



# IB SENIOR PARENT NIGHT

Septmeber 16, 2026



Is this bus being supportive or threatening me?



# Senior College Application Parent Checkpoint

Where students should be now, what comes next, and how parents can help

## THE GOAL FOR SEPTEMBER

**Students do not need to have every application submitted. They should have a clear list, working accounts, strong drafts, and a calendar that protects every deadline.**

# IB Kids



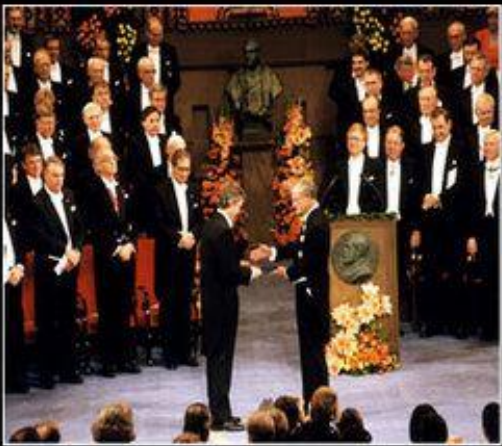
How non-IB kids see us



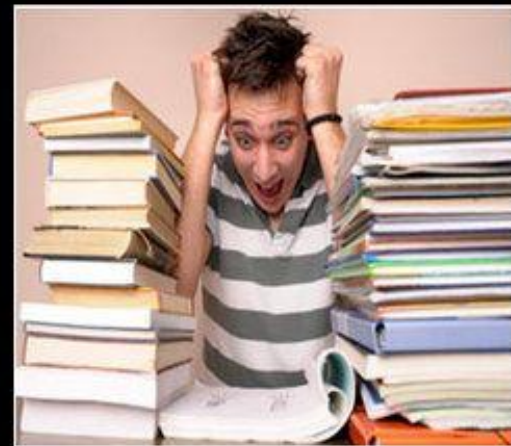
How teachers see us



How we see each other



How our parents see us



How we see ourselves



How we really are

## THE SEPTEMBER CHECKPOINT

**BY NOW, THE PROCESS SHOULD HAVE MOVED FROM EXPLORATION TO EXECUTION**

### A WORKING COLLEGE LIST

- A thoughtful mix of likely, possible, and more selective choices
- Every college has a real academic, personal, or financial reason for being on the list
- Family conversations about distance and cost have already begun

### ACCOUNTS ARE ACTIVE

- Common App is open and accurate
- SchoolLinks is active and connected
- Student checks school email regularly
- Login information belongs to the student and stays organized

### A DEADLINE PLAN EXISTS

- Each college deadline is recorded
- Early Action or Early Decision choices have been discussed carefully
- School document requests allow processing time
- IB deadline awareness

# THE COLLEGE LIST SHOULD BE REALISTIC AND PURPOSEFUL

## A STRONG LIST BALANCES ASPIRATION WITH OPTIONS THE STUDENT WOULD GLADLY ATTEND

### ACADEMIC FIT

- Compare the student's record with each college's recent admitted range
- Consider program strength, not just the university name
- Remember that a selective major can be harder to enter than the university overall

### PERSONAL FIT

- Size, location, campus culture, and support services matter
- The student should be able to name specific reasons for applying
- A campus should still make sense if rankings disappear

### FINANCIAL FIT

- Run the college's net price calculator
- Discuss an affordable family range before applications multiply
- Include colleges where merit aid or Florida programs may create strong value

## COMMON APP AND SCHOOLINKS MUST WORK TOGETHER

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND SCHOOL DOCUMENT SUBMISSION ARE SEPARATE PROCESSES

#### COMMON APP

- Profile, family, education, testing, and activities sections are accurate
- Colleges and intended majors are selected correctly
- College specific questions and supplements are visible
- The student reviews every entry before submission

#### FERPA AUTHORIZATION

- Complete FERPA in Common App
- Complete the SchoolLinks authorization sent to the parent email
- Connect Common App to SchoolLinks
- Submitting Common App alone does not authorize Riverview to send records

#### SCHOOLINKS

- Colleges are listed accurately
- Application method and deadline match Common App
- Required teacher recommenders are requested through the proper process
- Students monitor the status of requested materials

## THE APPLICATION SHOULD SOUND LIKE THE STUDENT

An application should help a reader understand how the student thinks, what matters to the student, and how the student used available opportunities.

