

WELCOME TO THE
ECFS COLLEGE OFFICE
CLASS OF 2027 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Dear Form V Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the final College Office Newsletter for the 2025-26 academic year! In July, we'll take a brief pause from grade-wide communication and when you hear from us again in August, your children will be **SENIORS**! What an incredible milestone.

Just like our beloved **Knicks**, who have entered the Eastern Conference Finals, your children are entering the final phase of their high school career. From working on the personal statement, to confirming teacher recommendations, creating an activities list, taking standardized tests, conducting college research, and meeting with their college counselors, the students have been extremely productive.

Now, our hope is that we don't have any students lagging behind like the **Mets**, and while we are in constant communication with the juniors, please check in with your child(ren) and ask: when was the last time you met/emailed with your counselor? Do you have a personal statement topic you are working on? Do you have a list of 5-7 colleges on your list so far that you feel confident about applying to in the fall? These are all things your child should be on their way to completing by **June 10**.

As the summer approaches, it's a perfect time for students to continue researching colleges, complete their personal statement, **engage in activities that bring them joy** and prepare for the exciting journey ahead. We encourage parents to maintain open conversations and support your child in balancing rest with these important tasks.

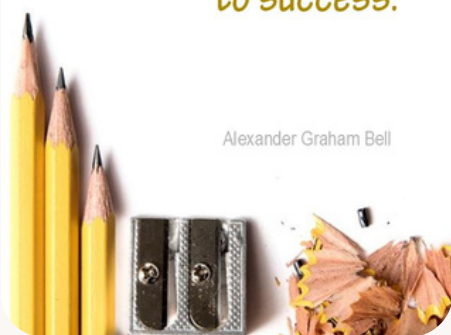
Thank you for your continued partnership throughout the year. We are so proud of our Form V students and can't wait to celebrate their achievements in the coming months! We wish you all a restful and restorative summer.

Warmly,
The College Office

WHERE WE ARE

Before
anything else,
preparation
is the key
to success.

Alexander Graham Bell

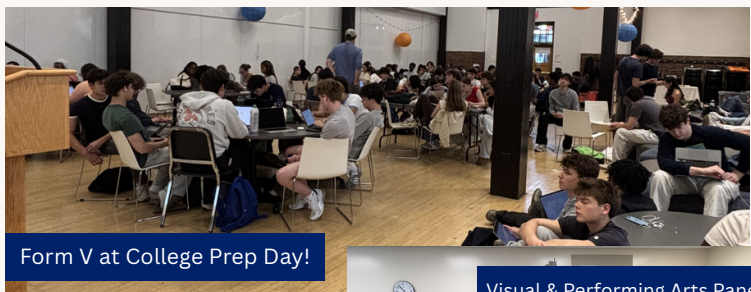


Alexander Graham Bell's famous quote about preparation captures exactly what we strive for in the college office: to thoughtfully scaffold the application process so students feel supported—not overwhelmed—throughout the summer and into the fall semester.

With that in mind, our inaugural **College Prep Day** was a great success! Students continued developing their personal statements, began building their Common App activities lists, and attended panels where seniors shared candid reflections on their college application journeys.

The smaller, more intimate setting served as a natural extension of the College Symposium, fostering deeper conversation and meaningful peer-to-peer connection.

Please enjoy photos from the day below!



Form V at College Prep Day!



Visual & Performing Arts Panel

Ms. Bellamy presenting on tips for writing the Personal Statement



International Applications Panel

COLLEGE PREP Day

★
MAY 15, 2026

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY



SPECIALIZED PANELS



ARTS



INTERNATIONAL



ATHLETIC



BREAKOUT CHATS

PERSONAL STATEMENT
FREE WRITE TIME

Dedicated, quiet time to
reflect, write, and put your
story into words.

BEGIN WORK ON
COMMON APP
ACTIVITIES LIST

WHERE WE ARE (CONT'D)

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT MEETINGS

On-campus meetings are wrapping up, and as you've probably noticed, your children are eager for school to end and for summer to commence. After they catch their breath from all of their hard work this semester, we want to remind you that counselors are available during the summer for student meetings. Please see more information about this on page 5.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

On **Wednesday 6/10**, a working draft of the Personal Statement is due. All students should have a topic that they aim to write about (it's ok if this topic changes over the summer) and should have met with their college counselor for guidance.

