

Class of 2026 Parent Breakfast

WELCOME

FROM

MRS. STEWART

Senior Class Dues \$50

- ▶ Senior Class are \$50 (Dues increase second semester to \$75)
Pay by Sept 19 to receive class t-shirt.
- ▶ Dues pay for senior events and treats throughout the year culminating in Senior Week in May. Seniors who pay their class dues are included in these treats and events.
- ▶ Seniors must have paid their class dues to attend prom – which is Saturday, **April 18th**.
- ▶ Refer all questions to Sylvia.Spruill@cobbk12.org or Annette.Tucker@cobbk12.org.

Important Yearbook Information: Class of 2026

| | Final Deadline |
|--|---|
| Last day to purchase book for \$75 | 08/31 |
| Senior Ads Due | 10/31 |
| Last date to be photographed for yearbook* | 11/30 – you pick your photos 12/15 – photos are selected for you |

cady.com/schedule

Yearbook photos must be taken by Cady Studios.

More information available on Hillgrove homepage; Resources; Yearbook

Contact Barbara.McClure@cobbk12.org with questions or concerns.



HILLGROVE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

CLASS OF 2026 ORDERING IS LIVE NOW

@atlgrad.com



MASCOT PKG \$398

C/G/T UNIT + REQ ITEMS
Choice of: Basic Letterman Jacket
OR Mascot Class Ring
Choice of: Senior Hoodie OR Soft Crewneck
2026 Premium Jogger
2026 Senior T-shirt
2026 Lanyard
2026 Spinner Keychain
Souvenir Tassel (in school colors)
FREE diploma plaque

PREMIUM PKG \$230

C/G/T UNIT + REQ ITEMS
Choice of: Senior Hoodie OR Soft Crewneck
2026 Premium Jogger
2026 Senior T-shirt
Diploma Plaque
Souvenir Tassel (in school colors)
FREE 2026 Lanyard
FREE 2026 Spinner Keychain

BLING PKG \$180

C/G/T UNIT + REQ ITEMS
SuperSoft Crewneck
Graduate Bracelet -
Choice of gold or silver metal
Diploma Plaque
FREE Bling Souvenir Tassel
(in school colors)

BASIC PKG \$152

C/G/T UNIT + REQ ITEMS
2026 Senior T-shirt
Diploma Plaque
Souvenir Tassel (in school colors)
Choice of: FREE 2026 Lanyard OR 2026 Spinner Keychain

ESSENTIAL PKG \$132

C/G/T UNIT + REQ ITEMS
Diploma Plaque
Souvenir Tassel (in school colors)

\$2 Discount by bundling.

REQUIRED ITEMS \$70

C/G/T UNIT + REQ ITEMS
Diploma and Diploma Cover

Everything needed to walk

SAVE THE DATE:

August 22nd - Senior Class Meeting with ATL Grad

IN PERSON

ORDERING DATE:

October 1st during LUNCH



ORDER EARLY!

ORDERING IS LIVE NOW! Go to atlgrad.com and choose your school: Hillgrove HS

The initial ordering deadline this year is December 1st, 2025!
Please order on time to avoid any late ordering fees. ATL Grad representatives will be taking orders at the school on October 1st during lunch, please be prepared to make a \$100 deposit or pay in full. We accept debit/credit cards, Venmo, tap, and cash.

We will deliver all SOFT GOOD items (i.e. hoodies, tshirts, etc) ordered in your package at that time!

Questions? Reach out to us at orders@atlgrad.com or 404-615-7702.

'To Do' List For Students (and Parents)

- ▶ Review Graduation Status Report (Slide 10)
- ▶ Work/ Apprenticeship plan – take ASVAB, review YouScience results, begin making connections (Slide 11)
- ▶ Military plan – contact recruiter, sign up for ASVAB (Slide 12)
- ▶ GaFutures – ensure account has been created with (correct) social security number on file at Hillgrove (slide 41)
- ▶ College plan – begin Common App (Slide 28); complete Brag Sheet (Slide 26); sign up for SAT/ACT (Slide 23)
- ▶ Letters of Recommendation – request as required by college (Slide 25)
- ▶ Submit application – ensure college is on Naviance list; request transcript (Slide 32)
- ▶ Financial Aid and Scholarships – FAFSA (Slide 38); Scholarships (Slide 40); HOPE/ Zell Miller (Slide 41)

Who is Your School Counselor?