### PERSONAL ESSAY

- A complete draft exists now
- The essay reveals something not obvious from the transcript
- Details and reflection matter more than dramatic language
- Trusted adults may give feedback, but the student's voice must remain

### ACTIVITIES SECTION

- Activities are ordered by importance
- Descriptions explain contribution and impact
- Hours and weeks are honest
- Family, work, caregiving, and community responsibilities belong when meaningful

### COLLEGE SUPPLEMENTS

- Every prompt receives a direct answer
- College specific research appears naturally
- Reused material is checked carefully
- No wrong college names, programs, or outdated details remain

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND TRANSCRIPTS REQUIRE PLANNING

### REQUEST ONLY WHAT A COLLEGE REQUIRES, THEN GIVE THE SCHOOL TIME TO PROCESS IT

#### TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- Confirm that the college accepts or requires a teacher letter
- Ask teachers who know the student's work well
- Provide requested information promptly
- Do not request extra letters simply because the system allows them

#### COUNSELOR MATERIALS

- Complete my questionnaire
- Give me useful context, not a second résumé
- Watch for follow up questions
- School reports and counselor recommendations follow each college's requirements

#### TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORMS

- Forms are available from Ms. Scarpinato in room 5 307
- Student and parent signatures are required
- Submit the completed form in the box on her desk
- Submit only after the application itself is complete

Let's get this diploma



Things  
I studied

Things on  
the exam

## THE CALENDAR MUST INCLUDE IB AND COLLEGE DEADLINES

### SENIOR YEAR HAS TWO DEMANDING TIMELINES THAT MUST BE MANAGED TOGETHER

#### COLLEGE DEADLINES

- Record the exact deadline for every college
- Note whether the plan is Early Decision, Early Action, priority, or regular
- Build a personal deadline before the official deadline
- Do not plan to submit major applications at the final hour

#### IB DEADLINES

- Print the 2026 to 2027 Senior IA Calendar
- Check it every week
- Plan backward from major submissions
- Ask teachers early when instructions or dates are unclear

#### WEEKLY REVIEW

- Choose one regular time each week
- Review SchoolLinks, Common App, school email, and the IA calendar
- Identify the next three priorities

# Coyote \$21,000 in debt after wandering through university campus

THE NEWS DESK



College kids calling home  
for the first time in 3 months



**I am once again asking  
for your financial support.**

## FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS BEGIN BEFORE ADMISSION

### FAMILIES SHOULD PREPARE FINANCIAL INFORMATION WHILE APPLICATIONS ARE UNDERWAY

#### PREPARE NOW

- Discuss what the family can reasonably contribute
- Gather tax and financial information
- Create required student and parent accounts when instructed
- Use each college's net price calculator for an early estimate

#### TRACK REQUIREMENTS

- Check whether a college requires additional financial aid forms
- Watch each applicant portal after submission
- Meet college priority dates
- Read requests for verification or missing information carefully

#### SCHOLARSHIPS AND FLORIDA AID

- Continue scholarship searches throughout senior year
- Complete Bright Futures requirements and documentation
- Keep service or work hour records separate from CAS records
- Follow the official requirements for every award



College Student

@CollegeStudent



Follow

FAFSA be like "I see your parents usually get two toppings on their pizza...you must not need any aid"

6:03 PM - 13 Jul 2015



7,637



9,140

## AFTER SUBMISSION, THE STUDENT'S WORK CONTINUES

### SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION STARTS A NEW PHASE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Students must monitor portals, complete missing items, protect senior grades, and continue meeting every IB requirement.

#### CONFIRM RECEIPT

- Save the submission confirmation
- Activate the college applicant portal
- Verify that the application fee or waiver processed
- Check that the intended major and application plan are correct

#### MONITOR MATERIALS

- Allow time for documents to appear
- Check the portal for missing items
- Ask for help when a document remains missing after a reasonable processing period

#### FINISH SENIOR YEAR WELL

- Colleges review continued academic performance
- IB internal assessments and core requirements remain essential
- Students must report required schedule or academic changes
- Professional communication matters in every contact

SKL

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## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP MOST

### THE MOST USEFUL SUPPORT CREATES STRUCTURE WITHOUT TAKING OWNERSHIP AWAY

#### HELP WITH STRUCTURE

- Agree on a weekly check in
- Help protect focused work time
- Ask what the next three tasks are
- Verify FERPA and family financial information

#### LET THE STUDENT OWN

- Writing the essays
- Communicating with colleges and teachers
- Managing logins and portals

#### CONTACT RHS WHEN NEEDED

- A required school document is not processing
- The student is overwhelmed or falling behind
- A family circumstance changes the application plan

