

23-24 Road to College Junior Year



STEP-BY-STEP click for presentation	Websites & Additional Resources
Make the grades and attend class on time	Track your grades in the Home Access Center
College Majors Research	https://www.myplan.com/majors/what-to-do-with-a-major.php https://www.princetonreview.com/college-major-search
Making a College Plan	https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/CollegePlanning/media/pdf/BigFuture-College-Plan-Handout.pdf
Create a College List (Where do you want to apply?) 10/3 College Night @ the Berry Center	https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/ https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/ https://www.collegedata.com/ Cappex.com
Take the Required Tests (SAT / ACT) High School Code: 443747	SAT: www.CollegeBoard.org ACT: www.ACT.org Qualified Free/Reduced Lunch Students: 2-SAT and 2-ACT tests waivers while in HS. Email Mrs. Edwards: kim.edwards@cfisd.net for a test waiver. Include your first/last name and Lakes ID # in the email. To qualify complete online application School Café Application for free/reduced lunch. Students using a test waiver will qualify for college application fee waivers senior year.
CFISD FREE School Day SAT Test for Juniors	March 6, 2024 The cost is free to all CFISD 11 th graders. Students will be automatically registered for the school day exam. School day exam is paid for by CFISD. SAT testing timeline suggestion for 11th grade.
Prepare for SAT / ACT	ACT and SAT resources
Research College Admission Requirements (for each college)	Visit the university's website & search for: "Freshman" / "Undergraduate Admissions" / "Future Students" or, Institution-specific app on their website Also Visit the Cy-Lakes College and Career College Admission page.
Earn College Credit in High School	Enroll in Advanced Placement or Dual Credit classes during your senior year of high school. Save time and money. Cypress Lakes Dual Credit web site
Scholarships	Know the scholarship application process and deadlines for each college. Apply for other scholarships...many & often! CFISD Scholarship Bulletin www.FastWeb.com www.FinAid.org www.Scholarships360.org

Virtual College Visits	You Visit College Tour Princeton Review Virtual Campus Tours
In person College Visits	Every CFISD 11 th and 12 th grade student has 2 college visit per year. Students are responsible for transportation to the college as well as requesting the College Visit form the Cy-Lakes attendance office.
High School Transcripts	Transcripts request are located online at CFISD Transcripts

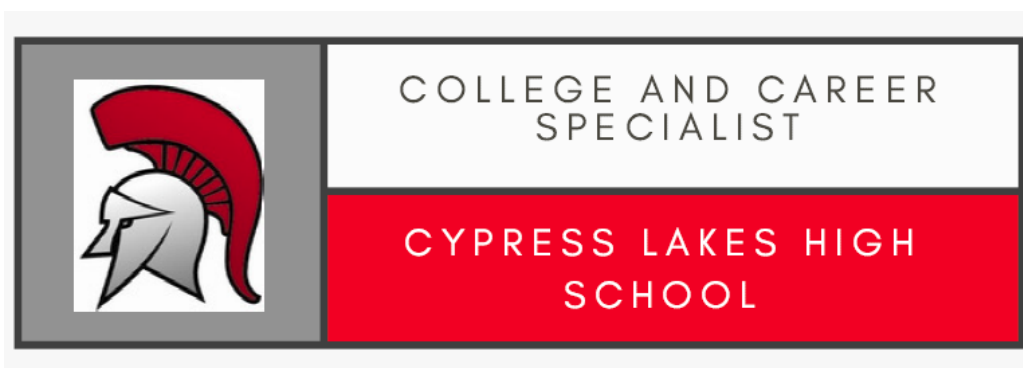
Grade	Alpha	Counselor Name	Email address
9-12	A-Cam (Red)	Chanell Abagi	Chanell.abagi@cfisd.net
9-12	Can-Fo (Red)	Ashley Alexander	Ashley.alexander@cfisd.net
9-12	Fp-I	Rhonda Klaus	Rhonda.klaus@cfisd.net
9-12	J-Mc	Paola Fernandez	Paola.fernandez@cfisd.net
9-12	College Academy (Red)	Tina Schutte	Tina.schutte@cfisd.net
9-12	Md-Ph (Silver)	Tiffany Simon	Tiffany.simon@cfisd.net
9-12	Pi-Se (Silver)	Dena Sarkis	Dena.sarkis@cfisd.net
9-12	S-Z (Silver)	Valerie Pierce	Valerie.pierce@cfisd.net
	College and Career Specialist	Michele Herman	Michele.herman@cfisd.net
ADMIN Red Office	Secretary	Liz Lockward	Ana.lockward@cfisd.net
ADMIN Silver Office	Secretary	Maria Munoz	Maria.munoz@cfisd.net
	Lead Counselor (Red)	Amber Bish	Amber.bish@cfisd.net