Ms. Berry
(A - Dau)



Ms. Calloway
(Dav - Hol)



Dr. Boyle
(Hom - Mil)



Ms. Davis
(Mim - Sc)



Mr. Washington
(Sd -Z)

Who is in the School Counseling Office?



Ms. Mitchell
Clerk

Mr. Donlan
Enrollment Clerk



CTLS Learn
Join the Grade Level BAND Account:



Follow us
@hillgroveschoolcounseling





Fall Events

- ▶ **College Visits to Hillgrove** – Sign up through Naviance
- ▶ **Homecoming Dance** – September 13th
- ▶ **ASVAB** – September 30th
- ▶ **FAFSA Release** – *October 1st
- ▶ **Paying for College Night** – October 21st
- ▶ **Apply to College Week** – November 17 and March 9
- ▶ **Virtual FAFSA Completion Night** – December 9th

Graduation Items

- ▶ **Status Report and Transcript** disseminated on the first day of school; Shows courses earned and courses needed
- ▶ **Graduation Date** announced around the end of Fall semester
- ▶ **Graduation Tickets Form** will be available in January. No extra tickets/lottery will be available.





Workforce/Apprenticeship

- ▶ **Review YouScience results**
- ▶ **On-the-job short-term or long-term training** is provided by an employer at the beginning of a new job.
- ▶ Training can last 1 – 5 years, **often paid**.
- ▶ The completion of an apprenticeship is generally associated with skilled labor.
- ▶ These kinds of programs can **lead to secure and well-paying jobs without the need for any college expenses.**

Military/Armed Forces

1

High School
Diploma is
required

2

Take the
ASVAB

3

Make
contact with
branch
recruiter

4

Request your
final
transcript in
May

ASVAB TESTING



Fall ASVAB Testing

September 30th at 9 am

Location: Hillgrove

Registration required

by September 19th



Scan here for more
info on the ASVAB

<https://www.officialasvab.com/>

The ASVAB is a standardized test that helps determine eligibility for the military, but it can also help students identify job opportunities based on their strengths, knowledge, and skills. The test is **free** and will be available for **students 17 years or older**. Taking it does not require a commitment to military service.



Scan here to register

<https://forms.office.com/r/c89wS6eAnt>

2-Year Colleges & Technical Colleges

- ▶ Check to see if the SAT/ACT is required – may take the Accuplacer Exam instead – check with each individual school
- ▶ Two-year school requirements vary. Check website for current requirements
- ▶ Transcript request – Most will require a final transcript as documentation of graduation

SENIOR PANEL



4-Year College/University

- ▶ Typically have higher admission requirements
 - ▶ i.e., higher GPA, higher test scores
- ▶ On average it takes students four years to complete
- ▶ Students work towards a Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist's, Doctorate.
- ▶ SAT/ACT Test Scores are usually required

FACTORS FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION

Extracurricular
Activities

Essays

Letters of
Recommendation

Demonstrated
Interest



RIGOR OF CLASSES

GRADES & GPA

TEST SCORES

Check to see if the
college is test optional.

BUILDING A COLLEGE LIST

“Reach schools” are those where your academic credentials fall below the school’s range for the freshman class.

“Match schools” are schools where your academic credentials fall within or perhaps slightly exceed the school’s range for the freshman class.

“Safety schools” are schools you will almost definitely get into because your academic credentials are much better than the typical range for their freshman class.

REACH SCHOOLS

Apply to 1 or 2

MATCH SCHOOLS

Apply to 2 or 3

SAFETY SCHOOLS

Apply to at least 1

Points to Consider

Check Admissions Requirements by visiting College Website

GPA Admission Requirements vary by school.

