

# SENIOR COLLEGE MEETING

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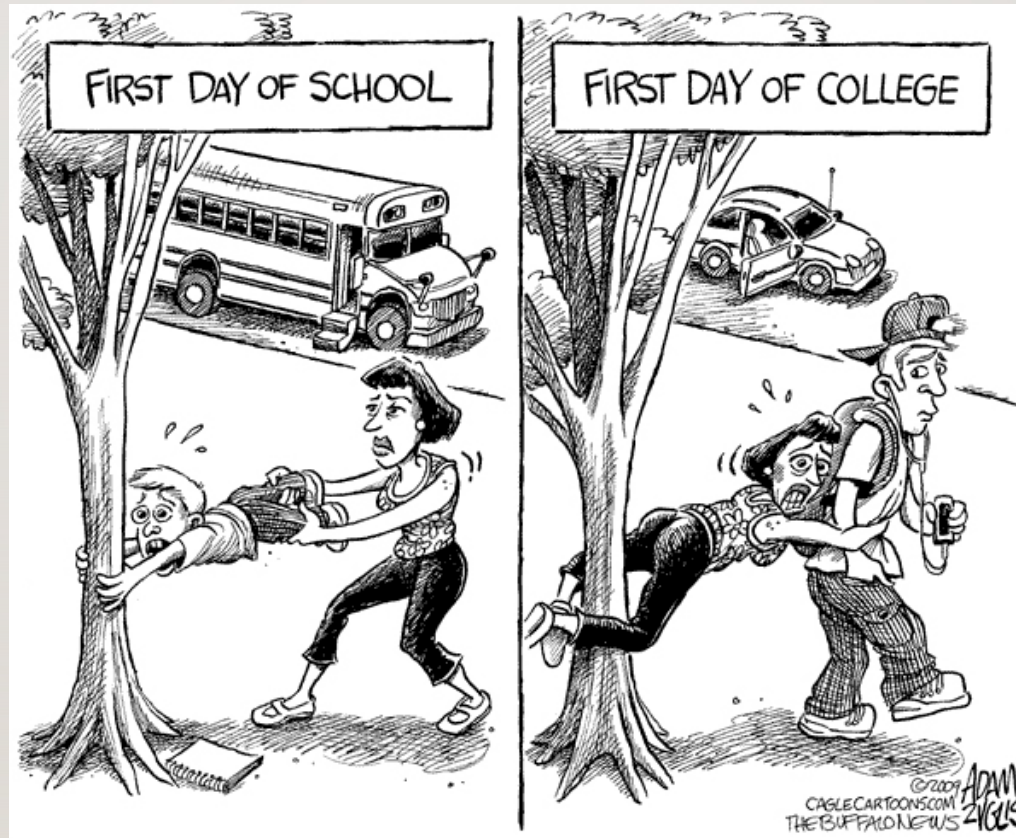


# WELCOME

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- Introductions
- Show of Hands: Rookies vs. Veterans

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU. 😊



# COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS

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- Jill Cuthbert, A-C
- Stefanie Drugan, D-Hi
- Colleen Reinoehl, Hj-Mc
- John Longo, Md-R
- Julie Horning, S-Z
  
- Heather Mahle, College Admin. Assistant  
(pronounced May-lee)

# HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

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- We are recording this meeting.
  - We will email a link to the recording.
- Student College Presentations were Sept. 6.
  - Copy of Transcript
  - Packet of Instructions
- Individual Student appts. have started.
  - Your student can book this online through our counseling website which is located under Departments on the High School main website.

# THE COUNSELING CENTER

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- SchoolLinks—research and application clearinghouse
- Email Updates through Blackboard
- Evening meeting series
- Individual Student Appointments
- Contact Mrs. Mahle for technical assistance.

# GROWTH & APPLICATIONS

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- Class of 2005—132 seniors
- Class of 2015—320 seniors
- Class of 2018—380 seniors
- Class of 2019—400 seniors
- Class of 2022—418 seniors
- Class of 2023—459 seniors
- Class of 2024—364 seniors (as of 9/13/23)
- The College & Career Center processed 4,161 applications last year. This is a 20% increase from last year.