IMPORTANT: All information should be independently verified with the college(s) to which you're applying.

[Cypress Lakes College and Career website](#)

[CFISD College Knowledge web-site](#)

[Cypress Lakes Counseling website](#)



Junior Year Timeline

- [Values Exercise \(video\)](#): Identifying your core values now can help guide your major and career exploration. And it only takes 5 minutes.
- Volunteer (with an organization that is in your field of interest, if possible), to help your community.
 - [Houston area opportunities](#)
 - [Cypress Assistance Ministries](#)
 - [Cy-Hope](#)
 - [Cy-Fair Helping Hands](#)
 - [Camp Hope](#)
 - [Operation Gratitude](#)
 - [American Heart Association](#)
 - [Olive Branch Muslim Family Organization](#)
 - [All For Good](#)
 - [Idealist](#)
 - [Volunteer Match](#)
 - [Volunteer Houston](#)
 - [Houston Sports Authority](#)
- [Tips for Planning a College Visit](#): Make a commitment to visit one local college between now and the end of the school year. Learning about different types of schools will help you figure out which schools you want to spend time researching. CFISD allows students 2 college day visits both junior and senior year.

JULY

- [Social media cleanup](#): This is a good time to clean up your social media profiles. If you have any questionable photos or language, delete them now before you start your college search in earnest.
- Learn more about colleges—Use online search tools, attend college fairs, speak with college reps, and ask friends already in college for their thoughts on different colleges to begin formulating an opinion of where you want to go. Continue this process throughout junior and senior year. The College Board has created a great resource for your college search at [BigFuture](#).
- Are you taking a family trip this summer? Add a college visit to your itinerary. You can make an appointment for an official visit at most colleges. Staying in Houston? I suggest visiting and comparing your likes and dislikes about the following colleges: [the University of Houston](#), [University of St. Thomas](#), [Prairie View A&M University](#). Other local colleges include University of Houston Downtown, Texas Southern University, and Houston Baptist University.
- If you have not yet established formal leadership roles like team captain or organization secretary, take an inventory of your life to determine where you *do* lead - even without the title. Consider how to write about this informal leadership on your college applications.
 1. Do you get asked to work a specific shift at your job because you're trusted to do an important task?
 2. Does your coach rely on you to communicate with the team?
 3. Do your friends call you for help with their projects?

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

- If you are enrolled in dual credit classes this year, [make online payment](#) by the deadline.
- [College App & Admissions Timeline](#) - A timeline and set of resources that track the college search and application process from 9th through 12th grade.
- [Coursava](#) - Check out this awesome resource that helps you figure out what you want (and don't want) from your college experience.
- [PSAT](#) - Sign up to take the exam this fall, even if you took the test as a sophomore. Strong test scores as a junior may qualify you for academic honors, including National Merit as well as programs and recruitment for African American, Hispanic, Indigenous, rural, first-generation, and low-income students.
- [Compass Guide to Admissions Testing](#) - Start mapping out a standardized testing plan with the goal of taking the SAT or ACT at least once before the end of the school year.
- [Connect with college admissions reps](#) - Sign up for a few sessions with college representatives when they visit your high school this fall. Also, check their website for information on virtual information sessions and local events.
- Remember you have a resource to help you with confusing [college terms](#).
- Read the messages sent to the Class of 2025.

