Seniors

Information and Resources from BHS Counselors

[Student Services]

Graduation Requirements

- **English- 4 credits**- Required English 9, English 10 plus 2 choice credits
- **Math- 3 credits**- Required to pass Geometry and Algebra 2
- **Social Studies- 3.5 credits**- Required Am. Gov't, Am. History, World St. and Econ
- **Science- 3 credits**- Required Phys. Science, Gen. Biology and Physics or Chemistry
- **Phy. Ed.- 1.5 credits**
- **Health- .5 credits**
- **The Arts- 1 credit**
- **Choice credits**
- **Total- 30 Credits Required to Graduate**

Senior Year Class Schedule

- You should have at least 4 CORE CLASSES

- Colleges are very sensitive to senior year course selection and grades.

- Colleges can withdraw your acceptance based on the final transcript you submit.

- If you are entering the military after high school, your options can be limited by poor performance senior year.

Changing your schedule?

- Colleges make admission decisions based on the courses you submit to them, so…

- It is your responsibility to contact the colleges you have applied to if you are thinking about changing your schedule.

- Changing your schedule can affect admission decisions, scholarships, honors programs, etc.

College Fairs

- Local College Fair- Monticello High School
  - › September 19th, 6-7:30pm
  - › [Register for the fair](#)
- BHS College & Career Fair Oct. 7th 5:30-7:30pm in the main gym
- National College Fair- Minneapolis Convention Center
  - › October 2-3
  - › [Register for the fair](#)
- Additional Local College Fairs-
  - › [MN College Fairs](#)

College Timelines

- Be aware of deadlines! Each college can have a different application deadline
- Admission notification from colleges can vary, approximately 2-4 weeks
- October 1: FAFSA (financial aid app) opens for completion
- November: Early Decision/Action Deadlines
- December/January: Most 4-year college application deadlines
- Spring: 2-year college applications due
- April: Financial aid packages are sent out
- May 1: National Notification Deadline- Decision Day!
- **Watch for housing deadlines for each of your colleges

College Applications

- **If you are on Free/Reduced Lunch, please inquire with your counselor about application fee waivers.

- Make an appointment with your counselor if you have questions about the application or the application process.

College Applications

- Apply online- some will waive the application fee for doing so.
- Fill out the application completely.
- Read over your application for errors. Have a parent/teacher proof before submitting.
- Follow the directions for essays and short answer questions if they are required.
- Send official high school transcripts electronically via Parchment.
- Pay your application fee.
- If applying to a stretch school, additional supporting documents may be submitted (i.e. Letters of rec)

College Applications- MN State

- Star Id- an assigned ID for a student who has taken a college course at **ANY** Mn State College.
- If applying to any Mn State college and you have earned college credit by completing any CIS courses from any Mn State college:
    - Login to the application with your existing Star ID
    - **Do not create a new Star ID if you have one**
    - Retrieving Star ID or resetting passwords
    - Star ID Tech Help

Common Application

- A common application to apply to more than 800 colleges in the U.S. and world
- Can save time if applying to multiple colleges that use the common app
- Search schools and deadlines:
  - http://www.commonapp.org/

How many years of a subject have you completed?

- Two terms of a subject = 1 credit = 1 year
  One term of a subject = ½ credit = ½ year

- For example:
  American Lit/Composition (2 Terms) = 1 year of English
  Grammar and Usage (1 Term) = .5 year

Letters of Recommendation

- If you need a letter of recommendation from a teacher, complete the [Recommendation Request Form](#) or pick one up in the Counseling Office.

- Schools prefer to receive letters from teachers of core subjects: Math, Science, Social Studies, English, and World Language.

- Do not ask more than 2 teachers.

- You should give teachers at least 2 weeks notice!

- Attach a stamped, addressed envelope to your Request for Recommendation form with a clear deadline and specific reason for the letter listed.

- Check back with the teacher prior to the deadline to remind them of the need for it to be sent.

Counselor Recommendation

- Some colleges require a counselor recommendation and will have their own form

- Download and complete a [Recommendation Request Form](#) or pick one up from Counseling Office

- Allow at least 2 weeks for the recommendation to be completed

Sending BHS transcripts

- BHS utilizes an electronic transcript service called Parchment
- Create an account at www.parchment.com
- Indicate which schools you want your transcripts sent to and pay the processing fee
- Your transcript should be sent to that college within 48 hours
- If you have free/reduced lunches, please let your counselor know so your fee can be waived

Sending CIS Transcripts

- Many college applications ask for official transcripts from college coursework you've completed. *If you have not completed your CIS classes, ask your college if you can wait until they are finished. It will save you money!*
- All CIS transcripts need to be sent from the college.
- List of all CIS Coursework at BHS with partnering colleges

Sending CIS Transcripts (cont.)