University of System of Georgia Freshman Index

Weighted and unweighted GPAs will be reported on your CCSD transcript

Class rank **will not** be included on transcripts or reported on secondary reports

Colleges want students who show an interest in their school

DEFINITIONS OF ADMISSION OPTIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION



National Association for
College Admission Counseling
Guiding the way to higher education

STUDENTS: WHICH COLLEGE ADMISSION PROCESS BEST *SUITS YOU?*

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

Regular Decision

DEFINITION:

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Rolling Admission

DEFINITION:

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Early Action (EA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the institution's regular response date.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Restrictive Application Plans

Early Decision (ED)

DEFINITION:

Students make a commitment to a first-choice institution where, if admitted they definitely will enroll. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early.

COMMITMENT:

BINDING

Restrictive Early Action (REA)

DEFINITION:

Students apply to an institution of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA or REA to other institutions. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

COMMITMENT:

NON-BINDING

Students are not restricted from applying to other institutions and have until May 1 to consider their options and confirm enrollment.

Students are responsible for determining and following restrictions.

Standardized Testing Policies

- SAT/ACT test scores are usually required, with explicit score minimums
 - The University System of Georgia (USG) will continue its temporary waiver of test score requirements, meaning no test scores will be required for admission at 20 of USG's 26 public colleges and universities for students applying for Fall 2026.
 - Schools **requiring** SAT/ACT scores are **Georgia Tech, UGA, Georgia College & State University, Augusta University, Georgia State University, Georgia Southern University, and Kennesaw State University.**
- ▶ Test-optional: Colleges/universities can use the student's grade point average on the required high school curriculum without a standardized test score at the following minimum grade point averages (GPA):
 - ▶ 3.4 GPA for research universities (Emory)
 - ▶ 3.2 GPA for comprehensive universities (Valdosta State, U of West Georgia)
 - ▶ 3.0 GPA for state universities (Columbus State, Fort Valley State)
- Test scores will continue to be required to apply for Zell Miller scholarships in accordance with state of Georgia requirements.

College Admission Tests



***2 out of 3 students' test scores improve when they take it more than once!

Hillgrove's CEEB code is 112431

www.collegeboard.com

www.actstudent.org

Scores are sent to the college from the testing agency –
you must do this!

25-26 SAT/ACT Test Dates

| SAT Dates | Register By | ACT Dates | Register By |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| September 13th | August 29 th | October 18th | September 12 th |
| October 4th | September 19 th | December 13th | November 7 th |
| December 6th | November 21 st | February 14th | January 9 th |
| March 14th | February 27 th | April 11th | March 6 th |
| May 2nd | April 17 th | June 13th | May 8 th |
| June 6th | May 22 nd | July 11th | June 5 th |

Work Backwards to Determine Your Deadlines

Example:

- ▶ Application deadline for the college is Oct 15th
- ▶ School Counselor and Teacher recommendation request by September 5th; 20 school days prior; Fall Break is Sept 23rd – 27th

This means you have:

1. Started or submitted application to the college and added in Naviance
2. Paid for your transcript in MPP
3. Completed your Senior Brag Sheet
4. Emailed your School Counselor to inform her that all materials are complete

Teacher Recommendations

Select the recommendation request type:*

| <input type="checkbox"/> Select All | Colleges ^ |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Auburn University 0 required / 3 allowed / 0 requested |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Florida State University 0 required / 0 allowed / 0 requested <i>This college does not accept Letters of Recommendation</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Georgia Institute of Technology-Main Campus 0 required / 1 allowed / 0 requested |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | University of Georgia 0 required / 2 allowed / 0 requested |

IMPORTANT: ASSIGN YOUR TEACHERS TO SPECIFIC SCHOOLS, NOT “All Applications”

-It is student responsibility to research which schools require a letter of recommendation

-If the college does not ask for a letter of recommendation, they will not use it in the admissions process.







**You can also track the status of your teacher recommendations. The student must follow up to ensure that these are sent!

