



BHS School Counselors wish to provide specific and important information to all families this fall, including upcoming post-secondary exploration events, testing information, and more.

School counselors are resources for all students regarding academics, social/emotional support, and post-secondary planning. Students can stop in the Student Services Office to set up appointments or contact their counselor directly to reserve a meeting time.



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.

Upcoming Events:

October 5-7th- [MACAC Virtual College Exploration](#)

October 11th- FAFSA Completion Event at BHS Bison Room during P/T Conferences, 5-8pm

October 14th- [Virtual Midwest National College Fair](#)

October 20-22nd- MEA Break

October 23rd- National ACT test date- test given @ BHS (Registration complete)

October 25-31st- [Minnesota State Week-](#) event to explore Minnesota State Colleges

October 26th- PSAT (10th and 11th grade- Registration due **October 12th** or until tests run out)

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

November 5th- Registration deadline for December 11th National ACT test date

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

Advanced Placement (AP) Testing- Students who are enrolled in AP Classes (Biology, Calculus, Computer Science or Music Theory) need to communicate with Mrs. Maher by **November 1st** if they do not plan to take the AP exam in May. If students decide to not take the exam after November 1st, there will be a \$40 cancellation fee. Please refer to Mrs. Maher with any additional questions regarding AP testing.

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.

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 fee waiver.

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

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](#).

The University of Minnesota suggests students should reference the academic profile of their colleges of interest. This profile will include the middle 50th percentile of freshman applicant test scores admitted for Fall 2021. This data will provide some indication on if you should submit your test scores for application purposes (if they are a test optional college). If similar to your scores, go ahead and submit them with your application. If your scores are below the average admitted test score, apply without those scores. ****Check with each of your colleges to determine their application requirements and check with admission reps if you have questions on submitting ACT or SAT scores as part of your application.****

[Tips for College Visits](#)

New- MN Department of Education Podcast- [Life After Now](#)

This podcast will explain the college admissions process, debunks any misconceptions, and helps students explore the successes and challenges of life after high school.



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.

FAFSA Completion Event at BHS- Monday, October 11th in the Bison Room (new location) from 5-8pm during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Refer to the message sent on September 30th for more details on how to come prepared for the event.

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

[College Financial Aid 101](#)- US News articles on a variety of topics.

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

[Federal Student Aid Help Center](#)

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](#) or by using the [QR code](#). 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](#). Students have the opportunity to meet with college reps during their lunch time through the Mini College Fairs that take place every Tuesday. There are also several informational sessions available for all students in grades 9-12 as they begin the process of college exploration. Check out our [Student Services Calendar](#) for session details.

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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