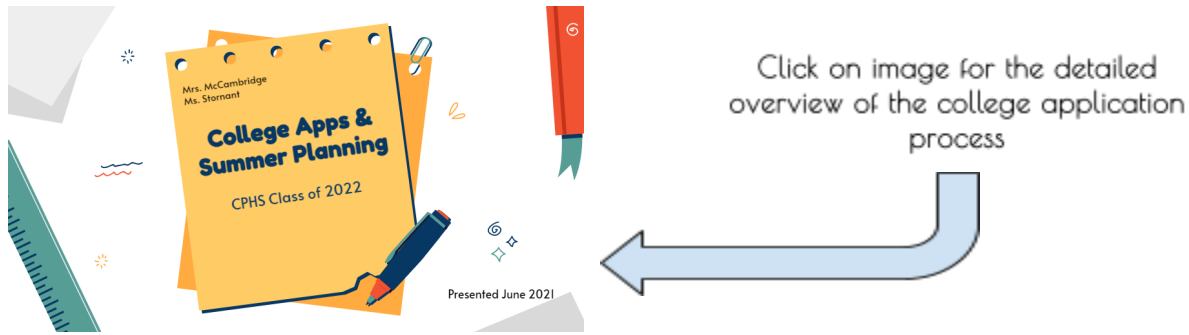


Senior Meetings - CPHS Class of 2026



Things to consider if you haven't already:

- ☐ College is a CERTIFICATE or DEGREE granting program!!
 - ☐ Community college, trade school, apprenticeship, 4-year bachelor's program
 - ☐ 70% of Michigan Jobs require one of these programs
- ☐ [Where to apply](#)
- ☐ How to apply - on their website, Common App
- ☐ Letters of Rec (if needed)
- ☐ SAT Scores - MANY Michigan schools are some form of test optional, but you'll want to do your own research about what that means for each institution.
- ☐ Attend college visits to CPHS (look for schedule in FlexiSched) or reach out to your college's representative
- ☐ ACT WorkKeys - 3 or Higher needed for graduation
- ☐ See your counselor if you think you qualify for [TIP Scholarship](#)
- ☐ Financial Aid Info:
 - ☐ Watch informational videos on FAFSA:
 - ☐ English: <https://youtu.be/9mbbtzPpo2k>
 - ☐ Spanish: <https://youtu.be/EJRV1gUM0aE?si=kxzu5u4Gpq2sP4Ur>
 - ☐ This information will be sent to parents
 - ☐ [CPHS Parent Guide to Financial Aid](#)
- ☐ Watch out for career exploration opportunities

10 Steps to the College Application Process:

- Complete College Applications by **October 31**.
- Request transcripts through Naviance.
 - [See this video for instructions.](#)
- Create your FSA ID (Federal Student Aid Identification) Use this link:
 - <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- Submit FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by May 1 (We recommend that you do it over Christmas Break to be sure that you maximize your aid). This is a joint responsibility with your parent/guardian. (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>)
- Attend a FAFSA workshop if you need assistance. If your parent attends this without you, be sure to give him/her your FSA ID.

Several institutions will help you for free, even if you don't go there:

- GRCC Financial Aid Department : financialaid@grcc.edu
(616) 234-4030
 - If you have a chance to attend the GRCC FALL OPEN HOUSE on 10/19 for a live completion workshop.
- GVSU Financial Aid Department: finaid@gvsu.edu
(616)331-3234
- MI Student Aid offers free Virtual Financial Aid Nights:
 - [Click here to register!](#)

★ When filling out FAFSA, be sure to list the colleges you want to receive the results (called the SAR - Student Aid Report).

- Visit college campuses ***if you have not done so already***. Fill out a pre-arranged absence form (get from Mrs. Barnhardt) to have your absence excused as school-related.

- Explore state & national scholarship/financial aid opportunities by creating an account on one or more of these sites:
 - [MI Scholarship Search](#)
 - <https://app.goingmerry.com/sign-up#students>
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search
 - Feel free to do your own searches via google, but never pay a third party!
- After Christmas break, students can check the Naviance for opportunities that are specific to students attending CP and/or living in West Michigan. (Note: it's not up to date yet, but this infographic will show you how to access the scholarship list).
- In late January, early February, financial aid packages (letter detailing all of your financial aid) will begin arriving from colleges & universities to which you've applied. Once you have received packages from all, you can compare your bottom-line cost & make a final determination of where to attend.
- In March and April (but definitely by May 1st) notify your college of your intent to attend - register for freshmen orientation and submit housing application and deposit.
- RSVP for College Decision Day and attend in the first week of May

Career Pathway Information

LOCAL WORKFORCE TRAINING -

- [M-TEC -](#) much like KCTC, this program offers job skills training and certification in a short amount of time (think 12-18 weeks). Students can opt for the basic training, or they can continue for more certification if they want to obtain higher level jobs (and increased pay)
- [Other GRCC Workforce training programs](#) - Current programs are listed in the middle of the page. For upcoming programs, look at the menu on the right.

- Other Trade Schools across the state also offer programs - See your counselor for more information

Career Finder Tools

- [Michigan's Hot 50](#)
- [Pathfinder](#)
- [O*Net](#)
- Lots of things on Naviance, too!

Kent ISD Offerings

- [Career Readiness Events](#)
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