Junior/Senior Timeline

Junior Year

Fall

- Continue to work with your counselor to make sure you are taking the appropriate classes.
- Juniors can take the PSAT/NMSQT. You will complete the registration during school. The results should be made available in December. You will need to access your College Board account to see your score.
- Start making a list of colleges that meet your most important factors (size, location, distance from home, majors, academic rigor, housing and cost).
- Attend the Joliet Junior College fair.
- Speak to college representatives who visit your high school.
- If you want to participate in Division I or Division II athletics in college, start the certification process at www.eligibiltycenter.org
- If you are interested in one of the military academies, talk to your counselor about starting the application process.
- You are able to use (2) college visit days to use during your junior year to visit colleges/universities.

Winter

- Start collecting information about college admission requirements. Start comparing factors that you consider most important.
- Start preparing for the SAT that you will take in the spring.
- Keep working hard on your grades and staying involved.
- Set up a filing system to organize college information.

Spring

- Meet with your counselor to review course selection and graduation requirements.
- Meet with college representatives that visit the high school.
- You will take the SAT plus essay in the spring. You will not need to register or pay for this as this is done during the school day.
- Stay involved with your extracurricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth in activities.
- Consider whom you will ask to write your recommendations. Think about asking people (non-relatives) who know you well and who will write a positive letter about you.

- Set up and use one email for all college communication. Create a folder to file emails from colleges.
- Keep a list of usernames and passwords.

Summer

- Visit colleges! You can schedule personalized visits through each college website.
- If you meet with an admission counselor or interview, send them a thank you letter.
- Volunteer in your community.
- Start working on writing a personal statement. Think of things that make you unique and make you stand out.
- Retake the SAT. Register at www.collegeboard.org or take the ACT. Register at www.actstudent.org if needed.

Senior Year

Fall

- Continue to take a full load of college-prep courses if you are planning on going to college.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities.
- Male students must register for the selective service on their 18th birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admissions, financial aid and scholarships.
- A Request for Recommendation form is in the Guidance Office to complete. You can give this to the individuals who are writing letters of recommendations for you.
- Register for the SAT or ACT if needed.
- **Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov THIS IS NOW A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**
- Complete college applications. Most are done by creating an account with each college.
- **Make sure you meet all deadlines!**
- Make copies of everything you submit.
- Meet with the college representatives that visit the high school.
- Ask your counselor to send transcripts to each college you apply to.

Winter

- Local scholarships are available on the MCHS high school Guidance Webpage.
- Continue to focus on your classes.

Spring

- Make sure you meet scholarship deadlines.
- Compare the financial aid packages from the colleges and universities that you have been accepted to.
- Make your final choice and notify the school by May 1. Most require a non-refundable deposit.
- After the Scholarship assembly in May, each senior will complete a post-secondary plan form. This is when you will list what college to send your final transcript. We will send it to the college/university in June.

College Representatives

Many college representatives visit the Guidance Office during the school day. It is listed in the announcements and the College Representative Google Classroom. You can sign up in the Guidance Office to meet with the representative. This is a great opportunity to get more information as you make important decisions and show the university you are interested in the school.

Financial Aid

The first step in seeing if you qualify for any financial aid is to complete the FAFSA. You want to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) of your senior year at www.fafsa.ed.gov You can select 10 colleges to send the FAFSA information. **THIS IS NOW A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT**

The universities will receive the information from the federal processing agency and some universities may have you complete additional information for their school. Some schools have a priority deadline to be able to be eligible for the most amount of aid. You may want to apply even if you know you may not qualify for any aid. Always contact the university's financial aid department if you have questions.

College Athletics
Division I or Division II athletes must be cleared through the NCAA Eligibility Center. There are specific academic requirements. The Eligibility Center will look at the number of core courses as well as your core grade point average. The code is 9999 to have the test scores sent to the Eligibility Center. You can register at www.eligibilitycenter.org Please let your counselor know to send your transcripts.

Athletes playing sports at the NAIA Division must register at www.playnaia.org

No Rank
MCHS students will not receive a rank. However, the high school profile will break down grade point averages of the top 10th percentile, to 25th percentile, 50th percentile and 75th percentile. Colleges and universities are prepared to use this as part of their admission criteria.

Scholarships
There are different types of scholarships and deadlines. Some scholarships are based on academic or athletics while others are community service based or a combination of all. There are websites that will do a scholarship search for nation-wide scholarships. Contact the financial aid office of the universities you are interested in to see if you qualify for any of their scholarships. **Local scholarships are posted on the Guidance page** at www.morrishs.org See if your parent's employers or church may offer a scholarship. If a recommendation is needed, give the person writing it plenty of notice. There is a form in the Guidance Office you can complete about yourself to assist the person writing the recommendation. If an official transcript is needed, the office must send it directly to the location. We can include your application.
Websites:
Scholarship Search www.fastweb.com
Scholarship Search: www.scholarships.com
Financial Aid Info: www.collegeillinois.org
Micro scholarships: www.raise.me
Financial Aid Application: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Social Media
Your application will tell the admission office about your interests, the type of student you are, and how well you performed in school. Your online presence will tell the admissions office and future employers how you present yourself in public. This may determine how your projected image fits in with their

institution. To make sure you are presenting your best, authentic self online: De-tag yourself from any questionable photos or contact. Be careful of what you tweet and retweet. If you don't want your grandparents to see it, don't post it. Post content that underscores your interests. Share interesting and relevant articles, music and artwork or photos from sporting events or performances. Follow schools you are applying to in order to stay informed about campus events and important news.

