

The Road to College #2

April 20, 2021

HOSPITALITY

Tonight's Agenda

- Looking at the data
 - Important things to know about applying
 - Letters of rec
 - Resume
 - Essays
 - How to prepare for the fall
- ❖ Worth a listen, "Inside the Yale Admissions Office" podcast

Class of 2020

- Number of seniors graduated - 185
- Number of applications sent - 1,608 applications through Naviance
- Scholarship offers reported - over \$25,254,072
- Top schools applied to:
 - University of Houston - 101 applications
 - University of Texas at Austin - 81 applications
 - Rice University - 31 applications
 - Texas A & M - 29 applications
 - Sam Houston - 27 applications
 - New York University - 26 applications

Class of 2021 ~ As of April 8, 2021

- Number of seniors graduating - 181
- Number of applications sent - 1,710 applications through Naviance
- Top schools applied to
 - University of Houston and University of Texas at Austin - both 84 applications
 - University of North Texas - 31 applications
 - Rice University - 39 applications
 - Texas A & M - 34 applications
 - University of Southern California - 33 applications
 - University of Michigan - Ann Arbor - 27 applications

Important things to know about schools in which you apply:

- How to apply
- Application Requirements
- Deadlines

** The most important thing to remember is that the first and best source for individual college application requirements and deadlines is the university website and/or admissions representatives.

We recommend starting to gather this information now to save time later:

- Be prepared
- Make a spreadsheet of the schools, requirements and the deadlines so you can check them off

Example of Tracking College Requirements

College	Online Access			Application Requirements							Audition requirements			Completed?						
	Website	Login	Password/Pin	Common App	Regular App	Transcript	SAT/ACT	# of SAT Subject	# Rec Letters	Other	Separate Application	Prescreen	Audition	Common App	Regular App	SSRI Transcript	SAT/ACT	SAT Subject	Rec Letters	Other
College 1	Login Page	go2tutors	123456	Y	Y	Y	Y	2	3	Mid year report	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
College 2				Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Fees			Deadlines				Admission Plan	Additional Notes
App Fee	App Fee Paid	Fee Waived	Early Decision/Action	Regular Decision	Financial Aid	Completed ?	Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Admission or Rolling	
\$65	Y	FALSE	11/1	1/1	3 (ED)/ Jan-15	Y		
	N	FALSE				N		

Mrs. Landry gives this out to Seniors during Capstone, but she has not also made it available for Juniors on the website.

*Very Important Information

- When applying to a college or university, use your **LEGAL** name. In the essay you can share if you have a preferred name or nickname, but if it is not legally changed it will need to match all legal records in a student's account.
 - For example: transcripts and FAFSA
- A school matches your records by using your legal information. If it does not match, it can show it is missing in your account and put you at a disadvantage for admissions.

Most Common Applications

- Common Application
- Coalition
- Apply Texas
- Common Black College Application
- Individual school application on website
 - Applications for the Class of 2022 usually don't open until August 1st, 2021.
Do not start applying yet!
 - Many schools accept more than one type of application, and it does not matter which one is used. However, it is important to only apply ONCE.
Do not send multiple applications to the same school.

Types of Applications Explained

➤ Common Application

- Most common application – more than 900 colleges and universities accept
- Only allows you to apply up to 20 schools
- Has a mobile app
- Typically opens August 1
- Has college and scholarship search tools
- Can create an account at any time

➤ Integrated with Naviance (the program your counselors use to submit documentation to colleges)

- Very important!! **DO NOT** to list an HSPVA recommender in Common App or request letters of recommendation in Common App – IT WILL FREEZE YOUR ACCOUNT!