Virtual workshops will run in June to assist students, as needed. Please see information on page 5.

TEACHER RECOMENDATIONS

The vast majority of students have confirmed two teacher recommendations. We have been following up with students who have not requested their teachers via Scoir. If you haven't already, please ask your child if they have completed this task; it is important that recommendations are confirmed before the last day of school.

COMMON APPLICATION

Form V students began creating their Common App Activities list. They should complete this task over the summer and submit it to their college counselor for review.

After August 1, when the Common App officially opens for the 2027 application season, students may input their activities and complete other sections of the application as well. Virtual workshops will run in August to assist students, as needed. Please see information on page 5.

COLLEGE FLY-IN PROGRAMS

For many years—and in some instances, for decades—colleges and universities have run campus visit programs to recruit students from historically underrepresented populations. The College Office regularly receives emails from college admissions officers promoting these fly-in programs, and we have compiled [a list](#) that includes the program dates, links to the applications, and application deadlines. When referring to this list, please keep in mind the following:

- *Programs in GREEN have been updated for 2026.*
- *Programs in YELLOW are pending information for 2026.*
- ***This is a live document and will be updated each week.*** Please check in regularly for updated information.

*Please also note that some institutions have specific criteria for eligibility; make sure to read the program instructions carefully. **If a nomination or supporting information (recommendation forms, transcripts, etc.) is required as part of the application, please email your college counselor at least one week before the application deadline.***

Tip: *Some colleges allow you to join an interest list to be notified when an application is available. We highly recommend doing this so that you can complete any application(s) of interest in a timely manner. Please use the same email address that you are using for college-related communication. As always, reach out to us with any questions.*

FINANCING COLLEGE

Our **College Money Method webinars** have concluded for this school year. However, all webinar recordings are available 24/7 for your reference.

To view the recordings, visit the **College Money Method website** and enter password: ecfscmm.

If you receive financial aid at Fieldston and paying for college visits or application materials presents a financial hardship for your family, please contact Zoraida Montanez at **zmontanez@ecfs.org**.
Limited funds are available.

For any additional questions pertaining to College Money Method and/or financial aid processes/resources, please contact Ms. Akosua Yeboah at **ayeboah@ecfs.org**.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Standardized testing is probably one of the least favorite part of the college application process for most students, but it is important to note the following:

- Though many colleges remain test-optional, some have moved to required testing, so we recommend that all students prep and take either the SAT or ACT.
- **Students will receive guidance on which colleges should receive scores. We give guidance on this AFTER final junior grades are available and depending on which colleges are on the student's list in the fall.**
- If your child took both the practice SAT and ACT at Fieldston over the last year, they received a comprehensive report from Bespoke Education which outlines which test might be the most productive option.
- **Most students test officially for the first time in the spring of junior year, however, each student is different and earlier or later testing may be appropriate.**
- Group test prep with Bespoke has already commenced; for information on individual tutoring, please email Tiffany Grant at tiffany@bespokeeducation.com.

Important Fieldston Contacts for Standardized Testing:

Raquel Maldonado: for questions pertaining to SAT or ACT registration at Fieldston
Adaury Rodriguez: for questions pertaining to SAT or ACT accommodations support

For your reference, a list of upcoming test dates and registration deadlines are listed below:

Test Date	Test	Registration Deadline	Late Registration
June 6, 2026	SAT	May 22, 2026	May 26, 2026
June 13, 2026	ACT	May 8, 2026	May 27, 2026
July 11, 2026	ACT (Not Offered in NY)	June 5, 2026	June 24, 2026

LINKS & RESOURCES

(images are hyperlinks to corresponding websites)

ACT[®]



