

College Information & Tips – Class of 2021 Edition

Our Goal: For each of our seniors to graduate from high school with an appropriate post-secondary plan
Our Definition: “College” is the attainment of valuable postsecondary credentials beyond high school, including professional/technical certificates and academic degrees

Senior Information from the Guidance Office

- Utilize our website: ekcollegeaccess.weebly.com
- Follow us on Instagram: [@ekcollegeaccess](https://www.instagram.com/ekcollegeaccess)
- Sign up for School Messenger. To sign up, text “YES” to 67587.
- **Check your student e-mail regularly.** We send out e-mails on behalf of Guidance with important information, including your Parchment link.

Visit our East Kentwood College Access website (ekcollegeaccess.weebly.com) for:

- FAFSA information and tutorials
- Scheduling an appointment with Ms. Chandler (our college adviser)
- Signing up for a college rep virtual visit
- Scholarship information
- Admissions information, including COVID policy changes
- Career exploration tools

Applying to college is generally a three-step process:

1. **Complete the Application Itself** (found on the college’s website)
2. **Send Your Transcript** (using Parchment, Common App, SendEDU, or whichever system the college prefers)
3. **Send your ACT or SAT score(s)** (if you took them) through either College Board or Parchment (whichever your college requires)

How to Send Your Transcript

- Create an account through Parchment.com and request your transcripts electronically. Mrs. Geurink has already e-mailed you your Parchment log-in information. You do not have to have your Parchment account 100% done to send transcripts, but please make sure your information is accurate.
- If you are applying to college using the Common App, your counselor will automatically upload your initial transcript once you have submitted our e-mail.
- Should you require a transcript to be mailed, please e-mail EKHS.registrar@kentwoodps.org. Be clear in where your transcript needs to go.
- If you want to see your transcript, you can request a “self view” on Parchment.com.
- NOTE: Counselors do not send transcripts. Please request yours through the appropriate method.

Test Scores & Covid

- Test Optional: Many colleges are “test optional” this year. That means they do not require test scores for admissions but you can send them if you choose to.
- Test Blind: Some colleges are “test blind”, which means they will not look at your test scores at all for admissions.
- Test scores may still be required for scholarship consideration even if they aren’t for admissions. Check with individual colleges to see their current policies.

How to Send Your Test Scores

EKHS does not automatically send ACT/SAT scores with its transcripts. You can request them three ways:

- Log onto your College Board or ACT account and request that your scores be sent. Some colleges require that scores be sent from the testing organization.
- Request your test scores on Parchment (for free - similar to how you request your transcript).
- E-mail EKHS.registrar@kentwoodps.org. Please only do this if one of the other methods will not work for your needs.

Financial Aid

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov after October 1 to find out if you qualify for need-based aid.
- Search for scholarships. Utilize college websites, free search agents, and our East Kentwood College Access website.
- TIP Eligibility – If you have had Medicaid for 24 months within a 36 consecutive month period from age 9 to high school graduation, you may be eligible for money for college. Your counselor or Ms. Chandler can check your eligibility and help you sign up or call 1-888-447-2687 and someone will assist you.
- Consider military service. All branches have programs that provide money for college. Contact your local recruiter for more information.

College Visits

Most college campuses are closed to visitors this year. Check the college’s webpage for available “visit” opportunities, including virtual visits.

College Admissions Virtual Visits “at” EKHS

College admissions and recruiter visits are not allowed on our campus this year at this time. You can, however, register for a virtual meeting. Go to ekcollegeaccess.weebly.com and click on the “EVENTS” tab to register.

Fee Waivers

- For an SAT or ACT fee waiver, please e-mail your counselor or Ms. Chandler.
- For a college application fee waiver, please e-mail EKHS.registrar@kentwoodps.org.

In general, who should I see or where should I go..?

- Graduation ceremony information, including cap/gown orders? Mrs. Shaina Mustert
- Help with a college application? Your counselor or Ms. Chandler
- Help with completing the FAFSA? Ms. Chandler or the financial aid office at any college
- Help with TIP? Your counselor or Ms. Chandler or call 1-888-447-2687
- Help deciding which colleges would be a good fit for me? Your counselor or Ms. Chandler
- Help deciding a career path? Your counselor or Ms. Chandler
- College Advising Hotline to talk to a college adviser (note: this is an AdviseMI program rather than an EKHS one): Call or text 810-373-5385