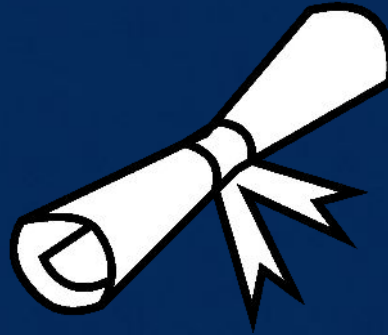


The Senior Year . . .



. . . and Next Steps



Christian Academy
SCHOOL SYSTEM
*education with a **Higher** purpose*

Class of 2027

Enrollment – 155

Jill Blount A-G

Amy Medley H-O

Jordan Heishman P-Z

We are here to guide you through the process!



Class of 2026

Last year's graduating class had 146 students.

Kentucky (2 and 4 year)	47%
Out of State (2 and 4 year)	44%
4 Year Public College, in-state	31%
Christian College (non-Catholic)	30%
2 Year College	<1%
Military	<1%
GAP or Work	<1%
Trade/Vocational/Apprenticeship	<1%

It's always good to look back and see what the previous class chose to do.

TOP CHOICES

University of Kentucky - 19
Grand Canyon University - 16
University of Louisville - 15
Asbury University - 7
Western Kentucky University - 5
Bellarmine University - 4
Lipscomb University - 4
Jefferson Community & Technical College - 3
Liberty University - 3
University of Cincinnati - 3
University of Mississippi - 3
University of Tennessee - 3
Bluegrass Community & Technical College - 2
Eastern Kentucky University - 2
Georgetown College - 2
Indiana University - 2
Johnson University - 2
Northern Kentucky University - 2
Samford University - 2
Xavier University - 2



Class of
2026

Additional Colleges for 2026

Arizona State University, AZ	Kentucky State University, KY
University of Arkansas, AR	Murray State University, KY
Auburn University, AL	Ohio Northern University, OH
Baylor University, TX	Palm Beach Atlantic University, KY
Belmont University, TN	Pennsylvania State University, PA
Campbellsville University, KY	Princeton University, NJ
Cedarville University, OH	Rider University, NJ
University of Central Florida, FL	University of South Florida, FL
Centre College, KY	San Jose State University, CA
Chapman University, CA	Stanford University, CA
University of Cumberlands, KY	Taylor University, IN
Elizabethtown Community & Technical College, KY	Tennessee State University, TN
University of Florida, FL	University of Tampa, FL
Gardner-Webb University, NC	Tulane University, LA
Georgia Institute of Technology, GA	Wake Forest University, NC
	Washington University (St. Louis), MO

#1 Prayer, Patience & Communication

- ❑ Your student's love and obedience to God is more important than *which campus he/she is located on or which job he/she takes.*
- ❑ Communicate with your student and let him/her know what you can afford before he/she gets his/her heart set on a particular school or situation.

#2 Getting Organized

- ☐ Senior Class meetings with Counselors begin in August; presentation during Bible class
- ☐ Individual student meetings with Counselors in September and October
 - Review graduation requirements
 - Individual future plans
 - Naviance
 - Parents may join in-person or via phone
- ☐ Use email account with appropriate address
- ☐ Use “Road to Your Future”

Road to Your Future



Use Legal Name

as it appears on the Social Security Card



For **EVERYTHING** —

Registration for ACT and SAT, applications for colleges and jobs, enlistment, etc.

It's how everything is linked together.

Individual Meetings

- ❑ A-G: Mrs. Blount
- ❑ H-O: Mrs. Medley
- ❑ P-Z: Mrs. Heishman
- ❑ Students should NOT sign up during a core class period (English, Math, Science, etc.)
- ❑ Remind them to make a reminder by putting the date/period on a calendar or planner/phone

Naviance

- ❑ Go to www.caschools.us
- ❑ Click on “English Station”
- ❑ Hover over “High School”
- ❑ Menu will appear
- ❑ Scroll down and click on
- ❑ “High School Counselors”
- ❑ Click on  logo

