

Neuqua Valley High School



College Night For Musicians and Artists

Find the best College for you:

1. **Decide what subjects are most interesting to you.** Deciding if music or art is one of many subjects, or the only subject that interests you will inform your college search.
2. **Decide your career focus.** Don't worry about what will happen if you change your mind. A sizeable number of students leave college with a different degree than they imagined when they entered college. The University of Chicago will not allow students to select an area of concentration until their Junior year. So, while it is best to have an idea of what you want to do when you enter college, it is not an expectation that you will stay with that subject if you decide to focus on other subjects. In addition, if you feel passionate about what you want to do in college, it is much easier for your teachers to write recommendations that specifically state how they believe you have skills to reach your goals.
3. **Visit our college and career center.** You will access powerful search engines that may help you find a handful of colleges that have the attributes you desire.
4. **Decide the attributes of a college you think would best meet your learning needs.** List them in a document. You will refer to this list when you visit colleges. For example:
 - a. **Location**
 - b. **Size**
 - c. **Type**
 - d. **Quality of Private Instructor and Music Ensembles or Arts Facilities**
5. If you are thinking of going into any field in the arts, **begin preparing your audition material or portfolio immediately.** It does not matter which field you go into, the vast majority of people continuing in music or art have extensive formal training. You will be expected to perform exceptionally well on your major instrument or show great technical facility in traditional or digital art. Audition and portfolio requirements are listed on the college website. Compare requirements for all colleges you are seriously considering and work on those things common between them all.
6. **College Visits:** It is vitally important that you have a private lesson with the teacher of your instrument at each college being seriously considered. This should be done before your audition or as a part of your audition. You are auditioning the teacher as much as he or she is auditioning you.
7. **Ask for letters of recommendation from the teachers who know you best.** Provide a completed form provided by the house and give to your teacher.