# COVID BRINGS CHANGE

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- NAHS — Electronic Transcript Requests through SchoolLinks
- Most Colleges go Test-Optional again for 4th year
- Increased or Decreased Chances of Admissions?
- The Silver Lining: Some of these Changes may Benefit your Student!



# RETURN TO “NORMAL”

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- College tours at colleges and HS visits return to in person
- Some colleges return to requiring testing (future slide)

# TEST-OPTIONAL

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- Test-Optional means that students have a choice on whether or not to submit their ACT/SAT scores to be considered as part of their application.
- COVID caused at least a 37% increase in colleges to go Test-Optional 3 years ago. The majority of colleges are going test-optional again this year.
- Check and see if the college is test-optional only for admissions or for admissions, class placement, honors programs and scholarships!

# SHOULD I SUBMIT MY TEST SCORES?

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- Again, the old college counseling adage stands— “It Depends.”
- If it helps your chances, then send your test scores.
- If it doesn't help your chances, then don't send your test scores.

# SHOULD I SUBMIT MY TEST SCORES?

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In General....

## YES

- If your scores are above the middle 50% for the college and/or program

## POSSIBLY NO

- If your scores are well below the middle 50% for the college and/or program

# IF YOU GO TEST-OPTIONAL

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- There will be much more of a focus on the other parts of your application, especially your transcript, essays and letters of recommendation.
- Make sure you know how not submitting test scores affects your chances for scholarships!
- If you are unsure, please talk to your counselor!

# COLLEGES REQUIRING TEST SCORES\*

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MIT

Central Florida

Georgetown

Florida State

Georgia Tech

South Florida

Georgia

Florida International

Tennessee

Florida Inst. Tech.

US Military Academies

Purdue

Florida

\*This is not an exhaustive list, just a sampling of popular colleges NAHS students apply to.

# UPCOMING TEST DATES

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## ACT

- October 28
- Register by Sept. 22

## SAT

- October 7
- Late Reg. by Sept. 26

# HOW COVID AFFECTED THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

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- More focus on getting to know the applicant through the essay and letters of recommendation (no test scores to review).
- COVID impact question on Common App (Addit. Info section)
- Increased # of Apps: Test scores are no longer a reality check.
  - Selective schools saw huge increases in apps (20%), Colgate—50% (3 years ago)
  - Unfortunately, this translated into tougher admissions @ selective schools
  - The trend of increased apps and tougher admissions has continued the last three years.
- More deferments take up more seats in the next year's class.



# SUPREME COURT DECISION

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- Admissions counselors will not have access to a student's race or ethnicity on the application.
- However, the ruling does not prohibit “considering an applicant's discussion of how race affected the applicant's life, so long as that discussion is concretely tied to a quality of character or unique ability.”
- This discussion can happen in the student's essay, letters of recommendation, or other parts of the application.
- Please see your counselor if you have any questions!

# CHAT GPT

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- Chat GPT can be a great tool in RESEARCHING colleges.
- Many students may want to use Chat GPT to have it write their admissions essay for them.
  - This is strongly discouraged.
  - It is very easy for admission counselors to read these essays and realize it is not the student's genuine voice.
  - Admissions counselors have said:
    - “Chat GPT is not good at being personal.”
    - “Essays written by Chat GPT do not stand out.”

# SENIOR EXPECTATIONS

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- “Empower, not enable”
- Seniors need to be present at all appointments, parents are welcome
- We need to get to know the *student* in order to write recommendations.
- Seniors should be the leaders in this process. Parents, help guide them to become the leaders!
  - Do you have your questions ready for your appt. tomorrow?
  - What are you still unsure about in this process?
  - How can *you* contact your counselor to get help?