Naviance

- ❑ Transcript Request (after August 1)
- ❑ Counselor Recommendation Letter
- ❑ Teacher Recommendation Letter
- ❑ Search for Schools
- ❑ Search for Scholarships
- ❑ Look at interest inventories completed previous years
 - Identifies values, interests, and skills
 - Career possibilities

Naviance

To Access Interest Inventories and Other Assessments, go to “About Me”

- ☐ “Do What You Are”*
- ☐ “MI Advantage”
- ☐ “Learning Styles Inventory”
- ☐ “Strengths Explorer”*
- ☐ “Career Interest Profiler”*
- ☐ “Career Cluster Finder”*

*These assessments were introduced in sophomore and freshman classes. If your student has not done them, they may still be completed.

College Searches

Naviance

CAFF College Guide

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

College Board

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

College Navigator

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

#3 Admissions Tests

- ❑ Register for ACT at www.myact.org and for SAT at www.collegeboard.org
- ❑ Take at least one of the tests TWICE; Colleges **sometimes** combine sub scores for admission but not usually for scholarships (*ACT *My Answer Key*)
- ❑ 57% of students raise their score, 21% have no change, 22% of scores go down
- ❑ Check to see if the writing or science portion is required

Raising Scores

- ❑ Know admissions and scholarship requirements (they are not always the same - consider majors)
- ❑ Register for a prep class. See list on our website or in the “Road to Your Future” handbook.
- ❑ Provide scores to high school office
- ❑ Benchmark sub-scores (50% - B, 75% - C)
 - English – 18
 - Reading – 21
 - Math – 22
 - Science - 24

Standardized Testing

SAT

August 22, September 12, October 3, November 7,
& December 5

ACT *

July 11, September 19, October 17 & December 12

*(*My Answer Key)*

Students need to register themselves!

*Request ALL test scores be sent to CAL and the colleges
School Code: 181523*

Test Optional

Due to COVID-19, most schools were test optional, but others are returning to the requirement for the class of 2027 creating a range of test policies

	Required	Applicants must send standardized test scores.
+	Conditional	Applicants are required to send standardized test scores UNLESS minimal conditions are met, such as GPA or class rank.
+	Recommended	Applicants are encouraged to send standardized test scores, but they are not required.
+	Flexible	Applicants do not need to send standardized test scores, but they will have to do something else in their place (e.g., send AP results, write an essay, do an interview).
+	Optional	Applicants may choose to send scores. Scores are considered if sent, but students are not penalized if scores are not sent.
+	Blind	Scores will not be considered even if sent.

  Some institutions in these categories require some students to submit test scores:

- Applying to certain programs (e.g., Nursing, Honors)
- Applying for certain scholarships or financial aid
- Those who've been homeschooled

*Test scores still often required for **scholarships***

Visit fairtest.org for the test optional list.

#4 Visiting Colleges

- ❑ September 5-7 or October 5-9
- ❑ Make appointments with schools as well as **departments** within the college; seniors receive 2 days for visits but must provide documentation from college(s) to be excused
- ❑ A “**good fit**” is important (*check the college online publications/student news*) (*Check credits awarded for AP/dual credit/ACT scores.)
- ❑ The **Student** should ask the questions! Use suggestions in the “Road to Your Future.”

Register for in person tours through the college website

#5 Applying for Admission

- ☐ **Online** applications are on college websites.
- ☐ All colleges require a transcript and school profile ***sent from the high school.***
- ☐ ***Proofread*** the application ***before*** hitting submit - save often when possible.
- ☐ A CAL profile will be updated and included.
- ☐ Each state and/or college has its own requirements for admission.

Types of Applications

- ❑ Simplest applications require a transcript with ACT/SAT scores and a school profile
- ❑ More complex applications may have multiple forms, require recommendations and extra essays—check to ensure that you have included all components
- ❑ *Seniors must request a transcript from his/her counselor through Naviance*

Types of Applications

- ❑ Individual College Applications--apply directly to college
 - May require extra component (ie. audition)

- ❑ The Common Application
 - Shared Application for a System of Colleges--apply directly to college
 - May require extra component (ie. essay, specific number of recommendations for specific areas)

The logo for The Common Application. It features the words "THE COMMON APPLICATION" in a serif font. "THE" is smaller and positioned to the left of "COMMON". "APPLICATION" is on the line below "COMMON". The text is dark red. The background of the logo is a light blue rectangle with a thin white border. Behind the text, there is a faint, repeating pattern of college and university names in a small, light blue font.

