



We're excited to be 3 weeks into what will undoubtedly be a unique school year! BHS School Counselors wanted to provide specific and important information to all families including how to access us during hybrid and distance learning, upcoming post-secondary exploration events, testing information, and more.

Counselors are available to meet with students and families both in person or virtually this year. [School counselors are resources for all students regarding academics, social/emotional support, and post-secondary planning.](#) Students can meet with counselors on their in-person or their online days if scheduled as a hybrid learner. Distance learners can schedule appointments any day of the school week between 8am and 4pm. Students can stop in Student Services to set up appointments or contact their counselor directly to reserve a meeting time.

We'd like to officially welcome Shanlee Braun as our new School Counselor working with students last names G-K. Shanlee assisted last spring as a short-term substitute and accepted an offer to work with us permanently. We are excited to have her join our team- she brings a strong skill set of student-centered connections and resource knowledge.



Student Services uses Remind to send appointment passes and communicate reminders. Please have new students to our district and 9th grade students sign up for Remind by using the following information: Students should text to the number 81010 and in the subject line type @BHS2APPT.

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### Upcoming Events:

September 28- October 14th- [MACAC Virtual College Exploration](#)

October 3rd- [Super College Saturday](#)- virtual event for seniors provided by MACAC

October 6th- ACT for seniors @ BHS (Registration complete)

October 12-16th- [Minnesota State Week](#)- event to explore Minnesota State Colleges

October 12th, 18th, and November 8th- [Virtual National College Fair](#)

October 14-16th- MEA Break

October 14- PSAT (10th and 11th grade- Registration due October 12th or until tests run out)

October 10th, 17th, 24th and 25th- National ACT Test Dates- deadline September 25th (see below)

Month of October- [Free applications](#) to participating Minnesota colleges during College Knowledge Month

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Please scroll through the remaining information to find topics of interest.

**PSAT Testing-** The [Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test \(PSAT/NMSQT\)](#) is a rigorous, standardized test administered by the College Board and cosponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) in the United States for **sophomores and juniors**. The scores from the PSAT/NMSQT are used to determine eligibility and qualification for the [National Merit Scholarship Program](#) during a student's junior year.

**College Exploration and Changes to Admission-** COVID-19 has had an impact on the college exploration and admission process. Please review each of your colleges of interest to find out about adjustments to campus visits and application requirements. Many colleges that have previously required a college entrance exam are now considered test-optional. For more information and answers to questions such as if you should still test or if you should provide test scores to colleges, refer to this [article](#).

[Webinar Available: Understanding Test Optional College Admissions](#)- link for recorded webinar [here](#).

[Tips for College Visits](#)

**ACT Testing-** Students interested in taking a college entrance exam can locate information, dates, registration links, and test prep resources on the [ACT website](#). Upcoming national test dates and registration deadlines can be found [here](#). If you have a student who receives free or reduced lunch, please have them contact their school counselor for an ACT registration fee waiver.

**SAT Testing-** Another [college admission test](#) option.



#### **Financial Aid-**

**FAFSA-** All seniors planning to attend a post-secondary institution are encouraged to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available October 1st and requires creating a [FSA ID](#) for login purposes.

Financial aid events at Buffalo High School are yet to be determined this fall- more information to come.

[Financial Aid 101](#)- includes lots of webinars on specific topics such as tips for seniors and families and completing the FAFSA.

[College Financial Aid](#)- US News articles on a variety of topics.

[Federal Student Aid](#)- info on getting ready for college and how financial aid works.

[FAFSA application](#)

**Scholarships-** Scholarships can be used to pay for college and do not have to be repaid. Scholarships fall under merit- or need-based categories. More info on the scholarship search process is available [here](#).

[10 Sites to Kick Off Your Scholarship Search](#)



**Transcripts-** All official Buffalo High School transcripts must be requested and sent using Parchment, an online transcript ordering service. Further information on creating accounts and placing orders can be found on the [Student Services website](#). If your student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, please let your assigned counselor know so that a fee waiver can be provided.

**College Knowledge Month-** October is recognized as College Knowledge Month in the state of Minnesota- an initiative to promote post-secondary education, provide information to students and families, and offer [free applications on specified dates](#). Informational sessions are available for all students in grades 9-12 as they begin the process of college exploration.

**Helpful Links-** [BHS Student Services](#)

[Minnesota Private Colleges](#)

[University of Minnesota](#) -links to all campuses

[Minnesota State Colleges](#)

[United States Military](#)

[MN Apprenticeships](#)

[MN CareerWise](#)

[Occupational Outlook Handbook](#)

[MN Career Information System](#)- students have an acct

[Wright Cty. Children's Resource Guide](#)

[Change to Chill](#)- stress relief for teens

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