# STUDENT PARTS OF THE APP

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- Electronic Transcript Request
- Demographics/Data Entry
- Essay
- Short Answer questions
- Activity List
- Portfolio (if applicable)
- Audition (if applicable)
- Sending OFFICIAL Test Scores from ACT/SAT



Tip: Create an inventory of every component a college requires using an Excel spreadsheet.

# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

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- You must submit your transcript release form electronically through SchooLinks by the NAHS deadlines.
- You must complete all application materials before college deadlines & be the sole author of your application.
- Submit Your ACT/SAT scores directly to colleges.
- You must make sure ALL of your materials are received by the college.

# TRANSCRIPT REQUEST DEADLINES

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## College App Deadline

October 15  
November 1  
December 1  
January 1-15

## Transcript Request Due

October 1  
October 15  
November 15  
December 15

- Even though you can submit a request after our deadlines, it may not be fulfilled by your deadline. We are unable to monitor these requests 24/7. Please contact your counselor directly about a late request.

# REPORTING YOUR TEST SCORES

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- YOU MUST SEND YOUR TEST SCORES DIRECTLY TO THE COLLEGE!
- Send your scores directly from the test company (online):
  - 4 free test reports to send to colleges. You must sign up for these prior to testing. Use them — colleges will use the highest score.
  - Superscore? Make sure to send multiple test dates if applicable
  - *Score requests are not instantaneous!!!!* They are sent every few weeks in a batch from ACT & CollegeBoard. Request early to arrive by deadline!!

# COUNSELOR PARTS OF THE APP

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- The Counseling Center completes the following for every student:
  - Common App Secondary School Report
  - Common App Counselor Recommendation Form
  - Common App Mid-Year Report (in February)
  - NACAC School Report (all non-Common App schools)
  - Early Decision agreements (if applicable)
  - Fee waiver verification (if applicable)
  - Transcript
  - School Profile
- If your college requires a counselor letter, you can ask your counselor or an administrator. Most colleges do not need a counselor letter of recommendation, as we already fill out the Counselor Recommendation Form and School Report.



# LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

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- To request a letter of recommendation, ask in person first.
- Then request in SchoolLinks. (Students were given specific directions).
- Common App. Schools will only let you request the # of letters that they will allow.
- You can request which colleges you want each teacher to write for. Do **NOT** request ALL COLLEGES.
- You will be able to see a time stamp of when your letters were sent by your teachers.
- Outside recommenders must send their letters through email or postal mail. We cannot send them through SchoolLinks.
- It is your responsibility to make sure letters are sent by the deadlines!
- Recommendation letters are confidential between the writer and the college.

# SCHOOLINKS

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- Request transcripts and recommendations electronically!
- Track the progress of transcripts, letters of rec., etc.
- View college visits to NAHS and register for them online
- Conduct college research
- If you haven't registered or can't log in, please contact Mrs. Mahle.
- Please check your account and be sure that your email is correct!

# COLLEGE VISITS AT NAHS

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- Visits will be in person
- Usually 100-150 college visits each year
- Updated calendar available in SchooLinks with links
- Must have teacher permission to attend if you are missing class
- Visits are for students only.

# IN PERSON COLLEGE VISIT TIPS

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- Check the college's website or call a couple of days prior to the visit to make sure it is still occurring.
- Arrive early. Parking on a college campus is often hard to find, and you may have to walk a bit of a distance.
- Ask questions of current students! (And not just from your tour guide)
- Eat in the dining hall, visit a dorm room, grab a student newspaper, etc.

# COLUMBUS SUBURBAN COLLEGE FAIR

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- Save the Date!
- Sunday, October 8th 1:00pm

# TRANSCRIPT REQUEST PROCESS

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- Parents, we are doing passive transcript permission this year. This means that we are allowing your student to request their own transcripts to be sent to colleges. There is no blanket permission form that you need to sign this year.
- Students have been given specific directions on how to request their transcripts in SchoolLinks.

# THE COMMON APPLICATION

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- The Common Application is a single college application good at 1,000+ colleges.
- Complete it online. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Many schools still need an additional supplement completed, as well.