OCTOBER

- If you are enrolled in AP classes this year, register now for your AP tests.
- [PSAT](#) - Take the exam and get a feel for what SAT Test Day will be like. Your score will help highlight your test-taking strengths and areas for improvement and will inform your test prep plan moving forward.
- Attend [CFISD Virtual College Fair](#), which is typically held in the month of October.

- [How to Create a College List \(With Tracking Spreadsheet\)](#) - Use this guide and organizing tool to begin building a list of schools that you are excited about.
- Want a better idea of your chances? Check out the [college acceptance calculator](#). Remember that many schools have new testing policies (test-optional or test blind) after Covid, so this calculator's basis on historical data may make it less accurate to predict future admissions decisions, but it's still something to consider.
- [How to research schools without visiting a campus](#) - You don't need to step on a college campus to begin researching schools. Consider a virtual tour with [YouVisit](#)
- [Going Test-Optional: What is it?](#) Confused about whether or not test scores matter? Here's an overview of what you need to know. You can also check out the [CFISD presentation from February 2021](#)
- [FairTest](#) - Looking for a comprehensive list of colleges and universities with test-optional admission policies? Here you go.
- [Dealing with learning differences?](#) - Researching the available support services and programs will be a critical part of your list building. Learn the differences between accommodations in high school and services offered at colleges.
- Lay the groundwork for fee waivers: Have you [filled out the free/reduced-school lunch form](#)? If your family qualifies, you'll be eligible for fee waivers for the SAT/ACT as well as for college applications. This simple step can save you hundreds of dollars.

NOVEMBER

- Check out resources for specific student populations:
 - [ScholarMatcher](#): Awesome search tool for low-income/first-gen students
 - [The Hundred-Seven](#) and [College Equity Index](#): Excellent resources for Black students
 - [College Advising Guide for Undocumented Students](#)
 - [I'm First](#): Guide for first-generation college students and their families
 - [Women's colleges](#): Seven reasons you should consider a single-sex school
 - [HBCUs, HSIs, and TCUs](#): Essential tips when considering one of these institutions committed to serving underrepresented students
 - [American Indian College Fund](#): List and descriptions of tribal colleges and universities
 - [AICAD](#): List of 42 colleges of art and design that allows you to search by major and by region
 - Start prepping for the School Day SAT March 6, 2024. [SAT Resources](#)

DECEMBER

- If you are enrolled in dual credit classes this second semester, [make online payment](#) by the deadline.
- [Review PSAT results](#): You can review not only your scores but also the questions you answered correctly and those you missed.
- [Compass Guide to Admissions Testing](#): If you haven't already, this is the time to map out a testing plan. And remember that [1,000+ U.S. colleges are using test-optional policies](#) for fall 2022 applicants.
- Best free test-prep resources:
 - [Official SAT Practice Tests \(College Board\)](#)
 - [Khan Academy \(SAT Free Official SAT Practice Tests | College Board\)](#)
 - [Official ACT Practice Tests](#)
 - [ACT Academy](#)
 - [How to Improve Your ACT Score by 2 Points in 20 Minutes](#)
- [How to Plan a Fulfilling and Productive Summer \(podcast\)](#): Heads-up: Some programs have early application deadlines, so start researching early.

JANUARY

- Start developing your list of target colleges—Identify 10 to 15 colleges of interest with the goal of having several schools at varying levels of selectivity: some "probables" (sometimes referred to as "safety schools"), some "match," and some "reach" options. Continue updating this list throughout junior year and at the beginning of the senior year.
- Research scholarships so you know what to expect next year—Once you are midway through your junior year, it's time to begin searching for more traditional scholarships that are specifically made available to students in their senior year of high school.
- Identify high-value colleges: As you work on developing your college list, identify [schools that'll meet 100% of your financial need](#), institutions with generous merit-aid programs.
- [Essential Advice for Low-Income/First-Gen Students](#): Get key tips and resources, including learning about the chance to [visit college campuses for free](#).
- [AP practice resources](#): If you're taking AP exams in May, here's how to prep.

