

Climb to College

Students and teachers deal with different areas of stress during the college admissions process

The Stress of Applications

Senior **Bella Hart** said due to the extensive application process and material needed, she had a stressful college admissions process.

"There are so many different requirements for every different college, like there is nothing that is really the same," Hart said. "She said letters of recommendation were something that caused her the most worry."

"I never thought about [letters

of recommendations] before," Hart said. "I had to think of the different relationships I had and who would write the best essays to get me in. Even if you have a good relationship with a teacher, that doesn't automatically mean they're going to write a recommendation letter for you."

Hart said her parents did not put too much pressure on her with applications, but there was some pressure from them with

the schools she applied to. She said her parents challenged her to apply to multiple different schools.

"I appreciate that push because I know she believes in me and my abilities, but it can be hard when I see a lot of my peers get done with their applications, and I still have a bunch of supplements to write through Christmas break," Hart said.

To fight off the stress, Hart

said the only way she could handle this was by keeping good organization and track of what she needed to do. She had a spreadsheet she wrote on that listed each essay she needed to write.

"I do this, so I know everything I need to get done, and I am not all over the place just writing essays in an hour, turning them in and everything, so I'd say being organized really helps," Hart said.

The Stress of Responsibility

As a school counselor, **Lauren Crouch** said helping kids with college admissions was one of her biggest jobs and was a big process so they would help students with organization, transcripts and applications.

"We go through and make different videos for kids with step-by-step directions because without those it does cause a lot of stress," Crouch said. "It is a kid's future, so you can tell the kids who apply to more than two or three schools... it's a lot on their plate."

Crouch said it can

become stressful to the counselors as well due to the responsibility factor of a kid's application. She said with these complicated application process' there was continuous double and triple checking to make sure everything is right.

"I would never want to be the reason that somebody doesn't get into a school so it is a little stressful," Crouch said. "Just the responsibility piece of it, there are a lot of deadlines with [college admissions] and making sure kids are meeting their deadlines, but we are too."

"Being the older sibling [college admissions] is something new and different that both my parents, and I don't know how to approach," senior **Amber Follett** said.

Follett said with her parents being divorced, the struggle with financial aid was challenging. Follett said this stressed her out because she wanted to go into the medical field. She said she knew on top of her bachelor's

degree she would go to a doctorate school for four years. This would mean more money overall, she said.

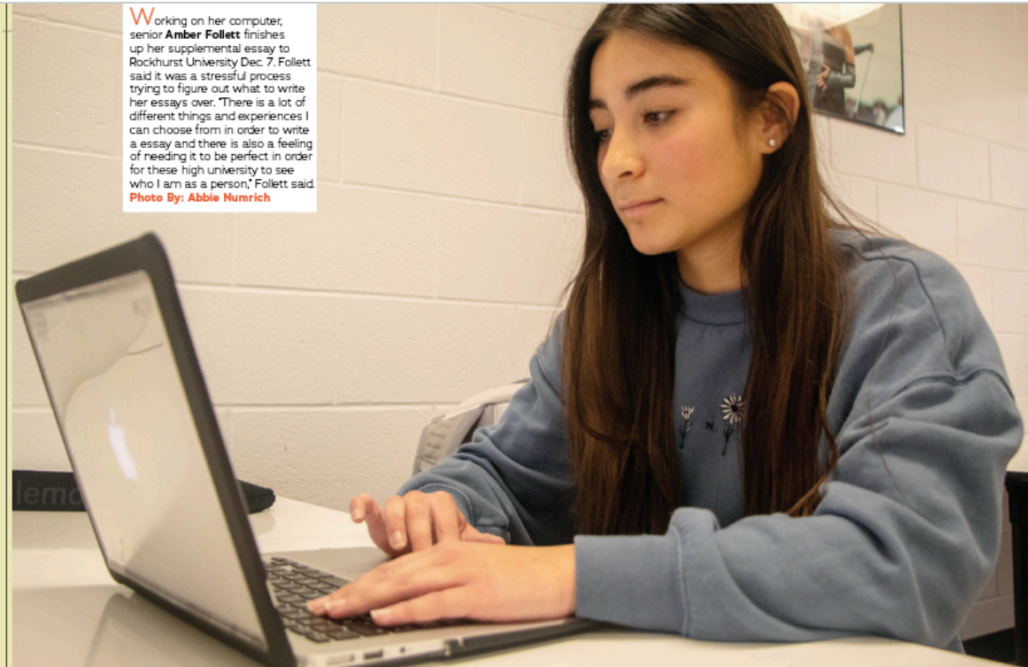
"I know my mom has friends that are doctors who are still paying off their debt 30 years later and that's a position I don't really want to be in," Follett said. "The

government doesn't give out that much money to middle-class families because even though I am privileged my family can't afford to pay \$60,000 a year for a college."

She said it is just an overall stressful situation trying to find the perfect college for her and one that is financially reasonable at the same time.



Bella Hart, 12 and Amber Follett, 12
Photo By: Abbie Numrich



Working on her computer, senior **Amber Follett** finishes up her supplemental essay to Rockhurst University Dec. 7. Follett said it was a stressful process trying to figure out what to write her essays over. "There is a lot of different things and experiences I can choose from in order to write an essay and there is also a feeling of needing it to be perfect in order for these high university to see who I am as a person," Follett said.
Photo By: Abbie Numrich

Freshman year

TO NOW

Are seniors going to the same college they planned to freshman year?

"No, I wanted to go to the University of Georgia," (Attending University of Arkansas)
Olivia Gardner, 12

"No I wanted to go to UCLA, but my grades changed that."
Tristan Wight, 12



"I think my freshman year I wanted to maybe go to KU but as I figured out what I wanted to do and major in I found a better fit." (Attending Colorado State University)
Charlie Vincent, 12



(Above) Finishing up her Common App essay, senior **Bella Hart** adds her final edits Dec. 14. "It was chaotic [to write a college essay] because I felt constantly compared to everyone else," Hart said.
Photo By: Abbie Numrich

Does the ACT/SAT matter for you?

Many schools across the country are moving away from ACT/SAT scores as a requirement to get in

No
41%

"I am not using an SAT or ACT score because KU doesn't require a test score."
Ellie Gibson, 12

Yes
59%

"I submitted my ACT score to help my chances to get into college. I was very happy with my score and think it will be beneficial for admissions and possible scholarships."
Ricki Li, 12

*Out of 70 students surveyed.

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