# COMMON APP INFO

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- Use your specific counselor for counselor information.
- Class size: 364
- Class rank: none (We do not rank.)
- GPA scale: 4.0
- GPA weighting: Weighted



# ACTIVITIES LIST

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# ACTIVITIES LIST

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- Be as specific as possible in the space provided.
- On the Common App, you will have 10 spaces for activities. 150 characters to explain activity. Be concise! You do not need to fill all 10 spaces.
- List your activities in order of significance/importance to you. Most significant first!
- ***Don't forget:*** Senior Seminar Project, hobbies, interests, community service, and leadership.

# TYPES OF ESSAYS

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## Common App

1. Meaningful background/Interest
2. Time you failed
3. Time you stood up for a belief
4. Surprising Gratitude
5. Personal Growth
6. Engaging Topic
7. Essay of your choice

## Others

1. Why us?
2. Why your field of study?
3. The Unusual – Univ. of Chicago, etc.
  - Orange is the new black, fifty's the new thirty, comedy is the new rock 'n' roll, \_\_\_\_\_ is the new \_\_\_\_\_. What's in, what's out, and why is it being replaced?

# ESSAY TIPS

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- Make it **personal** – Could anyone else have written it?
- Answer the question(s) which is asked.
- Be well organized in the essay. Is there a **beginning, middle, end?**
- **Avoid over-used topics:** sports injury, mission trip, or for the last 3 years—COVID.
- **Proofread** three times!!
- Use wit and humor but only if you are funny and not too much.
- When in doubt, keep it simple.
- Don't be afraid to be creative, but get a second or third opinion!
- **Show, don't tell.**

# APPLICATION TIPS

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- BE ACCURATE!
- Watch out for Deadlines, including and especially scholarship Deadlines.
- START EARLY and make an inventory & ***schedule*** for completion.
- Facebook/email address? Check your professionalism!
- Students — follow up with your colleges.
- Don't forget to Register for NCAA Eligibility Center if D1 or D2 athlete.

# SUSPENSIONS

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- Are not reported by the school
  - “School Policy prevents me from responding.”
- Should be self-reported on the student’s application
- If the student doesn’t self report, and the college later finds out the student lied on their application, the college can rescind the offer of admission.
- How would the college find out? (An example)

# PARENT AND STUDENT TIPS

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## **Be Realistic About Your Profile**

- GPA, Test results, strength of curriculum, special talents, and needs.

## **Talk NOW about:**

- College Cost vs. Family Income
- Expected Student Achievement and progress at college
- Expected student financial contributions
- If Cost is a significant factor, design your college list around that.

# COST AND VALUE

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- Complete a Financial Need Estimate by completing the Net Cost Calculator on each college's own website.
- Some out-of-state, state schools are as affordable as in-state, state schools!
- Consider State schools. Ohio has many different options.
- Many Private colleges will give terrific scholarship money to students above their academic profile.



# TIMELINE: 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER

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- **September** — Finalize your college list. Begin your applications.
- **September & October** — Finish ACT/SAT testing.
- **September Through November** — APPLY! Pay close attention to deadlines.
- **October Through November** — Register for CSS Profile if needed.
- **December** — Apply for Financial Aid through FAFSA

# TIMELINE: 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER

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- **January-May**—Focus on your scholarship search (NAHS scholarships will open in March.)
- **April 1-15** —You should receive your decisions and financial info.
- **MAY 1** —You must make YOUR final decision.

# YOUR FINAL LIST OF COLLEGES

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- Do you have at least 2 colleges you are sure you will be admitted to?
- Do you have at least two affordable options?
- Have you been realistic rather than wishful?
- Can you accept rejection?
- *Would you actually go to this college if you are admitted? If not, save the time, effort, & money!*
- **A great list is the key to great results!**

# HOW TO SHOW DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

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- **Visit!!** (Take a virtual tour if you have to.)
- Meet with the college rep at the HS visit or college fair.
- Establish in person or virtual contact with the college rep. Form a relationship. (But don't be a stalker!)
- Ask Thoughtful and Genuine questions.
- Demonstrated interest is shown by the student, not the parent!

