

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

for Senior Students & Parents

Senior/Graduation Fee:

Q: What does the CCA senior/graduation fee of \$130 cover or pay for?

A: The Senior fee covers the diploma, the cover, decorations, and cap/gown/tassel for graduation, plus other Senior activities throughout the year.

Q: When is the Graduation Fee due?

A: This fee is due by April 1. Parents may pay the amount in full or may make payments toward this fee during Senior year. Payments may be made online, in cash, or by check (payable to CCA) then turned into Mr. Flowers.

Volunteer hours:

Q: Are volunteer hours required in senior year for students?

A: Although no longer required for the school, volunteering is highly encouraged. Not only does volunteering look great on a resume and application, volunteer hours are required for those wanting to utilize Tennessee Promise Scholarship. Students who complete 20 hours of volunteer work will receive a special volunteer cord to wear at graduation.

College Visits:

Q: How many excused absences are allowed for college visits?

A: You may have 2 days, excused, for college visits; any college visits beyond the two excused must be approved by Dr. Levine. When you visit your college, ask for a school excuse note or some type of documentation to verify you attended the college.

Senior Exemptions:

Q: What are the requirements for a senior to be exempt from their final exams in May?

A: Seniors can be exempted from their final exams by having no more than 8 unexcused absences, no more than 10 unexcused tardies from their first block, and by having a 75 in their classes before honors or AP points are added. Senior juries are not subject to exemptions and must be completed as part of their CCA requirements for graduation.

Class Rank

Computations for the Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be figured at the conclusion of Fall Semester of Senior year. Both honors are based on numerical computation. To be eligible a student must attend CCA for the entire Junior and Senior years.

Class rank beyond Valedictorian and Salutatorian are not reported on transcripts; we have found that we have so many high achieving students their class rank is not an accurate representation of their academic performance. The top ten percent of the class will be determined in the Spring for the Superintendent's Honors Banquet.

Jostens

Q: What are students required to purchase from Jostens in regard to graduation?

A: Jostens is the sponsoring company for CCA caps and gowns. However, parents do NOT pay Jostens for cap and gown items. The cap and gown, standard tassel and stole are included in the \$130 graduation fee paid to CCA. A Jostens rep will come to CCA in early spring semester to collect the information required to reserve a cap and gown for their graduation. This will include:

- Student demographic information (name, address, cell phone number, etc.)
- Student height
- Student weight
- Student gender

While seniors may want to purchase additional items from Jostens, no purchase from Jostens is required for any CCA senior.

Q: How do we order Senior rings?

A: Ordering a ring is a family decision and is handled completely by the family, not through the school. Jostens and many other websites or stores have rings available if you are interested.

Senior Portraits:

Q: Are seniors required to purchase photos from Prestige Portraits?

A: No, there is no requirement for seniors/parents to purchase photos from Prestige Portraits. However, the only photos that will be in the yearbook are those taken by Prestige. CCA holds a contract with Prestige Portraits. CCA suggests parents make an appointment with Prestige (as early as June following their Junior year but no later than November of their Senior year) and pay a small sitting fee for yearbook picture poses. No further obligation to purchase picture packages is required.

Seniors pictures are taken at Prestige Portraits by scheduling an appointment at 892.1332. They provide what is needed for the formal and casual pictures for CCA. Make sure you take several formal pictures with a sky blue background. Each senior can have one formal with this background and one casual picture in the yearbook; however, both must be a vertical layout. You do not have to purchase anything except the sitting fee for the yearbook pictures.

Please schedule appointments by or before November 16th to allow processing time.

Q: Are there any requirements for the format of the two photos chosen for the yearbook?

A: Yes, CCA requires the formal yearbook choice be made with a sky blue background. Both formal and casual yearbook choices must be in a vertical format. Yearbook poses/photos must be chosen with the Yearbook Sponsor (Meri Sowders), by December 1st. Ms. Sowders has online access to the portraits, so no hard copy is needed. Please have proof numbers for both choices ready when meeting with the sponsor.

Q: What is the cost for the required photos from Prestige Portraits?

A: Parents are advised to contact Prestige Portraits directly to obtain detailed information on the costs for sitting fees, how many poses/portraits are included, possible portrait packages, etc. Contact info: phone 423.892.1332 or toll-free 1.800.566.0783.

Q: Are seniors required to have a photo made on “Picture Day”?

A: Seniors should have a photo made on “Picture Day” if they do not intend to take formal Senior pictures at Prestige. If a student does not submit their Prestige “formal” and “casual” choices by Dec.1st to the Yearbook Sponsor, the photo taken on “Picture Day” will be used as the senior portrait in the yearbook.