Types of Applications Explained

➤ Coalition Application

- Relatively new – Used by more than 150 colleges and universities
- More user friendly than before
- No limit on the number of schools in which you apply
- Typically opens August 1
- Has college and scholarship search tools
- Can create an account at any time

➤ Apply Texas

- Use for Texas public & private universities, and community colleges
- Typically opens July 1st
- Scholarship applications
- Can create an account at any time

Types of Applications Explained

➤ Common Black College Application

- One time \$20 application fee and can apply up to 60 HBCUs
- Asks you to select top 4 choices and application goes directly to them
- Outside of the top 4, you must contact the institution directly to let them know you applied

➤ Personalized Application on website

- User friendly
- Accessible
- This is how universities ensure you WILL apply; they offer you many easy ways to do so!
- Apply however you feel comfortable

Possible Application Requirements

- Application fee
- Transcript
- SAT/ACT scores
- TSI scores
- Teacher letters of recommendation
- School profile
- Counselor letter
- Essay
- Resume
- Audition/video
- Interview
- Mid year transcripts/Mid year reports

School Profile 2021



Kinder High School
for the
Performing and
Visual Arts

790 Austin Street, Houston TX 77002
Phone: 713-942-1960 Fax: 713-942-1968
www.hspva.org
CEE# 443376

District and Community

Houston ISD, with more than 209,000 students and encompassing 301 square miles within greater Houston, is the seventh-largest public-school system in the nation and the largest in Texas. HISD is among the largest employers in Houston, with approximately 27,395 full and part-time employees. Most HISD personnel are assigned to schools and deliver services directly to students on a day-to-day basis. Its schools are dedicated to giving every student the best possible education through an intensive core curriculum and specialized, challenging instructional and career programs. The district is extremely diverse with the following ethnic student breakdown: 62% Hispanic, 24% African American, 9% White, 4% Asian and 75% economically-disadvantaged.

The School

HSPVA evolved in 1971 from a realization that gifted young artists need highly specialized and rigorous training in the arts to be prepared for the intense competition they will meet in colleges, conservatories, and the professional arts world. The creation of HSPVA represented the first attempt by any public high school in the nation to correlate an academic program with concentrated training in the arts. Also, it was one of only three public schools in the nation to offer programs in both the visual and performing arts, and the first such institution in the southwest. For Houston ISD, the formation of HSPVA represented a dramatic departure from traditional comprehensive programs. In 2019, the school transitioned to our new building in downtown Houston and was renamed Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Kinder HSPVA is fully accredited and offers the same academic curriculum and graduation requirements as all HISD high schools; the major difference in the academic program is that we offer the added ingredient of correlating the arts with academics, rather than treating either as isolated disciplines. The school schedule is an alternating A/B block schedule with classes meeting for 1.5 hours every other day with the exception of first period which meets every day for 45 minutes. Students spend three hours every day in rigorous focused study in one art discipline with the balance of the day's study in academics. **All students must audition for placement at Kinder HSPVA and are accepted to a single art area of focus.**

Grading Scale		
Range	Weighted	Regular
A=90-100	5.0	4.0
B=80-89	4.0	3.0
C=75-79	3.0	2.0
D=70-74	2.0	1.0
F=0-69	0	0
TRANSCRIPT SYMBOLS		
0-Pre-AP/Honors (honors pts)		
P-AP (honors pts)		
Current Enrollment-798		
Seniors-181		

GPA and Rank

Kinder HSPVA only reports rank by student request. GPA is weighted on a 4.0 scale and is cumulative including all courses taken for high school credit. All HSPVA art area courses, which includes 16 credits over four years, are out of 4 points (there are no AP/honors options for art area courses).

Highest GPA: 4.56
Lowest GPA: 2.57
Median GPA: 3.94

School Profile 2020-2021

School Administration

Dr. R. Scott Allen, Principal
Sean Tellez, Assistant Principal
Alexandrea Williams, Assistant Principal
Christy Farris, Counselor
Becky Johnson, Counselor
Kim Hines, Registrar
Jonathan Klein, Magnet Coordinator

School Recognition

Nationally Recognized Blue-Ribbon School
2020 Niche Rankings
Top 5 Best Public High Schools in Houston Area
A+ Overall Grade
US News and World Report Best High Schools 2020
2017-2022 Exemplary School -Arts Schools Network
Rockefeller Award for Excellence in Arts Education
Coca-Cola Foundation Distinguished Arts School
Grammy Award Winning Music Department
Texas Education Agency "A" Rating 2018-2019
Texas Education Agency Exemplary School 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012
One of the most recognized High Schools For Presidential Scholars in the Arts in the Nation

