

SENIOR NEWSLETTER

Becker High School
October 2025

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To Do List

Senior Visits

Feel free to make an appointment with your counselor for your Senior Visit (students are being scheduled for their meetings as well). We will check your high school credits, discuss your post high school plans, college applications, financial aid and scholarships at this meeting.

College Applications/High School Transcripts

Most colleges encourage students to apply for admission online. You can start applying for college now! Transcripts will also be sent electronically. Transcript requests should be entered in Parchment, please use the following link to set up your account (if you have not done so yet) and request transcripts:

<https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/14701/account>
[Parchment Info Sheet \(Instructions\)](#)

Selective Service Registration

All males are required to register with the Selective Service when they turn 18. More information and the registration can be found at www.sss.gov

Letters of Recommendation

You may need letters of recommendation for a college application (mainly private colleges) as well as for scholarship applications. Typically you will need a maximum of 3 letters of recommendation. It is a good idea to think of 2 school personnel (teachers, advisors, coaches, etc) and 1 outside person (employer or a leader of an organization you volunteer with).

The counseling office has a recommendation form you can pick up during your Senior Visit for you to complete that will help people personalize your letters of recommendation. You may turn the completed form into the counseling office and we will make copies as you need them.

Please be courteous when asking for letters of recommendation and give the writer at least 2 weeks (do not ask the day before you need it) to write the letter and remember to say "thank you."

Need Help With Where to Start?

Watch/rewatch the [counselor presentation](#) from last Winter.

University of Minnesota- Twin Cities Application Information

Application Process

Common Application vs Golden Gopher

*Common App is useful if you plan to apply to other colleges that use the Common App (typically private college)

*Golden Gopher application is more user friendly.

*[Admission checklist/information.](#)

Share My App

Students who complete their U of MN application will be invited (around October 15th) to share their application with the other University of Minnesota system colleges without paying an additional fee.

This only works when students first apply to the U of MN Twin Cities.

<u>Application Deadlines</u> *November 1st (early action)- students will receive a response (Admit, Defer, Deny) by January 31st *December 1st (early action 2)- students will receive a response (Admit, Defer, Deny) by February 15th *January 1st (regular)- students will receive a response (Admin, Defer, Deny) by March 31st	<u>Nursing Program</u> *Students must submit their application by November 1st *Students must submit 3 supplemental documents for the Nursing program (when Nursing is selected for an applicant's first choice on the application, the supplemental documents will be available).
<u>ACT/SAT</u> *An ACT or SAT score is not required for classes through fall of 2027 for admission to the U of MN.	<u>Academic Record/Transcript</u> *Students will self report their grades, you do not need to request a transcript be sent to the U of MN- Twin Cities

College Knowledge Month

October is known as College Knowledge Month. Most 2 and 4 year state colleges and universities (the MNSCU system and a few in the U of M system) will waive their application fees during this month. Here is the list of colleges that waive their application fees. The counselors plan to host sessions in the Mac Lab during Advisory on Thursdays in October to help students with applications. This information will be posted in Google Classroom.
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College Entrance/Placement Tests

There can be confusion about which test to take for college. ACT and SAT are taken for admittance to 4-year college/universities. ACT is more widely accepted (especially in the midWest) but some schools prefer one versus the other. If questions, check with the schools you are looking into.	Minnesota Technical and Community colleges (2-year schools) will require the Accuplacer (unless you have taken the ACT and met cut scores). The Accuplacer is a placement test that will indicate what level math and English classes the student should first take. If a student does not meet the cut scores for that school's Accuplacer test, the college will require the student enroll in remedial courses for the areas not met on the Accuplacer.
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<u>ACT</u>	<u>SAT</u>	<u>ACCUPLACER</u>
<u>Test Date</u> December 13 February 14	<u>Register By</u> November 7 January 9	
<u>Test Date</u> November 8 December 6	<u>Register By</u> October 24 November 21	
Register for the ACT at www.actstudent.org	Register for the SAT at http://sat.collegeboard.org/home	Contact the school in which you are applying to set up your ACCUPLACER.

Financial Aid

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open around October 1st. Visit https://studentaid.gov/ for more information and to get started.	Don't delay in completing the FAFSA as some funds are awarded on a first come, first served basis.
Parents and students will each need an FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID).	Can complete on a computer or download the mobile app (myStudentAid app).
October zoom sessions to help families prepare for the financial aid process. Watch one or all. Click here for more information and to register.	

College/Military Representatives

College and Military Representatives visit Becker High School throughout the year and are available during advisory to visit with students in the Senior lunch room. This is a great opportunity to gather information about the college without having to go to them.	October 9th: Army October 23rd: UMD, UM- Morris, St. Mary's, Concordia, MSU, SCSU, SMSU
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College Fairs and College Information Sessions

This is not an exhaustive list of fall college open houses. If you are interested in specific colleges, reach out to the college you would like to visit.

MSU- Mankato- Fall Open Houses October 11, 18 and November 1 and 8. Click here for more details and to register.	Ridgewater College- Opportunities to visit both Hutchinson and Willmar campuses. Click here for more details and to register.
Dunwoody- October 14 and November 11 (3-5 p.m.). Click here for more details and to register.	NDSU- dates for different majors throughout the fall. Click here for schedule and to register.
Alexandria Technical and Community College- Fall Open House- October 11. Click here for more details and to register	Private Colleges in MN- this link provides a list of many private colleges and their fall visit opportunities (virtual and in person options).
UND- Fall Open House- October 16th and 17th. Click here for more details and to register.	SCSU- October 16th-17th-18th. For more information and to register, click here .

Scholarships

This is a great time to begin looking for scholarships. There are many out there so don't feel like you need to apply for everything. There are some general scholarship search sites where you can enter what type of school you are applying to, what program or major you will be entering, interests, etc, which will narrow down the scholarships to the ones that match your criteria.	General scholarship search sites: www.fastweb.com www.cappex.com www.scholarships.com
Remember to avoid scholarships that require you to pay to submit your application or for a scholarship search, it is a scam!	Local Scholarships will be available in January (possibly earlier) and will have varying due dates. More information will be sent out when they are available.

Name of Scholarship	Due Date	Criteria	Link
Most Valuable Student	November 12, 2025	Current high school student, parents do not need to be a member of the Elks.	For more information and application, click here .
National Space Club Scholarship	November 17, 2025	Be attending an accredited post secondary institution in a STEM field with preference given to those in a space related field.	For more information and application, click here .
Women in Tech Scholarship	November 30, 2025	Offered to a female student interested in technology and entrepreneurship. Must write an essay on why technology needs more female entrepreneurs.	For more information and application, click here .
Burger King Scholars	December 15, 2025	GPA, work experience, extracurricular activities, community service and financial need.	For more information and to apply, click here .