- To order official college transcripts, visit these websites:
  - U of M
  - SCSU
  - SMSU
  - NHCC
  - HTC
- REMEMBER! All MN State colleges can see all MN State transcripts. If applying to a MN State college, you do not need to send them CIS transcripts from other MN State colleges. You would still need to send from U of M
- Follow up to make sure all credits were reviewed for transfer.

ACT/SAT Scores for College Applications

- Most 4-year colleges require you to send your ACT and/or SAT score directly from the testing agency.
  - Part of your ACT or SAT registration includes the option to send your scores to up to 4 colleges
  - If you did not fill in colleges while completing registration, you must request your scores be sent and pay a processing fee.
- Some colleges will accept test scores from your official high school transcript. Call your college admissions office to make sure.
- Testing agency websites:
  - www.actstudent.org
  - www.collegeboard.org

ACT test calendar 2019-2020
www.actstudent.org

- October 26- Registration Deadline: 9/20
- December 14- Registration Deadline: 11/8
- February 8- Registration Deadline 1/10
- April 4- Registration Deadline: 2/28
- June 13- Registration Deadline: 5/8

If you are on free/reduced lunch, inquire about ACT fee waivers with your counselor

College Essays

- Make sure you answer the question and follow the guidelines completely.

- Proof your writing and have someone else proof it as well.

- Essay Resources- tips and tricks
  - Ivy Wise
  - NY Times- Learning Network 1
  - College Board

Community & Technical College Testing

- After submitting your application you will sign up for an ACCUPLACER test taken on the college campus.
- Not an admission test- only class placement.
- STUDY for the test- If you score low, you will be placed in lower level or remedial classes that will not be covered by financial aid.

- Helpful links for Accuplacer test prep :
Collegeboard Accuplacer
www.accuplacer.org
www.mncis.intocareers.org Login. Under "Profile" there is Test Prep and College Placement Skills practice tests . Use your school Id & Password (capitalize first letter)

Military Careers

Each branch comes 1 time per quarter in the cafeteria during all 4 lunches

  Meet with a recruiter to gather more info

National Guard

Marines

Navy

Army

*Materials are also found in Counseling Office including Air Force

Military Academies

Applications *should* be started in spring of junior year. Application may be started senior year, but must be complete by deadlines. See websites for important details.

- US Air Force Academy- Colorado
- US Military Academy- West Point, NY
- US Naval Academy- Maryland
- US Coast Guard Academy- Connecticut

ASVAB

- ⊙ Measures aptitude in 4 areas: Verbal, Math, Science/Technical and Spatial
- ⊙ ASVAB tests can be scheduled with a recruiter connected to your interested branch of service.

Test Prep Resources:

Military.com

ASVAB Test Bank

October- College Knowledge Month

- Watch the monitor and your email for a schedule of events.

- Many sessions including application help, alumni panels, help with writing essays, etc

- Mini college fairs each Tuesday in the lunchroom!

- Some colleges offer free applications during October!
  - Free Application Opportunities

Financial Aid

- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available online beginning October 1, 2019
  - http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/

- FAFSA determines your Expected Family Contribution and compares it to the cost of college.

- Complete the FAFSA even if you do not think you will qualify for financial aid.

FAFSA Completion Workshop at BHS- Mark Your Calendars!

Monday, October 7th

During Parent/Teacher Conferences

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Computer labs B204

- Free help completing and submitting your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

- Items to bring: Social Security #, Drivers License #, 2018 Tax Returns of Student and Parents, Info on Savings/Assets for Student and Parents, Records of Untaxed Income

- Takes 20-30 minutes to complete

Scholarships

- The most important source for financial aid is the FINANCIAL AID OFFICE at your colleges. Be aware of all the scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study opportunities available.

- Counseling office will send out a scholarship newsletter to your email and post on the website each month.

- Watch the monitor for scholarships available in the counseling office throughout the year.

- BHS Local Scholarship Application will be available in April.

- Check parent/guardian employers for available scholarships for families.

Financial Aid & Scholarship Resources

- [MN Career Information Systems (MCIS)](#)

Login- "Financial Aid Sort"

- [Cappex](#)

- [Fastweb](#)

- [FAFSA](#)

- [FinAid](#)

- [Big Future- Collegeboard Scholarships](#)

- [Raise Me- Micro-Scholarships](#)

Spring Reminders

- Mail in deposit to one college by May 1 to confirm attendance. Sign and return financial award letter if you received one.
- Send final transcript to the college you choose to attend www.parchment.com
- Research the process and complete the transferring of college credits through CIS or PSEO coursework.
- Complete AP exams www.collegeboard.org
- Fill out housing forms.
- Attend all advising days, open houses, orientation programs, and registration offered by your college...these are invaluable to you!
- Send thank you letters for any scholarships you received