Class of 2020--Achievements (185 Graduates)

National Merit Scholars-5
National Merit Finalists-4
National Merit Commended Students-11
National Hispanic Recognition Program-7
AP Scholars-32
AP Scholars with Honor-14
AP Scholars with Distinction-48
National AP Scholars-14

2020 Scholarships Offered Over \$25,254,072

Honors (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement Courses

Kinder HSPVA offers ten Honors courses (Pre-AP) and sixteen Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Enrollment is open to all students; however, required campus arts programming **only allows five academic courses to be taken annually**. In addition, scheduling conflicts often exist due to fine art area requirements which may prevent a student from taking a desired Pre-AP or AP course. Students taking AP are required to take the exam in May & AP test fees are paid by Houston ISD.

Pre-AP Courses Offered

English I English II
Geometry Algebra II
Pre-calculus Biology
Chemistry World Geography
Spanish III French III

Advanced Placement Courses Offered (2018-2019)

English Language English Literature Macroeconomics
Calculus AB Physics C-Mech & EM Statistics
Biology World History Music Theory
US History US Government Psychology
Spanish Language Chemistry European History

Campus Demographics

White 38%
Hispanic or Latino 27%
African-American 17%
Asian/Pac. Islander 9%
Multiple 5%
Economically Disadvantaged 17%

Class of 2020 Post Graduation Plans

Class Size-185

Acceptance Rate	98%	181
4 Year College	90%	167
2 Year College	7%	14
Pursuing Higher Education	98%	181
Gap Year	2%	4
Out of State	43%	80

Kinder HSPVA students are accepted to a wide array of competitive academic and artistic programs across the United States and abroad. Please contact the Kinder HSPVA Counseling Department for a comprehensive list of these institutions.

SAT Score Summary - (Middle 50%)

2019 Mean Score-1228	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
# of Seniors Taking Test	166	189	175
Critical Reading/ERW	590-700	590-705	590-700
Math	550-670	550-670	550-670
Writing	30-35	30-35	30-35

Advanced Placement Summary Score Report

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Total AP Students	357	355	326	307	282
Number of Exams	884	852	809	785	889
Exams with 3+	755	733	671	655	557
% of Total AP	85.4%	82%	82.9	83.4	80.9

Detailed 2020 Advanced Placement Results

Subject	5	4	3	2	1	ALL
Music Theory	10	5	0	0	0	15
English Lang	36	37	30	15	4	122
English Lit	9	20	42	27	10	108
Macro Eco	11	30	16	10	11	78
US Government	22	23	20	13	12	90
US History	33	33	25	14	6	111
World History	20	21	18	8	3	70
Euro History	5	4	3	1	0	13
Calculus AB	8	12	14	8	3	45
Biology	9	11	18	6	3	47
Physics C: EM	6	6	1	5	4	22
Physics C: Mec	6	7	6	0	0	19
Psychology	15	12	11	3	6	47
Chemistry	6	13	5	15	3	42
Statistics	2	7	7	9	6	31
Spanish Lang	5	9	3	0	0	17
Number of	203	250	219	134	71	884
% of Total	23.1	28.5	25	15.3	8	100

2019 Mean ACT Score-29

Average PSAT Scores
2016-1174 Total (ERW-M)
2017-1169 Total (ERW-M)
2018-1188 Total (ERW-M)
2019-1184 Total (ERW-M)
2020-1186 Total (ERW-M)

Information about Transcript

➤ Unofficial Transcript

- Seniors will receive an updated unofficial transcript with a weighted GPA, and unweighted GPA, and a rank in August/September of Senior Year
- Students should review the transcript one last time to make sure it is accurate
- Students can use this information to “OPT OUT OF THE NO RANK POLICY” if they request it
- Students should keep the copy of their unofficial transcript for future use

➤ Official Transcript

- Colleges and universities require official transcripts to be sent for admissions by the deadline
- Official transcripts for college applications are ordered through Naviance during Senior year
- Official transcripts for scholarships are ordered through Mrs. Hines