THE COMMON APPLICATION

For Undergraduate College Admission

<https://www.commonapp.org>

The Common App is an online platform that lets students apply to multiple colleges with one application. For Fall 2026, it includes **over 1,000 colleges and universities** worldwide.

Examples of CApp colleges where CAL students have applied.

☐ Belmont

☐ Butler

☐ Centre

☐ Hanover

☐ Hillsdale

☐ Lipscomb

☐ Miami of Ohio

☐ Samford

☐ Transylvania

☐ Univ. of Cincinnati

☐ Univ. of Kentucky

☐ Washington Univ.

☐ Vanderbilt

☐ Xavier

Recommendations and Evaluations

- ❑ More is not better--Colleges only want the number of recommendations for which they has asked
- ❑ Be courteous and ask the recommender at least **two weeks** (10 school days) before the due date
- ❑ Counselors require parent and student questionnaires to be completed before writing recommendations

Talk with your counselor BEFORE asking a teacher

Questionnaires

All students must have their questionnaires (and their parents) must be completed *before letters of recommendation can be written*. Forms are found by clicking on the “documents library” link on the Naviance Student home page.

YOUR EDUCATION

Answer questions thoroughly and honestly with yourself. All answers are confidential.

Student's Name _____ Year enrolled at CAL: _____

1. Which courses have you enjoyed most? Why?

2. Which courses have given you the most difficulty? Why?

3. In which course(s) does the final grade least reflect your effort and ability? Why?

4. What subject(s) has stirred your intellectual curiosity? Explain.

5. Are you self-motivated or do you work better with supervision?

6. If you were to convince a classmate of the worth of studying (favorite subject), what would you tell him?

7. Who are/have been your best teachers at CAL? Why?

Completing Applications

- ❑ Some applications require essays and/or resumes
- ❑ A teacher should edit your essay.
- ❑ Some schools will want to do an interview...don't panic, we have our own interview prep coach!
- ❑ We will complete the application by adding the transcript, profile, evaluation and recommendation
- ❑ Counselors will document the date transcript and other forms are sent in Naviance

What do colleges look for in an application?

- ❑ Academic Rigor (Including quality of senior year)
- ❑ Cumulative GPA (Grades in all courses/levels)
- ❑ ACT and SAT Test Scores
- ❑ Recommendations (Teacher and Counselor)
- ❑ Community service, work and extracurricular activities, internships, summer enrichment and outreach programs
- ❑ Leadership, Special Talents, Honors, Awards, Special Skills
- ❑ Essay and/or Writing Samples
- ❑ Interviews (if required)

When is it best to start applying?

- ❑ KNOW ALL THE DEADLINES*
- ❑ Mid-September through December
- ❑ Aim to apply to all of your schools by Christmas
- ❑ *Early Decision school deadlines begin 11/1
- ❑ *Scholarship deadlines for selective programs may be as early as 10/1 or 10/15.

Keep good records!

#6 Deadlines

School	Application Deadline	Early Action	Scholarship
Asbury University	Rolling		February 1
Bellarmino University	Rolling	November	December
Cedarville University	Rolling		April 15
Centre College	January 15	December 1	January 15
Georgetown College	Rolling		February 1
Miami University (OH)	February 1	December 1	With Application
Murray State Univ	Rolling		January 15
Northern Kentucky Univ	Rolling	October 15	January 15
Samford University (AL)	December 15		December 15
Taylor University	April 1	November 1	December 1
Pennsylvania University	February 1	December 1	December 1
Union University (TN)	Rolling	December 1	December 1
University of Kentucky	February 15		December 1
University of Louisville	February 15		January 15

These dates are EXAMPLES...make sure you check!