Testing

Both the SAT and ACT are accepted by colleges and universities. Juniors will take the SAT in the spring which includes the essay. You can retake the SAT on a National test date. More information is available at www.collegeboard.org. Information about the ACT is at www.actstudent.org

MCHS does not send test scores with student transcripts.

Visiting Colleges

You are allowed **2 pre-arranged college visits** during the school year to visit during the school day for your junior year **and 3 for your senior year**. The Guidance Office had a **form that needs to be completed and returned prior to the date of the visit with all the necessary signatures**. You can schedule the visit on the college website.

The College Application Process

You will apply online to colleges starting this summer/fall. Use one email to keep track of your college correspondence and remember to check this email on a regular basis. Try to use one common password. Beware of deadlines! Some schools accept the postmark date while others want it in hand by a deadline. Be early to be safe!

It is extremely important that **AFTER** you submit your application to **let your counselor know where to send your transcript**. Your transcript includes all of your grades from freshman year to the previous semester, your senior schedule and a school profile. Some colleges will have you self report grades. See your counselor for a copy of your transcripts.

COMMON APPLICATION/COALITION APPLICATION

Many schools are using the Common Application, Coalition Application. You are able to submit one application to multiple universities. We will submit your transcript online through their website. You must include your counselor's email to send the request. Only use one of these applications. Applying with multiple applications could delay the process.

TEST SCORES

In accordance with Illinois School Code, MCHS will not include test scores with your transcript. You are able to send them this through your College Board (SAT) or ACT account. Some colleges are test optional where they will not require the SAT/ACT. You may also complete the Opt-In form which would allow test scores to be sent. More information on this options: Opt In Form

Many universities may require that they be sent directly from the test center. You are able to do this through accessing your account on their website at www.collegeboard.org or www.actstudent.org

Complete the "Request for Recommendation" form located in the Guidance Office and on the Guidance web page. Many scholarships and colleges will require you to include recommendations from a teacher or counselor.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH
If you qualify for free/reduced lunch, you may often have the application fee waived. See your counselor!

SCHOOL CODE
142990

COUNSELOR INFORMATION

Mr. Williamson	jwilliamson@morrishs.org	815-941-5323
Mr. Babson	dbabson@morrishs.org	815-941-5324
Mrs. Voitik	tvoitik@morrishs.org	815-941-5331

MCHS ADDRESS
1000 Union Street, Morris, IL

DEADLINES
Make sure you meet all deadlines!

What's next after High School?

Every junior is at a different point in planning for his or her future. Some do not know what career/major they want to pursue. Others know what career but not what school they want to attend. Others know their major, know their school, but do not know what it takes to get into those schools. Any of these situations are fine. Take a look at this form and determine where you fit. It is not important where you are in the preparation route, but that you know the importance of having a plan. Select one of the areas in bold that fits where you are in the process.

I don't know a career path to follow

Go to www.careercruising.com
Username: Morris
Password: Careers

- Click on "Explore Assessments" and then "Career Matchmaker"
- Type in name (Note: You can choose "Start a New Session" or "Retrieve your Results".
- If you have an account already made and remember your login information, click "Retrieve your Results" Ask, if you do not remember your information.
- Start a new Career Matchmaker

SAVE YOUR RESULTS – Choose "Yes. I don't have a portfolio." Enter the information needed for portfolio. Or, you may have created a portfolio last year.

Write down a few careers that sound interesting to you and be prepared to discuss these with your counselor.

_____ _____

_____ _____

Once you have a potential career, move to the next section.

I know my career/major. I don't know what schools to apply to next year.

Go to www.collegeboard.org

- Locate and click on "Students" section
- Click on "Find a College"
- You will notice, on the left hand side, different filters (Type of School, location, campus & housing, Majors, etc.).
- Examine each of the filters, selecting those areas you find important to have in a college.
- After you have made all your selections, look at the upper right hand corner of the selected filter box and "Close and See Results".
- A list of colleges will appear. Click on the colleges that look interesting to you.

Write down the 6 -12 colleges that are possibilities for you to apply to next year.

_____ _____

_____ _____

I know the schools I wish to enter in after high school.

Go to www.collegeboard.org/

- Click on Get Started
- Locate, down below the picture, “Looking for a specific college?’ and enter the name of the school you are researching.
- A list of matching colleges will appear. Click on the college you want to learn about. Read through each information sections (At a Glance, Deadlines, Majors, Applying, Paying)
- After reading the information, return to “At a Glance”. What are your feelings toward this school now that you have read some information? If you like what you read, find the school’s URL address, towards the top, and click on the school’s Internet address.
- While on the college’s website, find/search ADMISSIONS and ADMISSION’S REQUIREMENTS. Write down any information about ACT/SAT score needed, classes required, and any other information about the application (deadlines, etc). Sometimes you can find the application and download it. Does the application require you to write an essay? If so, write down the question you need to answer. Will you need letters of recommendation? If so, write down the names of the teachers you will ask to write on your behalf.

I want schools to find me!

Go to www.cappex.com

At Cappex, schools will find you. Select See Which Colleges Want You and create an account. Follow the directions and you will get emails from the colleges.

- Type your college choice in “College Search” and select the school.
- Read the “Quick Facts, Admissions, Cost & Financial Aid, Programs & Majors, Deadlines, Around Town, etc”