FEBRUARY

- [Virtual college fairs](#): There are many opportunities to attend college fairs from home, including sessions that focus on STEM programs and the visual and performing arts. These easy-to-attend virtual events can be a great window into what college is all about.
- [QuestBridge College Prep Scholars](#): See if you qualify to apply for this top-notch college admission support program.

- [Pre-work for your teacher recommendations](#): Take a look at this form and imagine how your teacher(s) might fill it out. What are your strengths/areas for improvement? What words will come to their mind when they think of you? You'll request teacher recs in May, so this is a good time to start thinking about these important pieces of the college application process.
- Research summer programs that can help you learn more about a college or a topic.

MARCH

- Keep building your college list
- Register for summer and fall/spring dual credit courses
- Meet with your high school counselor to select your senior year courses
- [Micro-scholarships](#): It's never too early to start thinking about how to pay for college. Begin building your RaiseMe profile now.
- Free School Day SAT March 6, 2024 provided by CFISD.

APRIL

- [Values Exercise \(video\)](#): Spend some time thinking about your core values by working through this simple exercise. Your answers may help drive how you spend your summer ahead.
- [How to research colleges without visiting a campus](#): Learning more about colleges is an exciting and time-intensive process. Make sure to expand your search beyond your local public universities—and use your values as a guide.
- [Colleges That Change Lives](#): As you build your college list, consider this set of 44 schools that focus on providing a personalized, student-centered experience. Check out [upcoming events](#).
- [Think about financial fit](#): Experiment with the [Net Price Calculator](#) to get a rough estimate of what you might likely have to pay for college.

MAY

- Make sure you're excited about *all* the schools on your college list, not just the reaches. [Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be](#) is a great read.
- Free test prep:- If you're planning to test in late summer into the fall, take advantage of these resources:
 - [Official SAT Practice Tests \(College Board\)](#)
 - [Khan Academy \(SAT Free Official SAT Practice Tests | College Board\)](#)
 - [Official ACT Practice Tests](#)
 - [ACT Academy](#)
 - [How to Improve Your ACT Score by 2 Points in 20 Minutes](#)
 - [SAT Study Group](#): Consider starting a study group to prepare for your upcoming exams. Even if you're applying to test-optional schools, you might want a test score for scholarship eligibility.
- [How to Write a College Essay](#): Wondering how to get started on your college essays this summer? Read this step-by-step guide, which walks you through the process.
- [5 Resources and Tips for Getting Scholarships and Financial Aid](#): These are a great set of tips and resources as you begin your scholarship search. Use [this template](#) to keep track of opportunities that might be a good fit.

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- [Get organized and kick off your application process](#): Research the admission requirements and deadlines for schools on your list, and create a spreadsheet to organize information.
- [How to write a successful Common App Activities List/How to write a college resume](#): Learn more about these pieces of the application process.
- [How to use the Common App Additional Information Section](#): Find out why this optional section can be one of the most important aspects of your application.
- If you've excelled academically despite financial challenges, consider applying to [QuestBridge](#) or the [Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Program](#), and check-in with your counselor on the [Posse Foundation](#) nomination process.
- [Create a spreadsheet of all usernames and passwords](#): Keep important login information here for college applications, applicant portals, and scholarships.
- Continue an ongoing dialogue with your parents about how to pay for college.
- Continue [saving for college](#)
- Make sure you've nailed down some #adulting skills like
 1. Using a calendar on your phone to set appointments, reminders, and recurring events
 2. Email (examples are for Gmail)
 1. [How to send an email](#)
 2. [How to attach something to an email](#)
 3. [How to reply to or forward an email](#)
 3. Scanning on your phone
 1. [Android](#)
 2. [iPhone](#)