Early Decision

- ❑ Early Decision (ED) involves a **BINDING DECISION** to enroll of accepted – you will have to attend that school regardless of other offers and without knowing any financial aid package that may or may not be offered.
- ❑ Students may only apply to one school through Early Decision, and if accepted, **must withdraw applications to all other schools.**
- ❑ Early Decision offers a slight advantage of acceptance – colleges usually accept a higher percentage of applicants than those that apply for regular decision.
- ❑ Early Decision is a good option for admissible students with **LOW FINANCIAL NEED** who have a clear first choice school – all others should be very CAUTIOUS!!!

Early Action

- ❑ Entails no commitment to enroll and therefore offers little advantage for admission.
- ❑ Early Action students, however, are often first in line for merit scholarships and housing.
- ❑ Competition in Early Action pools at highly selective schools is generally tougher than in the regular decision pool.
- ❑ Some Early Action colleges now ask that students apply early only to their institution, however, you may still apply regular decision to any other institution

Rolling Admissions

- ❑ Colleges that use rolling admissions accept students who meet their entry requirements as they receive applications.
- ❑ These colleges usually accept students from September until July.
- ❑ Students receive a notice of acceptance anywhere from 2-3 weeks after they submit their application and all supporting documents.
- ❑ As the college fills up its slots for the freshman class, it can become more selective in who is accepted.
- ❑ Rolling Admissions colleges may award some of their available financial aid at the same time they are admitting students – so the amount of available financial aid may dwindle at the end of the admissions process.

Know Your Deadlines

What should you do if you get a email from the college saying they have not yet received your transcript?

- ☐ Don't panic! Wait a few days to call or email the college to see if they have received it.
- ☐ Great reason not to wait until the deadline...
- ☐ Early is good!

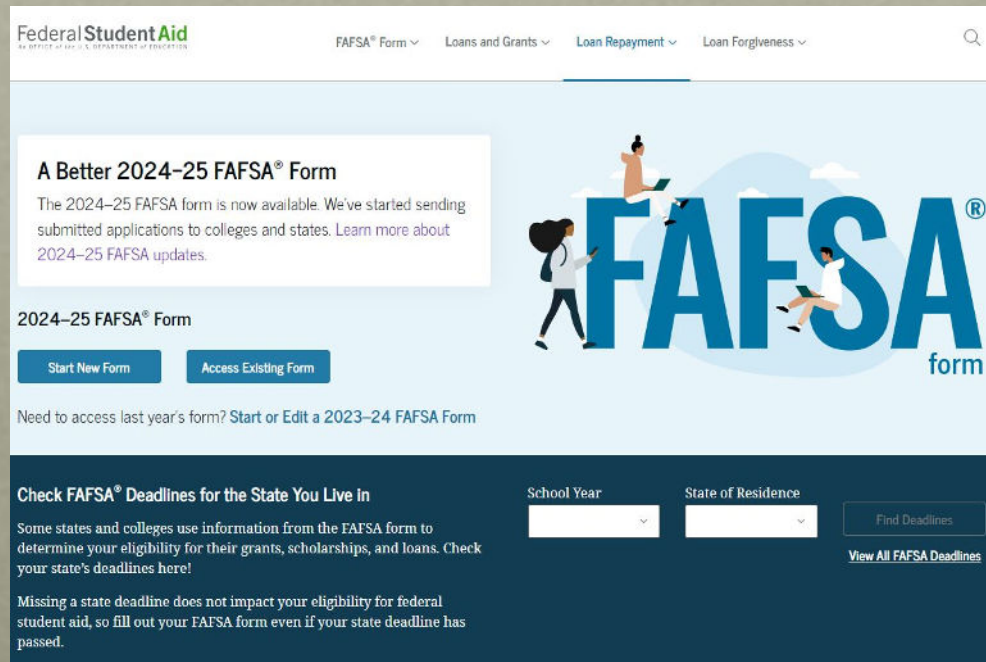
#7 Financing College

- ❑ SCHOLARSHIPS—From two sources:
 - Colleges - 90%
 - Independent - 10% (i.e. Community Foundation of Louisville, Rotary Club, Papa John's, KY Farm Bureau, etc.)
- ❑ Talk to the Financial Aid office at the College
- ❑ Naviance Scholarship search
- ❑ Search online, www.fastweb.com
- ❑ Check daily announcements
- ❑ Apps – [“Scholly”](#)



FAFSA

Use the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form to apply for financial aid for college; The FAFSA opens October 1st.