Transcripts:

Q: When does CCA send out transcripts to colleges?

A: This begins early September. There are various tasks that have to be completed before they can be sent via Major Clarity Platform.

Q: How do I request a transcript be sent to colleges for which I’m applying for admission?

A: Log on to Major Clarity via ClassLink and go to the Application Hub . You will find an option to link your Common App, request a transcript, and request a letter of rec. The transcript to be submitted directly to the college from Major Clarity.

*Once applications are submitted to colleges, expect automated emails requesting transcripts from CCA. **Please do not be alarmed if these are not sent immediately**, colleges will not deny admission if the transcript is not sent immediately after the application is submitted. CCA has a detailed process to follow to submit these and, at times, they may be delayed.*

Q: What is a “weighted GPA”? Do CCA’s student transcripts use this format?

A: No, CCA is on a 4.0 scale which is unweighted.

However, extra points are added to the final grade before being entered on the transcript for some classes: 3 points are added for Honors classes, 4 points for Dual Enrollment, and 5 points for AP classes IF they take the AP test in May.

Q: My college admissions office requires that the arts course names on my transcript be more detailed than CCA’s standard naming conventions (for example, Visual Arts 2). How can I request this kind of modification to my transcript?

A: For modifications to student transcripts of this nature, contact the Assistant Principal by email.

Common Application

Q: Is Common Application for me? If so, what is the “Common App” process for college applications?

A: While most schools will allow you to apply to their school online directly from the college site, some colleges will only accept applications through the Common App website. This is a highly intensive process and is only recommended and used if you are applying to multiple schools REQUIRING Common App. Students do one VERY detailed application and send it to all the schools instead of applying individually.

Please meet with the college advisor to see if this process is the most efficient application process for you.

The Common App process consists of submissions from 3 different parties: student, counselor and teacher.

1. Student Application

- A. After creating an account, the student will complete their Common App application online at www.commonapp.org.
 - B. Students will include all their demographic information and essay, as well as listing the colleges they are applying to through Common App.
 - C. Then, Seniors must submit their Common Application to the colleges they have chosen. They can send the application at different times based on the college's deadline, but the supporting documents (school report, transcript, teacher evaluation, and letter of recommendation) must be sent through their **Major Clarity account**.
- **Students MUST link ALL the colleges that you are applying to through Common App into their Major Clarity accounts.**

2. Counselor Common App Supplements

The counselor will upload and submit the required Counselor Common App Supplements

- a. Transcript
- b. School profile
- c. Counselor School Report
- d. Written Evaluation (additional supporting documents, if needed)

3. Teacher Common App Supplements

One or two teachers will upload and submit the required Teacher Common App Supplements to be submitted.

- a. Teacher Evaluation (consists of simple rating & short-answer questions)
- b. Teacher Letter of recommendation (a Word Doc or a PDF)

Financial Aid

Q. What does the term Financial Aid really mean?

A. The term “financial aid” includes: local, state, and federal grants, loans, and/or private and university scholarships.

Q: What is the FAFSA and what is it used for?

A: FAFSA stands for **Free Application for Federal Student Aid** and is used by college financial offices to determine the level and types of financial aid available to students (and/or parents). For those applying for the Tennessee Lottery (HOPE) scholarship, the FAFSA also serves as the application for that scholarship. *(This is a **free** application, beware, some sites will try to charge you money to fill this out).*

An FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID, previously known as the “PIN”) is required for BOTH the parent and student. The website is www.fafsa.gov.

Q: Does everyone need to complete the FAFSA even if there are no plans to apply for federal financial aid?

A: It is recommended that **all** parents/students complete the FAFSA. For those applying for the Tennessee Lottery (HOPE) scholarship, the FAFSA is required because it serves as the application for that scholarship.

Q: Is there a deadline by which the FAFSA must be completed?

A: The FAFSA cannot be started until **December** of senior year. Each college will specify their financial aid deadlines; however, to be eligible for the most financial aid, apply in early October.

Scholarships

Q: What is the deadline and the requirements for the TN Promise?

A: The deadline is typically November 1 of your senior year. You must complete the application online through www.tnpromise.gov and then you will receive notification about the other requirements. Students must attend 2 mandatory meetings and fulfill service requirements before enrollment.

Q: Are there reliable online resources available to search for scholarships?

A: Yes, here is a list of recommended websites:

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

www.StudentScholarshipSearch.com

www.collegescholarships.org

www.cappex.com

www.chegg.com/scholarships

www.ScholarshipPoints.com

www.FastWeb.com

www.CollegeBoard.com

www.sfa.ufl.edu:16080/scholarshipcafe/

www.uncf.org/scholarships

www.internationalscholarships.com