School Counselor Recommendations/ Secondary School Reports



School Counselors will complete recommendations for schools that require them. In order for us to complete the recommendation, seniors need to complete their Brag Sheet and let the School Counselor know it has been completed.

“Colleges I’m Applying to” Dashboard

| | College | Type | Deadline | | Expected Difficulty* | Transcripts | Office materials | Submission Type ⓘ | Application | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------|----------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---|-------------|--|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Emory University | ED | Early Decision | November 1 | N/A | | Pending |  | Unknown ▼ |  EDIT | MORE ⋮ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Georgia State University | EA | Early Action | November 15 | N/A | | Pending |  | Unknown ▼ |  EDIT | MORE ⋮ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kennesaw State University | EA | Early Action | October 26 | N/A | | Pending |  | Unknown ▼ |  EDIT | MORE ⋮ |

To Do Item

- Complete Senior Brag Sheet in Naviance



Application Types: Common App

- ▶ The Common App (CA) is a free admission application that applicants may use to apply to any of the 1,000 + member colleges and universities. Each college charges its own application processing fee.

- ▶ In Naviance, a Common App school is designated by the symbol.



- ▶ Students must first create a Common App account on the <https://www.commonapp.org/apply> website, add a college within Common App, and complete the FERPA release, authorizing us to release your student's confidential records to the college through CA and then link their account to their Naviance account.
- ▶ With Common App schools, your student can check within their CA college section to see when documents have been sent from Naviance and whether the college has downloaded the documents.

Students will need to

- ▶ Match their Common App account to their Naviance account (discussed in Senior Seminar).
- ▶ Decide to waive FERPA or not to waive FERPA (discussed in Senior Seminar).
- ▶ Request their transcript on MPP.
- ▶ Complete their Brag Sheet in Naviance (discussed in Senior Seminar)
- ▶ Request letters of rec from teachers 4 weeks (best practice) before application deadline. Request in Naviance and face to face (discussed in Senior Seminar).

Non-Common App Schools

- ▶ Some colleges and universities have opted not to use the Common Application.
- ▶ Instead, they have created their own individual applications that, in most cases, are web-based and can be found via the school's undergraduate admissions website.
- ▶ Just because a school does not accept the Common App does not mean that they do not accept the transmission of important documents, like letters of recommendation and academic transcripts, through Naviance.
- ▶ When a non-Common App school allows us to submit documents through Naviance, it is called Direct to Institution. A Direct to Institution school is designated by this symbol:



Common Black College Application

Once your application is submitted and the application fee is paid, it will be made available to **all 66 Member Institutions**.

You are not able to use a fee waiver to complete the CBCA because you are applying to all 66 HBCUs for only \$20.

Students can upload their test scores in the Student Dashboard. If you have not taken the test, you can still complete the CBCA.

Send your essay and recommendations to all the colleges you are interested in attending. We encourage you to visit the websites of those colleges to get the essay topic.

Please note, some colleges require you to complete or provide additional information on their institutional platforms to complete the application process.

If you are a high school student and you have college credits, please be sure to provide that information to all the Common Black College Application Member Institutions you are interested in attending.

Requesting Transcripts



- ▶ 1. Add college you are applying to in Naviance.
- ▶ 2. Go to MyPaymentsPlus and fill out the transcript request form and pay \$2 for every college that you want to receive your transcript. MPP opens August 25.

It is your senior's responsibility to complete ALL parts of the above process, or transcripts will not be sent.

Transcript Release



- ▶ If only the transcript is required, Ms. Mitchell will release it to the institution within 48-72 hours of receiving the MPP payment
- ▶ If a letter of recommendation is required, expect a minimum of a three-week delay after the Senior Brag Sheet and MPP payment has been received; it is a package deal

College Campus Visits

- ▶ Many college campuses are open for tours and/or offer virtual visits
 - ▶ Fall break is a perfect time to tour college campuses
 - ▶ REMEMBER – they are trying to sell you on their school
 - ▶ Sign up for the college mailing list – open your email and read it! Colleges may use email to track demonstrated interest
 - ▶ Email or speak with an admission counselor (many offer virtual meetings)
 - ▶ Ask about financial aid opportunities
 - ▶ Contact the academic advisor/recruiter for an academic program – find out if you can virtually sit in on a class of interest
 - ▶ Talk to students and faculty