The screenshot shows the Federal Student Aid website. At the top, the logo "Federal Student Aid" is on the left, and navigation links for "FAFSA® Form", "Loans and Grants", "Loan Repayment", and "Loan Forgiveness" are on the right. A search icon is also present. The main content area features a large blue "FAFSA® form" graphic with illustrations of students. To the left of this graphic, a white box titled "A Better 2024–25 FAFSA® Form" contains text about the new form and a link to "Learn more about 2024–25 FAFSA updates." Below this, a section for the "2024–25 FAFSA® Form" has two buttons: "Start New Form" and "Access Existing Form". A link for "2023–24 FAFSA Form" is also visible. At the bottom, a dark blue section titled "Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in" provides information on state deadlines and includes dropdown menus for "School Year" and "State of Residence", a "Find Deadlines" button, and a link to "View All FAFSA Deadlines".

Federal Student Aid
AN OFFICE OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

FAFSA® Form ▾ Loans and Grants ▾ Loan Repayment ▾ Loan Forgiveness ▾

A Better 2024–25 FAFSA® Form

The 2024–25 FAFSA form is now available. We've started sending submitted applications to colleges and states. [Learn more about 2024–25 FAFSA updates.](#)

2024–25 FAFSA® Form

[Start New Form](#) [Access Existing Form](#)

Need to access last year's form? [Start or Edit a 2023–24 FAFSA Form](#)

Check FAFSA® Deadlines for the State You Live in

Some states and colleges use information from the FAFSA form to determine your eligibility for their grants, scholarships, and loans. Check your state's deadlines here!

Missing a state deadline does not impact your eligibility for federal student aid, so fill out your FAFSA form even if your state deadline has passed.

School Year State of Residence

[Find Deadlines](#)

[View All FAFSA Deadlines](#)

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

KHEAA - KEES Scholarship

KEES -- Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship

- ❑ Earn scholarship money towards in-state college tuition each year of high school
- ❑ High School office **must** have your SSN to register
- ❑ The unweighted GPA is submitted
(A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
- ❑ Make sure the High School office has your student's highest ACT score—it makes a difference!



Partnerships



GEORGETOWN
COLLEGE



**ASBURY
UNIVERSITY**

Academic Excellence & Spiritual Vitality



GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY™

KY Work Ready Scholarship



- ❑ Earn up to 60 hours of college credit for FREE
 - ❑ Healthcare, Manufacturing/Logistics, Construction, Skilled Trades
 - ❑ Can earn certifications in as little as 4 months
 - ❑ Must complete the FAFSA to be eligible
- <https://workreadykentucky.com/>

Vocational and Technical Schools

- ❑ Vocational school, technical school, or vocational college
- ❑ Designed to teach technical skills for a specific occupation
- ❑ Can be public or private, but many are for-profit businesses
- ❑ Upon completion of the program, students receive a diploma or trade certificate
- ❑ Some programs provide an associate degree (degree received from a two-year college)
- ❑ 41% of the workforce will retire by 2031 - 5/2 ratio

Vocational and Technical Schools

To Apply:

- ☐ Application
- ☐ Transcript(s)
- ☐ ACT or SAT scores (may or may not be required)
- ☐ Possible admissions test
- ☐ Letter(s) of recommendation
- ☐ Other requirements as per program (i.e. driver's license for CDL)

Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship is a system for training a new generation of practitioners of a trade or profession with on-the-job training and often some accompanying study.