Information about Transcript

- Certain schools use an SRAR (Self Reporting Academic Record) and do not require or want a transcript
- Students may use their unofficial transcript to complete the form
- Some schools who use SRAR include:

- [Louisiana State University](#)
- [Miami University](#)
- [New York University \(NYU\)](#)
- [Pennsylvania State University](#)
- [Rutgers University, Camden](#)
- [Rutgers University, Newark](#)
- [Rutgers University, New Brunswick](#)
- [Texas A&M University](#)
- [University of Cincinnati](#)
- [University of Delaware](#)
- [University of Minnesota Morris](#)
- [University of Minnesota Twin Cities](#)
- [University of Oregon](#)
- [University of Pittsburgh](#)
- [University of Tennessee, Knoxville](#)
- [Virginia Tech](#)

Deadlines

- The first and best source for college deadlines is the individual college website - ALWAYS look up this information and do not rely on anyone else to tell you. These can change year to year.
- Types of deadlines:
 - Early Decision (Early Decision 1 and 2)
 - Early Action
 - Priority
 - Scholarship Deadline
 - Regular Decision Deadline

Types of Deadlines

➤ Early Decision - ED

- Binding commitment that you will attend this school if they accept you
- Student, parents, and counselor must complete a special form
- Can only apply Early Decision to **one** school at a time
- Must communicate to your counselor during senior year when you are applying ED 1 or 2

➤ Early Decision 1 - ED 1

- Typically November 1 deadline - usually find out admissions decision in December/January

➤ Early Decision 2 - ED 2

- Typically January/February deadline - usually find out admissions decision in March/April

Types of Deadlines

- Early Action, Priority Deadlines, and possible University Scholarship Deadlines
 - Most likely November 1st
 - Not a binding commitment
 - Stand out above the crowd
 - Admissions decision received in late fall or early spring
 - Might include scholarship deadlines
 - Many scholarships are first come, first served

Types of Deadlines

➤ Regular Decision

- Anywhere from November 15 – early August
- Usual deadlines (may change):
 - UT – December 1
 - A&M – December 15
 - UH – May 31

➤ Important to note:

- Some majors within a university have their own deadlines, look these up specifically
 - For example: The College of Engineering
- Colleges require everything from the student and high school to be in by the deadline otherwise applications will no be longer considered
- Do NOT assume missing a deadline is no big deal, it IS A VERY BIG DEAL

Letters of Recommendation

- Look at what your school requires as the answers vary per school
 1. How many letters required?
 2. How many letters optional?
 3. Who can the letters be from?
- All letters from Kinder HSPVA employees are ordered and sent through Naviance
- Letters are not given to students or non HSPVA counselors
- DO NOT include recommenders in Common Application

Letters of Recommendation ~ **ASK NOW**

- Colleges want current teachers who have know you in high school and in the classroom.
- Before you leave in June, ask two teachers if they will write your letters of recommendation for next year's applications before you leave in June!
 - Make this a priority!
- Be prepared if your teacher says no, they only have so much time to dedicate to letters and may request that you ask someone else.
- Remember! Ask **BEFORE** we leave for the summer so teachers may prepare and write some letters during the summer.
- Your official letters of recommendation will be ordered through Naviance in the fall.

Create a Resume

- Colleges want to know how you spend your time, so include:
 - Things from freshman year through now
 - Please do not include anything from elementary or middle school
 - A list of extracurricular activities, volunteer opportunities or other things in which you have participated
 - List the year(s) participated in each activity
 - Time spent on the activity
 - Include positions held, honors won, etc.
- Some colleges have an optional or required resume. You can upload one to your application or you can use this information to enter activities into Common App
- Naviance has a resume building tool or you can create your own
- Copy and paste the link below for some resume examples and tips from UT admissions
 - <https://diversity.utexas.edu/schoolpartnerships/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Expanded-Resume.pdf>

Purpose of an Essay

- A college or university uses your essays to have a better idea of who you are in your application
- An essay should draw all the pieces of your application together and it should be reflected in other parts of your application
- It is not a gauge for a student's writing ability
- An essay is a way to communicate who you are to admission representative and become a real person to them.
- Some optional essays are used for scholarships associated with their particular school

