

## Senior Newsletter - Class of 2023

In this newsletter you will find a variety of information. You will find information about college visits, college applications, financial aid, scholarships, and job opportunities. This will be a working document. As new information and opportunities become available it will be added, so please check back frequently.

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### Graduation

#### Graduation Requirements

Please remember that you are ultimately responsible for making sure you will meet all the requirements for graduation. You will need to have a minimum of **24 total credits** to graduate and meet all the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements. You should be scheduled into the courses you need this year to meet those requirements. If you have any questions please send Mr. Kenyon an email and he can confirm where you stand.

Graduation Caps and Gowns as well as optional graduation announcement packages can be ordered from Jostens at:

<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1063589/Paw-Paw-High-School/>

**2023 Senior Parents: Grad Bash is May 26th, 2023 immediately following ceremony. If you would like to volunteer at a Grad Bash Fundraising Event or attending monthly meetings please contact Jessica Wesler at [weslerjessica@gmail.com](mailto:weslerjessica@gmail.com) or Andrea Toliver at [jtoliver\\_andrea@yahoo.com](mailto:jtoliver_andrea@yahoo.com).**

## College Application Information

Parchment - Parchment is what we use to send your transcripts to colleges and universities. You will also use Parchment if you want to view your transcript at any time. You should have already received an email from Parchment with a link that is unique to you. This will take you directly to the set up for your Parchment account. When you create your account you **SHOULD NOT USE YOUR SCHOOL EMAIL ADDRESS. Use your personal email.** You only need to complete the information that is required.

Common App Resources - Many schools now use the Common App as a way to apply to college. The Common App allows you to put in your personal information one time instead of multiple times for each different school. I have posted some links below if you need some help with your Common App.

[Common App first-year application 2022–2023 walkthrough | Common App](#)  
[Common App 2022-23](#)

Common state of Michigan Application Deadlines. This is a list of schools that students from Paw Paw most commonly apply to from year to year. It does not include every school. You will see the different application deadlines (if there are different deadlines) and their SAT/ACT test score policy. You can click on the link for each school to find more information. I would also recommend visiting with the rep when they are here for a visit.

### University of Michigan

Early Action Deadline: Nov 1, 2022

Regular Decision Deadline: Feb 1, 2023

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: Complete "My Scholarship Profile" by Feb 15, 2023

Testing Policy: Optional

### Michigan State University

Early Action Deadline: Nov 1, 2022

Regular Decision Deadline: Feb 1, 2023

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: None - Automatically considered when you apply

Testing Policy: Optional

~~Application fee waived October 1-9. Fee waiver code is Spartan 1855.~~

### Western Michigan University

Early Action Deadline: Dec 15, 2022

Regular Decision Deadline: June 1, 2023

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: Dec 15, 2022

Testing Policy: Optional

### Central Michigan University

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: Rolling so no deadline until class is full

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: Nov 1, 2022

Testing Policy: Optional but used for some scholarships

Application fee waived during October

#### [Northern Michigan University](#)

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: Rolling so no deadline until class is full

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: None - Automatically considered when you apply

Testing Policy: Test free - test scores are not considered

#### [Eastern Michigan University](#)

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: Rolling so no deadline until class is full

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: Dec 15 for Presidential Scholarship otherwise none

Testing Policy: Optional but required for Presidential Scholarship

#### [Grand Valley State University](#)

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: Rolling so no deadline until class is full

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: March 1, 2022

Testing Policy: Optional but scores used for some scholarships

#### [Ferris State University](#)

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: Rolling so no deadline until class is full

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: None - Automatically considered when you apply

Testing Policy: Optional except for Founder's Scholarship

#### [Michigan Technological University](#)

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: Rolling so no deadline until class is full

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: Nov 1, 2022 for Leading Scholar otherwise none

Testing Policy: Test optional if GPA is 3.0+. Test scores are also recommended for scholarship consideration

#### [Kalamazoo College](#)

Early Action Deadline: Nov 1, 2022

Regular Decision Deadline: Jan 15, 2023

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: None - Automatically considered when you apply

