

Senior Information Sheet
From MHS Counseling Office
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1. **Graduation Requirements are YOUR responsibility! You need 22 credits to graduate!** Make sure you are on track to graduate at the end of the year. If you are not sure, talk with your counselor soon!
2. **Apply for colleges now!!!** – College application deadlines are all different. Pay attention to the deadline dates. Some are as early as October. This can make a difference from being admitted to college as well as scholarships. **APPLY EARLY!** If you are applying for SWIC, you will apply during the second semester.
3. **ACT/SAT** – If you are satisfied with your ACT or SAT score, GREAT! If not, remember you can take the ACT up to 12 times, and the SAT is unlimited. Schools will take your highest score. Check out www.act.org or www.collegeboard.org for test dates. Most colleges will accept the October score for scholarship consideration since you will receive the scores prior to the application deadline (please check with your college.) Application deadlines sometimes prevent the use of the December score, so if you are going to retest, **do so in October**. MHS is a testing site for the October 23rd test ACT date.
4. **Scholarships** – Start applying now if you haven't already. Deadlines can be any time.
 - One good website for national scholarships is www.fastweb.com, but it is not the only one. Be leery of sites that want you to pay money. Applying for scholarships should be FREE.
 - Talk to the colleges in which you are applying. They will offer their own scholarships.
 - Look at the announcements on the TVs around the school and/or check the counseling office for local scholarships. These are also on the high school website under "About Our School." From there, select 'Counseling Office' and then the 'Scholarship Resources' tab on the left. There is a link for online searches under this tab as well.
 - If you want reminders about scholarships and other senior information, sign up for the senior classroom in Google. The code is **imrhwrp (Counseling Office Classroom)**
 - Search online for scholarships for your major, ethnicity, religion, etc. through any of the searches.
 - Check with your parents. Their place of employment, as well as other organizations they belong to, may have scholarships to which you can apply.
5. **NCAA/NAIA requirements** – If you are planning on playing sports in a division I or II school make sure you have registered online with the NCAA (www.eligibilitycenter.org). You must have your ACT scores sent directly from ACT to NCAA. ACT code for NCAA is 9999. NAIA also requires registration with their eligibility center. www.PlayNAIA.org. The ACT code for NAIA is 9876. **It is your responsibility to make sure you are registered and have taken the correct classes.**
6. **College Representative Visits** – Look at the announcements on Google Classroom. You will need to get a pass from the Counseling Office on the morning of the visit to see the college rep. Also, look for representatives set up outside the cafeteria doors in the commons during lunch.
 - Find MANY Colleges on this Virtual College Tour <https://www.youvisit.com/collegesearch/>
7. **College Fairs** -
 - **Mater Dei Catholic High School** will host a College Fair on October 6, 2021 from 6:30-8pm.

- **Multiple Virtual College Fairs** are being sponsored by the NACAC. Please go to <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/conventions> for more information.
- **Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville will host a College Fair** on March 22, 2022 from 6-7:30pm.
<http://www.siu.edu/undergraduate/ircf/>
- **SWIC National College Fair** February 27, 2022 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm. For more information please go to <https://www.swic.edu/students/services/advising/college-fair/>

8. **College Visits** – It is very important that seniors visit the colleges they are interested in attending **before** making a final decision. A final decision on college choice should be made by May 1. College visit days are considered pre-arranged absences. See the attendance office about setting up the pre-arranged absence at least three days in advance. You will have to bring back documentation from the school that you visit.
9. **Financial Aid (FAFSA)** – This is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Every student going to college should complete one. It will tell you if you get free money from the government. This is also how you will receive the Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans for college. You can always accept or deny the loans that are offered. MHS will host a **Financial Aid Presentation on September 27th, 2021 at 6:00pm** in the Auditorium. We are also pleased to announce a **FAFSA Completion Workshop seminar on October 6, 2021 at 6:00pm** in the Library and **October 14 @4pm** Virtual. Please watch the announcements for more information, and encourage your parents to come.
10. **Letters of Recommendation** – Having a **Resume** will help when applying to schools. If you need letters of recommendation, ask the person 2 weeks ahead of time. Give the person writing the letter a copy of your resume, where it needs to be sent, by what date, what qualities the letter should address (leadership, activities, etc.) and even include an envelope addressed for them.
11. **Requesting Transcripts**: All transcripts will be requested through **Parchment**. If you do not have an account you can see Mrs. Kearney in the Main Office. Transcript will be sent within 5 days of request. www.parchment.com. If you have forgotten your login/password information, your login is your **MHS Gmail**, and you can select “forgot password” to create a new password. **Remember, if you would like your unofficial test scores sent with your transcript, you will need to select BOTH items when you are placing an order!**
12. **ASVAB** will be given October 21st, 2021 at 12:30pm. If you are considering the military, this would be a good time to take the placement test. Sign up will begin at the beginning of October in the Counseling Office. If you are considering the military, now is the time to make an appointment with a military recruiter.
13. **A survey will be sent through Google Classroom**. Please complete the survey **by September 24**, which will make your senior meeting with your counselor more effective.

If you have any questions at all, please come to the counseling office and ask. We can help find answers to your questions regarding college. Whether you are going to a 4-year college, 2-year, technical, trade or to work, we are here to help you with your next steps after high school.