Apprenticeships can also enable practitioners to gain a license to practice in a regulated occupation (ie. electrician, plumber)

Military

The U.S. military has six branches of service:

- ❑ Army
- ❑ Navy
- ❑ Air Force
- ❑ Marine Corps
- ❑ Coast Guard
- ❑ Space Force

The requirements to join are similar for all six. The main differences are in age limits, test scores, and fitness levels. Each may have additional requirements.



Military

Service Academies-- fully-funded tuition (includes books, board and medical and dental care)

Admissions criteria include:

- ❑ High school academic performance
- ❑ Standardized test scores (SAT or ACT)
- ❑ Athletics and extracurricular activities
- ❑ Leadership experience and community involvement
- ❑ Congressional letter of recommendation (not required by the Coast Guard Academy)



GAP Year

“A semester or year of experiential learning, typically taken after high school and prior to career or post-secondary education, in order to deepen one’s practical, professional, and personal awareness.”

Common Reasons for taking a GAP year:

- ❑ Burnout
- ❑ Desire to know more about self
- ❑ Called to serve in a special area (i.e. missions)

A gap year is a time to explore the world around and within you -- a time to get fired up about what’s really important to you.

GAP Year

Intentional gap years benefit students in some profound ways:

- ❑ **Providing clarity and purpose** , the student will have a better grasp on what they want to study;
- ❑ **Increasing earnings and business potential** with a global background that is tested in the professional world;
- ❑ **Improving academic outcomes** such as GPA, time-to-graduation, and leadership.

8 Communication

- ❑ When contacting the college, your **student** needs to be the one to email or call.
- ❑ **Email** is the *best* way to communicate with counselors and teachers at CAL.
- ❑ Check daily announcements regarding scholarships and other opportunities, parents can see these on the FACTS Family Portal
- ❑ For example - the University of Louisville is offering free applications for local students August 2-9 on the Take Flight application!

#9 Service Hours

- ❑ Need 60 hours to graduate
- ❑ 2 types of hours
 - **CHURCH** – Serving the Christian community
 - **COMMUNITY** – Serving the non-Christian community

CHURCH	COMMUNITY	HALF/HALF
Leading a small group in the church	Mission Trip to Nicaragua	CAL sports camp (assuming non-Christian community attendance)
Helping with CAL events	Yard cleanup for neighbor	Vacation Bible School
Helping with church events	Volunteering at a museum	

Service Hours

- ❑ At least ½ of the hours must be **community** hours
- ❑ Church hours **NOT** required
- ❑ Must have all hours by the end of February in order to participate in the March senior lunch
- ❑ IF you were not at CAL all 4 years, your required hours are less - need 15 per year
- ❑ Hours to meet requirement are served during time at CAL
- ❑ Don't stop at 60 hours!

Christian Academy of Louisville
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

NAME (Print name or no.): _____
SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

CLASS OR: _____

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT AND WHAT DID YOU DO?

FOR WHOM?
INDICATE ORGANIZATION, ADDRESS AND SUPERVISOR

SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE: _____ PHONE: _____

LOG THE DATES, TIME AND HOURS WORKED
(IF MISSION TRIP DO NOT INCLUDE TRAVEL DAYS)

DATE	TIME	PERIOD	TOTAL HOURS

REASON: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY:
TOTAL COMMUNITY HOURS: _____
COUNSELOR SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

APPROVED _____ DENIED _____
TOTAL CHURCH HOURS: _____
DATE: _____

10 College Athletics



College Athletics

- ❑ Register with respective athletic associations:
 - NCAA Clearinghouse online at www.ncaa.org
 - NAIA at www.naia.org
- ❑ Make sure your coach knows you would like to play in college.
- ❑ Make sure to tell your counselor. You **must** meet NCAA requirements for high school credits; *these requirements are not negotiable.*

Let Student Lead the Way

- ☐ Your student should be the one to register for ACT/SAT
- ☐ Your student needs to be the one to fill out the application
- ☐ Your student needs to fill out service hour forms and keep up with hours remaining to serve
- ☐ Your student must be the one to communicate with the colleges

Scholarships? Work together!

Our Mission

The mission of Christian Academy School System is to **develop students with a heart for God** who grow as Jesus did in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:52

*education with a **Higher** purpose*