# ULTRA-SELECTIVE COLLEGES

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How can you contribute to the college?

- More than just academics – applicants will be **exceptional** students by the numbers.
- Admissions is more selective now than it has ever been! Less than 5% at Stanford last year! *What are your real chances for 5% of anything?*
- **Myth** – applying to many increases your chances
- Find the connection between you & this college; be able to articulate it.
- Apply ED if available, if financially able, and if #1 choice

# EARLY DECISION (ED)

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- You apply early and make a contract with the college that if accepted you **WILL** attend their school.
- Deadlines are usually October 15-December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- If accepted ED, you must withdraw your other applications.
- Complete a net cost calculator! Take a screenshot!
- Your chances are generally a little higher with ED. This effect can be measured as about 100 SAT points at *some* schools.

# 3 RULES OF EARLY DECISION

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1. Have you visited?
2. Is it your top, #1 choice? Do you love it?
3. Can you afford it?
  1. Complete a NET COST CALCULATOR on the school's website to see if you qualify for any financial aid. DO NOT count on scholarship money for this decision.

# EARLY ACTION (EA)

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- Similar to Early Decision, but not binding.
- Deadlines tend to be from Oct. 15th to December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- You should find out your admission status between December 1<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>.



# ROLLING ADMISSIONS

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- When you apply, your application is reviewed soon, and you will generally be notified of the admission decision in 4-12 weeks.
- Apply early! October/November – some state schools have very early Deadlines for scholarship consideration.
- Your chances are improved early in the admission cycle year with Rolling Admissions.
- Most (but not ALL) state schools use Rolling Admissions.

# STANDING OUT TO THE COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

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- Visit!
- Discover what interests you about the school and articulate it
- Write an essay that shows who you are and why the school fits
- Meet the Admission Counselor and develop a **relationship**
- Interview if given the opportunity
- If a particular school is your top choice, ***tell them!***
- If it is a very selective school: How can you **contribute** to the school other than being just a good student.
- Consider applying Early Decision
- Demonstrate Interest in your top colleges!
- Ask questions & be the person who reaches out to the college, NOT parents.

# A FINAL WORD ABOUT DEADLINES

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- Electronic Transcript Requests must be turned in **by the NAHS deadline.**
- Plan to complete and turn in all applications a couple of weeks before the deadline and definitely by Thanksgiving.
- College deadlines are absolute! Colleges and scholarship committees will not modify their deadline for you no matter how good your reason.

# HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN SENT?

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- On your SchoolLinks account, your application status will change when your transcript & forms have been sent by your counselor.
- How do I know that my college has my materials?
  - You can check your college's portal. It will take 2-6 weeks for this to be updated after everything has been sent. Please call your college directly!

# BIGGEST MISTAKES IN THE PAST

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- Applied to too many colleges (12-27+ is too many)
- Did not send test scores early enough to meet deadline.
- Did not apply early enough for scholarship deadlines.
- Did not make an electronic transcript request for all the desired colleges.
- Some schools are not “safety schools” if you are applying to a more selective program
  - IU Kelley School of Business—required 30 ACT, IU 27 ACT avg.
  - U. Illinois Engineering—denial with 34 ACT, UI 28 ACT avg.

# MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS

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- Register now for ACT/SAT or decide Test-Optional
- Finalize your List: a Good List = a Good Year
- Send Test scores—You are responsible for this.
- Complete Applications.
- **BEWARE OF DEADLINES!!**

# FINANCIAL AID MEETING

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- SAVE THE DATE!
- September 27 (Parent-Teacher Conference Night)
- 5:30pm in the Mini-Theatre

# THE END

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- Questions? In lieu of taking questions tonight, please contact your individual counselor via email, phone, or have your senior schedule an individual appt.
- Thank you for coming to this presentation! We will send out the recording to everyone.
- We are looking forward to working with your students this year!