College Board



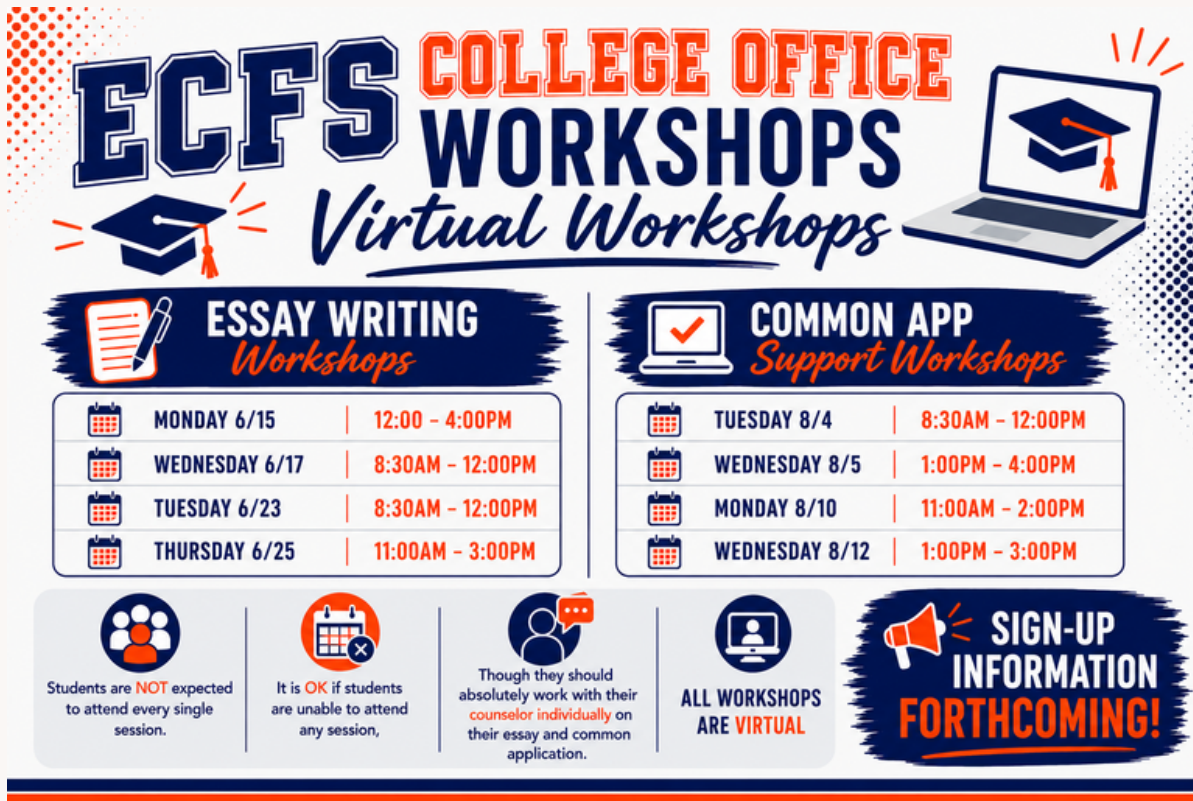
COMPASS
EDUCATION GROUP



Khan Academy

WHAT'S NEXT:

SUMMER COLLEGE APPLICATION WORKSHOPS & COUNSELOR MEETINGS



ECFS COLLEGE OFFICE WORKSHOPS

Virtual Workshops

ESSAY WRITING Workshops		COMMON APP Support Workshops	
MONDAY 6/15	12:00 - 4:00PM	TUESDAY 8/4	8:30AM - 12:00PM
WEDNESDAY 6/17	8:30AM - 12:00PM	WEDNESDAY 8/5	1:00PM - 4:00PM
TUESDAY 6/23	8:30AM - 12:00PM	MONDAY 8/10	11:00AM - 2:00PM
THURSDAY 6/25	11:00AM - 3:00PM	WEDNESDAY 8/12	1:00PM - 3:00PM

 Students are **NOT** expected to attend every single session.

 It is **OK** if students are unable to attend any session,

 Though they should absolutely work with their **counselor individually** on their essay and common application.

 **ALL WORKSHOPS ARE VIRTUAL**

 **SIGN-UP INFORMATION FORTHCOMING!**



No, your eyes do not deceive you—we are, indeed, available over the summer to meet with students! Emphasis on the “students” part. 😊

By **Wednesday 6/10**, students will receive a note from their counselor with a link to their Google calendar reflecting summer availability. These calendars will be updated regularly throughout the summer to reflect the most up-to-date availability. A few things to note:

☀️ Counselors — they’re just like us!

