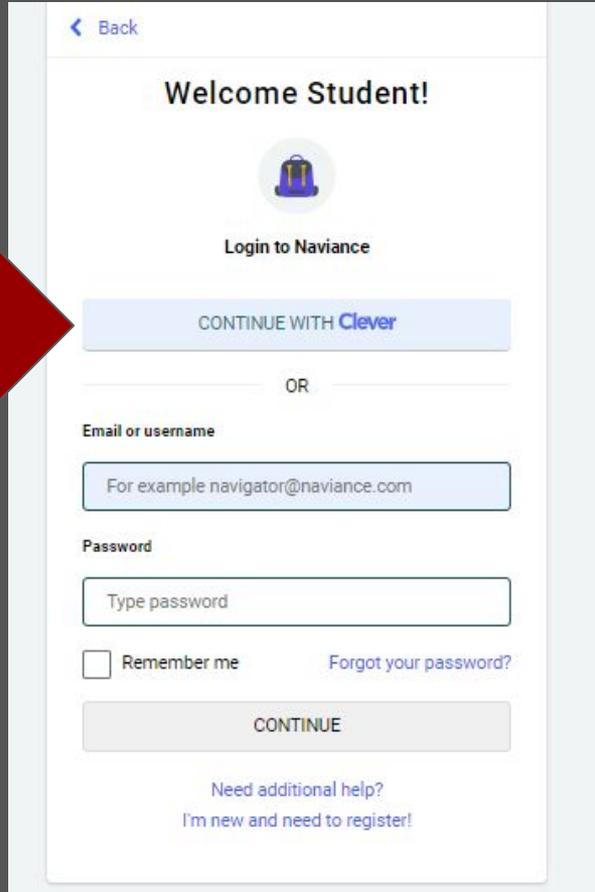
College Application Checklist

[College Application Checklist: Senior Year](#)

Naviance

Naviance Log In

**Log in through
Clever!**



← Back

Welcome Student!



Login to Naviance

CONTINUE WITH **Clever**

OR

Email or username

For example navigator@naviance.com

Password

Type password

Remember me [Forgot your password?](#)

CONTINUE

[Need additional help?](#)
[I'm new and need to register!](#)

Naviance Homepage

The screenshot shows the Naviance homepage for a user named 'Demo'. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Self-Discovery', 'Courses', 'Careers', 'Colleges', and 'Planner'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Demo's Future Planning' with a 'Plan Your Future' call to action, 'Career Goals' featuring 'Athletes and Sports Competitors', 'College Path Highlights' with a search bar, and 'Colleges I'm Thinking About' showing 'Merrimack College'. On the right side, there are sections for 'Welcome to Naviance', 'Tasks from My School', and 'What's New' with upcoming college visits. A large red arrow points to the search bar in the 'College Path Highlights' section, and a red starburst graphic with the text 'College Visits to LHS!' is overlaid on the right side of the page.

Search for colleges!

College Visits to LHS!

Demo's Future Planning

College: Bachelor's Degree [Edit Path](#)

Plan Your Future

Quickly access your path highlights, favorite careers, information from your school, and more from this page.

Career Goals



Athletes and Sports Competitors

College Path Highlights

Search for a College

Enter name

Search

Colleges I'm Thinking About

Name

Interest

Delivery Type

Merrimack College

N/A

Common App

Welcome to Naviance

Lowell High School is pleased to introduce **Family Connection** – a comprehensive website that you can use to plan for college and a career. Family Connection is linked with Naviance, a service that we use in our office to track and analyze data about college and career plans, so it provides up-to-date information that is specific to our school.

Family Connection allows you to:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process** – Build a resume, complete online surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
- **Research colleges** – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to

[Read More](#)

[Additional Information from Your School](#)

Tasks from My School

Relax, you have no overdue or upcoming to-dos and tasks. However, you can get ahead by going to My Planner to see what's next or create a goal to do.

What's New

University of New Hampshire-Main Campus will be visiting your school on Wednesday, September 14th, 2023 at 9:05 am [more info](#)

Brown University will be visiting your school on Thursday, September 14th, 2023 at 9:55 am [more info](#)

Merrimack College will be visiting your school on Friday, September 15th, 2023 at 9:00 am [more info](#)

Display All

College Search

Naviance Home Self-Discovery Courses Careers **Colleges** Planner

Close Demo

SuperMatch College Search

College Search

Your Fit Criteria

College Home

Find Your fit

- SuperMatch College Search
- College Match
- College Events
- Scattergrams
- Advanced College Search
- College Lookup

Research Colleges

- Colleges I'm Thinking About
- College Visits
- College Compare
- College Resources
- Acceptance History
- Enrichment Programs
- College Maps

Apply to College

- Colleges I'm Applying to
- Manage Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- Test Scores

Scholarships & Money

- College-Specific Scholarships
- National Scholarship Search
- Scholarship Search
- Favorite Scholarships

About SuperMatch

Save Search Start Over

5 selected criteria

To refine your results, use the arrows to move your criteria into the "Must Have" and "Nice to Have" boxes.