College Campus Visits



Be aware of the following procedures regarding absences because of these visits:

- ▶ A. For these absences to be considered excused, official documentation from the institution including dates and times of tours, appointments with admissions counselors, etc. (on college or university letterhead) **MUST** be turned into the Attendance Office when the student returns to school. Brochures, campus maps, or email confirmations of the visit or tour will not qualify as appropriate and sufficient documentation of a college visit.
- ▶ B. There will be a limit of two (2) days per academic year which will be excused for these types of visits for a senior or junior student.

Financial Assistance

Students who are **eligible** for Free or Reduced Lunch are eligible for fee waivers for the following:

- ▶ ACT – [waiver information](#)
- ▶ SAT – [waiver information](#)
- ▶ Score Sends
- ▶ College Application Fees

Financial Aid Planning- FAFSA

- ▶ Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**)
- ▶ Submitted annually to determine eligibility
- ▶ Includes sections for parents and students to complete
- ▶ FAFSA goes live October 2025
- ▶ Check the “**Net Price Calculator**” on the college website to determine the EXPECTED Family Contribution (EFC)-- the estimated amount student will have to pay to attend that institution

Need Based Financial Aid

- ▶ Types of Student Financial Aid
 - ▶ *Grants*: Federal/State/College
 - ▶ *Loans*: Federal (in student's name)
 - ▶ *Loans*: Private (in parent's name)
 - ▶ *Work Study Opportunities*



Steps to Institutional Aid: *CSS Profile*

- Many private colleges require the CSS Profile in addition to the FAFSA.
- ▶ CSS Profile: *Available October 1, 2025*
 - ▶ Fee: \$25 Original Application Fee/One College
 - ▶ \$ 16.00 additional college or program
- ▶ Comprehensive list of Schools and for more information:
 - ▶ <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>

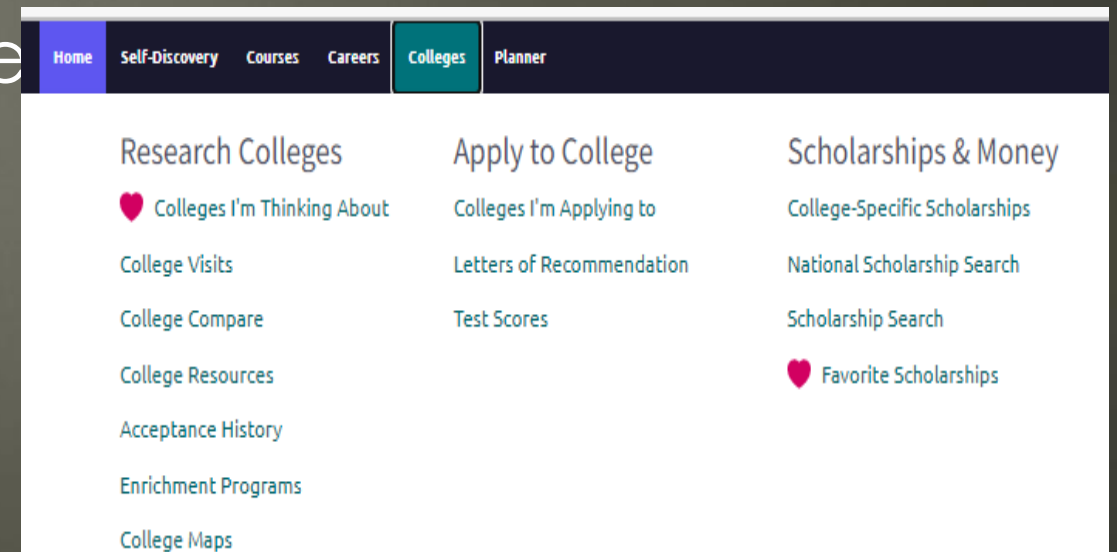
Scholarships

Types of Scholarships:

- ▶ Merit, Athletic, Organizational, Music, Leadership, PTSA, etc

Where to look for Scholarships?

