



September 2022

Dear Senior Students and Parents/Guardians:

Senior year is an exciting time as you plan for life after school. The Counseling Department wants to make sure you are aware of the ways we can support you as you begin this next phase of your life. Whatever your plan may be after high school, such as military, work, or higher education, we want to serve as a helpful resource in your planning process. Please keep this letter for future reference and refer to the [ERHS counseling website](#) for current information. Please also know when we use the term “college”, we are including all forms of post-secondary training (vocational, technical, community, and 4 year schools).

College Applications

October is a great time to submit your college applications. You will typically abide by most admission deadlines and several schools in MN waive their application fees various times throughout the month. Please visit this [list](#) for schools waiving their fees.

The following items may be needed to complete your college admission application. Please note not all colleges require these items so check with each individual college.

- **College online application**
- **High School transcript** (see [Parchment](#) directions)
- **Application fee** (please see your counselor if you receive free or reduced lunch or are experiencing financial hardship to discuss fee waiver options)
- **Letters of Recommendation** (see forms [here](#))
- **ACT score** ([link](#) for future test registrations)
- **Essay**

Career Center

The Career Center is here to help you plan for the future. The Career Center is open before school Tuesdays from 7:00 AM-7:25 AM or by appointment. Visit this [link](#) to learn how to best utilize the Career Center.

Elk Time Sessions

The Counseling Office is excited to offer career and college prep Elk Time sessions. Students can sign up through their Campus Portal account and learn more details about

what will be covered in each session. September, October, and November will focus on college application support.

College Admission and Military Visits

Did you know around 50 college admission representatives and all branches of the military visit ERHS each year? This is a convenient way to learn more about admission, programs, degrees, and financial aid by talking with an expert from that particular college or military branch. College admission visits will be held in the Career Center. Please visit this [form](#) for a list of upcoming events and sign up to attend. [Military visits](#) will be during lunch in the Commons and students do not need to sign up to attend. Additions are added often, so be sure to check back periodically.

Also plan to personally visit the college campuses you are interested in. This is one of the best ways to know if the college is the right fit for your interests and personality. MEA break is a great time to set up your campus visits.

Ready Set FAFSA

Free college and financial aid events are available to Minnesota students and families via Zoom. The series, running Tuesday evenings September 27 through October 25, will cover general college and financial aid information, details on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Minnesota Dream Act for undocumented students, and other ways to pay for college. All sessions are at 7:00 PM on Tuesday nights and will last approximately 45-60 minutes. Participants can ask questions in the chat. Participants can attend any number of sessions (choose dates during registration). Visit this [site](#) for more information and to register to attend. These events are sponsored by MN Goes to College.

- September 27: Apply to College
- October 4: Understand Financial Aid
- October 11: Prepare to Apply for Financial Aid
- October 18: Apply for Financial Aid
- October 25: Search for Scholarships

MCIS (MN Career Information System)

MCIS is a great website to help you prepare for your future career. You can take career interest inventories, research majors and programs, learn more about the skills and training required for specific careers, and search for scholarships. All students will be spending more time with this website during Advisory but if you want to get a head start, the student login is through your Rapid Identity portal.

ERHS College Fair: September 30

Elk River High School will host a Minnesota Education Fair on Friday, September 30th from 9:00-10:30 AM. This event is one in a series of regional college fairs held around Minnesota to inform students about educational options after high school. Nearly 75 public and private colleges and universities, community and technical colleges, and trade and career schools will be represented at this event. [Here](#) you can find a list of post-secondary programs attending the fair.

ERHS Financial Aid Information Night: October 17

The ERHS Financial Aid Night will be held during Fall Conferences from 6-7PM in the Zabee Theater on October 17. Basic information about aid programs, eligibility, college cost, and tips on completing the FAFSA will be covered. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents. The [FAFSA form](#) is available October 1 for the next school year.

ASVAB: November 18

The ASVAB will be offered on Friday, November 18 at ERHS. Juniors and Seniors can register for this test through this [form](#). Registration deadline is November 4. The ASVAB measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success. It can also be used as a military entrance exam. For more information on this exam, please visit this [link](#).

We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities. Please visit the [ERHS Counseling website](#) for more information or [sign-up](#) to meet with your counselor.

Sincerely,

The ERHS Counseling Department (*Counselors assigned by Student's Last Name*)

Last Names A-Co: *Mrs. Cloutier*

Last Names Cp-Fd, Po-Sc: *Mr. Meyer*

Last Names Fe-Ha: *Mrs. Davison*

Last Names Hb-Le: *Ms. Rick*

Last Names Lf-Pn: *Mrs. Shermak*

Last Names Sd-Z: *Mrs. Reimer*