Like you, we will also take vacations over the summer. During those times, students will receive an out-of-office message noting when they can expect to hear back from their counselor.

💻 Virtual Meetings

All summer meetings will take place virtually via Google Meet to allow for the most flexibility and support.

📅 Summer Fridays

Throughout the summer, ECFS is closed on Fridays. Counselors will update their auto-replies to reflect this as well, but we wanted to note it here, too.

🎓 Meetings Are for Students

While we always enjoy connecting with parents, we respectfully ask that students attend their summer meetings 1-on-1 with their counselor. Practically speaking, this helps us continue getting to know your child more deeply so that we can ultimately write the strongest and most comprehensive counselor recommendation possible. More importantly, it reinforces our shared confidence in your child’s ability to navigate these conversations and manage the application process independently.

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, as usual, you can reach out to your child’s counselor at any time.

JUNE STUDENT CHECK LIST

All students should have completed and/or should be working towards the following assignments for the College Office as stated below, **with a deadline of June 10:**

8

- Submit rough draft of **Personal Statement** to their College Counselor by **Wednesday, 6/10**
- **Update Following list on Scoir** to reflect **5-7 colleges** they are considering applying to
- **Update Scoir with two teacher recommendation requests** (after confirming with the teachers)

9

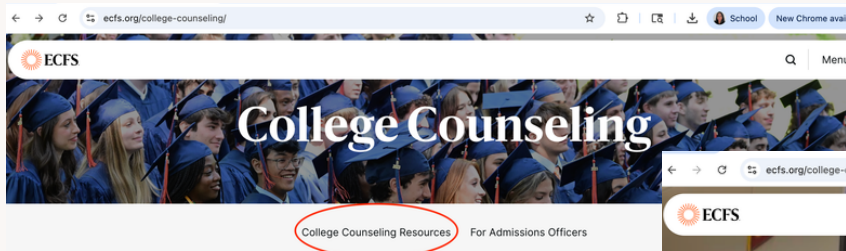
- **Continue** working on **Common App Activities List**
- **Attend an Essay Writing Workshop (multiple dates available in June) and/or Common App Support Workshop (multiple dates available in August),** if possible.
- Check counselor's meeting booking page and **book a meeting over the summer,** if possible.

REMINDER: COLLEGE COUNSELING FAMILY PORTAL



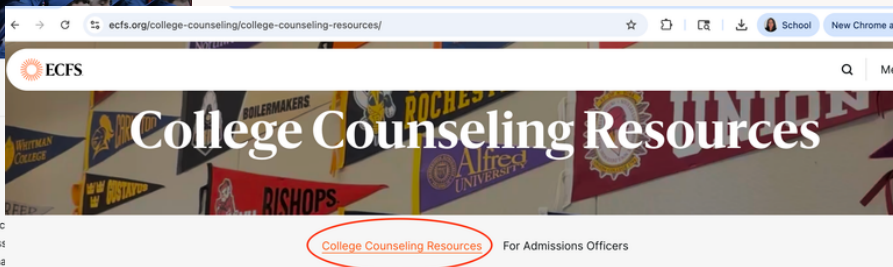
While you can always contact your child's counselor with questions, we wanted to remind you that the ECFS portal is available to you online. Looking for a copy of the School Profile? Hoping to reference a previous newsletter? Looking for a list of recommended readings about the college process? All of this information, and more, is housed in the portal.

Simply visit the [ECFS College Counseling page](#), and then select "College Counseling Resources." You'll then be prompted to log in to the ECFS Family Portal using your ECFS login credentials. Finally, you'll be able to access protected information for several departments, including College Counseling. Please see screenshots below:



Our College Counseling Philosophy

In the College Office at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School (ECFS), we help each student find institutions that will inspire them to grow as ethical leaders and lifelong learners. As part of the college research and application process, students explore new ways of envisioning themselves and think about options for the future that they may not have. The process is personal and specific to each student and each institution. At ECFS, we know that finding the right post-secondary institution is finding the best match for each individual student.



Log into the Family Portal to access the full College Counseling Handbook and additional resources available on the College Counseling pages.

[College Counseling Family Portal](#)