✕ Location [8] →

✕ Major [29] →

✕ Campus Surroundings [2] →

✕ Institution Type →

✕ Acceptance Rate [1] →

Must Have

Nice to Have

A **Nice to Have** is anything that's important to you, but isn't an absolute must have.

Your Results Your results include **16 institutions** that are both an **academic match** and also match all the criteria selected above.

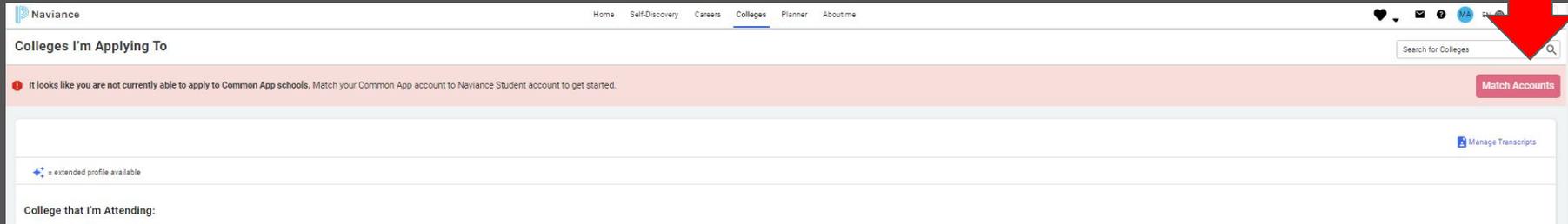
| Fit Score | Academic Match | Highlights | Cost | Pick what to show | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|------------|-----|------------|------|------------|----|--------------------------------|--|
| <p>Boston College</p> <p>Chestnut Hill, MA, Large City</p> <p>4 year, Private nonprofit, Roman Catholic</p> <p>★ PIN TO COMPARE</p> <p>♥ FAVORITE</p> | <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> 100% </div> <p style="margin-top: 5px; border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 15px; padding: 2px 5px; display: inline-block;">Why?</p> | <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Average</th> <th>You</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GPA</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAT</td> <td>1400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ACT</td> <td>33</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="font-size: 8px; color: #0070c0;">To determine if you're an academic match for this institution, enter your GPA and/or standardized test scores.</p> | Average | You | GPA | N/A | SAT | 1400 | ACT | 33 | <p>No Highlights Available</p> | <p>Customize what you see here—Choose a category above</p> |
| Average | You | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GPA | N/A | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SAT | 1400 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ACT | 33 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Brown University</p> | <div style="border: 2px solid green; border-radius: 50%; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> 100% </div> | <p>Photos/Videos on Profile</p> | <p>Tuition & Fees</p> <p>\$69,254</p> | <p>Customize what you see here—Choose a category above</p> | | | | | | | | |

Matching Naviance to Common Application

[Matching Common App to Naviance](#) (video)

[Common App Instructions: FERPA](#)

[Matching Naviance to Common App Instructions](#)



The screenshot shows the Naviance website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Self-Discovery, Careers, Colleges, Planner, and About me. The 'Colleges' link is currently selected. On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for a heart, an envelope, a person, and a gear. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Colleges I'm Applying To'. A search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for Colleges' is located on the right. A prominent red banner message reads: 'It looks like you are not currently able to apply to Common App schools. Match your Common App account to Naviance Student account to get started.' To the right of this message is a red button labeled 'Match Accounts'. Below the banner, there is a section for 'College that I'm Attending:' which is currently empty. A small blue icon with a plus sign and the text 'extended profile available' is visible on the left. On the right side of the page, there is a link that says 'Manage Transcripts' with a document icon. A large red arrow points downwards from the top right corner of the page towards the 'Match Accounts' button.