- ▶ Prospective College's Websites
- ▶ National Database in Naviance
- ▶ School/District list in Naviance
- ▶ Scholarship Websites



Paying for College – HOPE/Zell Miller Scholarship

- HOPE Scholarship – Basic eligibility requirements: Graduate high school with a minimum 3.0 calculated HOPE GPA. Earn a minimum of four (4) full rigor credits from the Academic Rigor Course List. Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements
- Zell Miller Scholarship – Basic eligibility requirements: Graduate with a minimum 3.7 calculated HOPE GPA. Earn a minimum of four (4) full rigor credits from the Academic Rigor Course List. Earn a qualifying test score on a single administration of the ACT or SAT prior to high school graduation (student must submit scores to GaFutures).

Current Test Score Requirements: A minimum score of **1200** is required for the SAT or **25** composite score for the ACT.

NOTE: The ACT score requirement can change each year. The score is posted by January 15 each year for the upcoming/award school year.

Paying for College – HOPE/Zell Miller Grants

- HOPE Grant: Available to Georgia residents who are working towards a certificate or diploma at an eligible college or university in Georgia. Basic eligibility requirements: No high school GPA minimum/requirement. Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements.
- Zell Miller Grant: Available to Georgia residents who are working towards a certificate or diploma at a Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) **or** University System of Georgia (USG) institution. Basic eligibility requirements: No high school GPA minimum/requirement. Meet U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizen requirements. A minimum 3.5 postsecondary Calculated HOPE GPA, at the end of each term, is required in order to maintain eligibility.
- HOPE Career Grant: Available to HOPE Grant-qualified students who enroll in select majors specifically aligned with industries in which there are more jobs available in Georgia than there are skilled workers to fill them. These industries have been identified as strategically important to the state's economic growth.

GaFutures.org

- ▶ HOPE GPA lives here!!! Watch for a CTLS message if we do not have your Senior's SSN on file.
- ▶ Send test scores to GaFutures.org
 - ▶ Submitting SAT score report
 - ▶ Student uploads a copy of the score report to GAfutures through their student account
 - ▶ When a student lists GSFC, College Board will provide GSFC with files quarterly. Use code 0472
 - ▶ Submitting ACT score report
 - ▶ Student may request ACT to electronically send their score report to GAfutures. Use code 2225

- Letters will be sent out by mid October
- The GEORGIA MATCH Dashboard will be available when letters are mailed
- Student signs in or creates a student GAfutures account to access the dashboard
- **Students can access the dashboard without receiving a letter as long as:**
 - A high school transcript was submitted and calculated by Sept. 10
 - Student has their SSN on their GAfutures account Profile



Georgia Match

NCAA – Visit eligibilitycenter.org



**Guide for the
College-Bound
Student-Athlete**

- ▶ Download the following:
 - ▶ Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete
 - ▶ Initial-Eligibility Flyer
 - ▶ DI Academic Requirements
 - ▶ DII Academic Requirements

Final Steps and Making a Decision

Try to visit colleges where your child has been accepted before they choose to attend.

Compare financial aid packages.

Send deposit and apply for housing.

Get ready for graduation!

Have student request final transcript before Graduation and complete BRIDGE Survey

Congratulations, your student is off to college!

In a Nutshell...what do I do first?

- ▶ Get organized: folder, calendar, review timeline...
- ▶ Know your Accounts--- Naviance, Common App, GA Futures.
- ▶ Register to take SAT/ACT this Fall!
- ▶ College visits
- ▶ Choose top 3 colleges & start applications.
- ▶ Make note of application deadlines and requirements!
- ▶ Complete Senior Brag Sheet if needed
- ▶ Request Transcripts and Recommendations. Allow 4 weeks advance notice to process request
- ▶ KEEP UP YOUR GRADES!!!