The Do's of Essay Writing

DO:

- Leave time for reflection
- Reflect on who you are now more than how you got here
- Choose an activity to reflect on and go deeper
- Use a difficult event that connects to insight and reflection that are connected
- Be genuine and authentic
- Focus on times of collaboration and working with others
- Don't dwell too much about a failure, leave more room for describing your growth

The Don'ts of Essay Writing

DO NOT:

- Don't tell a story that just ends and the reader thinking "so what?"
- Don't be stuck in the past
- Don't write your essay about your resume
- Don't focus on something challenging that many other people have also experienced – for example, COVID
- Don't use bathroom humor or shock factor
- Don't suggest you are exceptional – this can come off as ego
- Don't share failure without redemption

Essay Prompts: Common App. 2021-2022

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Essay Prompts: Coalition 2021-2022

1. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or helped to shape it.
2. Describe a time when you made a meaningful contribution to others in which the greater good was your focus. Discuss the challenges and rewards of making your contribution.
3. Has there been a time when you've had a long-cherished or accepted belief challenged? How did you respond? How did the challenge affect your beliefs?
4. What is the hardest part of being a student now? What's the best part? What advice would you give a younger sibling or friend (assuming they would listen to you)?
5. Submit an essay on a topic of your choice.

Essay Prompts: Apply Texas 2021-2022

- Topic A - Tell us your story. What unique opportunities or challenges have you experienced throughout your high school career that have shaped who you are today?
- Topic B - Most students have an identity, an interest, or a talent that defines them in an essential way. Tell us about yourself.
- Topic C -You've got a ticket in your hand - Where will you go? What will you do? What will happen when you get there?
- Topic D -Please Note: The essay in this section is specific to certain college majors and is not required by all colleges/universities that accept the Apply Texas Application. If you are not applying for a major in Architecture, Art, Art History, Design, Studio Art, Visual Art Studies/Art Education, you are not required to write this essay.
- Personal interaction with objects, images and spaces can be so powerful as to change the way one thinks about particular issues or topics. For your intended area of study (architecture, art history, design, studio art, visual art studies/art education), describe an experience where instruction in that area or your personal interaction with an object, image or space effected this type of change in your thinking. What did you do to act upon your new thinking and what have you done to prepare yourself for further study in this area?
- Topic E - Choose an issue of importance to you - the issue could be personal, school related, local, political, or international in scope - and write an essay in which you explain the significance of that issue to yourself, your family, your community, or your generation.

College Visits

1. May be in person or virtual – Naviance has virtual tours
2. It's a good idea to get a feel of the campus because it is 4+ years of your life
3. Does the community around the school offer what you need/want?
 - Internships, fine arts community, job opportunities...
4. Some schools may have special college days to visit
5. Seniors will receive two college visit days next year to be coded as a college visit day and will not be counted against student as an absence.
 - We will discuss what documents are required to submit to attendance next year
6. College Fairs and lunchtime college visits are still important for gathering information about the school and making a connection with the representative

Important Things to Know Before Fall

1. Make sure to check updated unofficial transcript in August/September for accuracy
2. Be aware that the OPT OUT OF NO RANK policy will be sent out in August/September with a deadline
3. Transcripts and letters of recommendation will not be sent by HSPVA until the district releases the official updated transcript – usually beginning of October
 - If you apply in August – your transcript will still not be sent until October
4. Letters of recommendation NEVER get released directly to a student ~ we only send them directly through Naviance
5. Through Capstone, Counselors will teach students how to use Naviance to order transcripts and letters of recommendation
 - Yearbook students will be invited and MUST attend during their assigned period
 - After these lessons, Naviance will be accessible to order transcripts and letters of rec.
6. **DO NOT ADD AN HSPVA RECOMMENDER IN COMMON APPLICATION**

Road to College #3

- Monday, May 10th at 6 PM on TEAMS
- Mr. Edwards will be discussing Financial Aid and FAFSA
- Please use link in the chat to ask questions
 - ❖ We will post an FAQ with answers along with a recording of this video and the essay prompts on the website later this week

Thank you!