Financial Aid

Financial Aid

FAFSA

- FREE to complete on studentaid.gov
- Opens in December this year - submit as soon as possible after it is open
- All colleges require FAFSA for students to be eligible for grants, loans, (some) scholarships, and work-study

CSS Profile

- SOME private colleges/universities will require (in addition to FAFSA)
- Available on collegeboard.org; fees apply

Always check the colleges' financial aid websites for the forms they require and their financial aid deadlines.

Financial Aid Resources

LHS Financial Aid Night 10/29

MEFA

[Financial Aid 101 2024-25 - MEFA Webinar \(English\)](#)

[Ayuda Económica para la Universidad 101 2024 - MEFA \(Spanish\)](#)

Trio/Gear Up

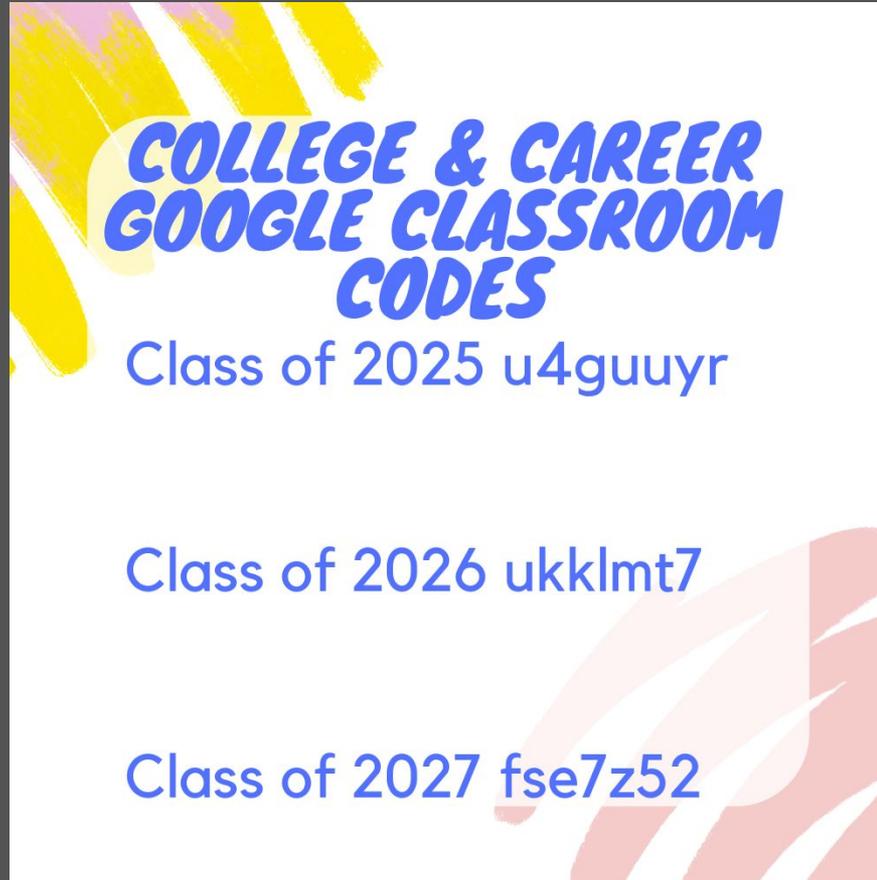
Going to MCC? Make an in-person appointment at:

[Financial Aid Office](#)

Monthly FAFSA Completion Events at LHS, starting in December!

College & Career Center Upcoming Events

Students: join and follow the Google Classroom!



Join the College & Career Google Classrooms for important updates!

- Scholarship Announcements
- College & Career Information Sessions
- [Life After High School Planning Guide](#) (resource for all planning!!)
- Workshops & Events
...and much, much more!

Presentation

Presentation is posted:

Lowell High School Student Support website;
under Parent Presentations

[Student Support Services / Parent Presentations](#)

It will also be recorded in Khmer, Portuguese,
and Spanish and posted on the website.

Financial Aid Night

FAFSA & Financial Aid Overview

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

6PM-7:30PM

LHS Main Entrance

Presentation will be in English and Spanish

**Presented by LHS College & Career Center and MEFA
Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority®**





Over 50 colleges are coming to

UHS College and Career Center

during the school day to meet with

juniors and seniors this fall!

See the full list of colleges and register on Naviance or scan here:



Sign up on [Naviance](#)



BROWN





46th Annual Merrimack Valley College & Career Fair



100+
College & Career
Representatives

Thursday, October 3rd, 2024

6-8 p.m.

Location:

Lowell High School Main Entrance

Presented by: Lowell High School's College & Career Center

Contact: Darnery Montoya at dmontoya@lowell.k12.ma.us