Testing Policy: Optional

## KVCC

Early Action Deadline: None

Regular Decision Deadline: None - automatically accepted to a community college

Scholarship Consideration Deadline: Must apply for Merit Scholarship by Mar 1, 2023

Testing Policy: SAT scores may be used for class placement purposes but are not required

~~October is College Application Month! Please share where you have already applied and any applications you complete during the month of October. If you have applied, or apply, to three colleges then your name will be entered into a drawing for some gift cards. Additional entries will be added for applications beyond three. [Fill out the Google form here.](#)~~

## College Visits & College Nights

~~[College Night at the Lake](#)—Lake Michigan College will be hosting their annual college night on **Monday, September 19 from 6-7:30**. This event is free and 65+ colleges have attended in the past. The event will take place in The Mendel Center Grand Upton Hall. Financial aid information sessions will also be available. Click on the link for more information.~~

~~[KVCC College Night 2022](#)—KVCC will be hosting their annual college night on **Monday, October 17 from 6-7:30**. There are currently 50+ colleges signed up to attend this event. The event is free and will take place on the main campus in Texas Township. This event will also have a financial aid presentation at 7:00. Please click on the link for more information.~~

~~[Laker Experience Days at Grand Valley State](#)—Visit Grand Valley on days specifically designed to host high school seniors. There are two dates available—**Friday, October 7** and **Saturday, October 15**. Register ahead of time online. Click on the link to register or scan the QR code on the poster in the Counseling Office window.~~

## College Rep Visits

~~Western Michigan University—Monday, September 19 @ 10 AM.~~

~~Calvin University—Thursday, September 22 @ 10:30.~~

~~Saginaw Valley State University—Tuesday, September 27 @ 10:00.~~

~~Michigan State University—Wednesday, Sept 28 @ 12:20.~~

~~University of Michigan—Ann Arbor—Tuesday, October 18 @ 12:30.~~

~~Central Michigan University—Monday, October 24 @ 10:15.~~

~~Southwestern Michigan College—Wednesday, October 26 @ 9:20~~

~~Eastern Michigan University—Wednesday, November 2 @ 9:20~~

~~Adrian College—Monday, November 7 @ 10:00.~~

~~Grand Valley State University—Wednesday, November 9 @ 12:30.~~

~~Northern Michigan University—Wednesday, November 16 @ 8:15~~

~~Alma College - Monday, November 21 @ 1:30~~

~~Southwestern Michigan College - Tuesday, November 29 @ 12:15~~

## Scholarships

[American Legion Scholarships](#) - This is another organization with numerous scholarships offers. Some areas include students with relatives that served in the military, students that are Eagle Scouts, students interested in an oratorical contest, students that played American Legion baseball and more. Please click on the link for more information. Scholarship deadlines vary so please pay attention to the specific scholarship deadlines if you are interested in applying.

[Bold.org Scholarships](#) - The organization at Bold.org has a variety of scholarships listed. Click on the link to explore the various different scholarships. The application deadlines vary as well so please pay attention to the deadline for the specific scholarship you are pursuing.

[Lakeview Foundation Scholarship](#) - This is a scholarship only available to students in Van Buren County. Students that apply for this scholarship must be planning on a career in nursing or healthcare. This is a scholarship that is potentially renewable for four years. Please click on the link for more details. The application deadline is **April 15, 2023**.

[Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce Scholarship](#) - The Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce is offering four \$500 scholarships. Please see the email from Mr. Kenyon with more information. The deadline for this scholarship is April 21, 2023.

[WMERDF Scholarship](#) - The West Michigan Education Research and Development Foundation is now accepting applications for their annual scholarship. This scholarship is intended for students who are planning to pursue a career in teaching. This is a \$1000 scholarship. Please click on the link for the application and more information. The application deadline is **May 1, 2023**.

**Big Dreamers Scholarship** - This is a new scholarship being offered by the owner of Klassic Arcade 3.0 in Paw Paw. A check for \$1000 will be given to the winner and they may spend the money however they wish. There are no expectations with this scholarship that the winner will spend it on college. The requirement for this scholarship is that you write a one page story telling what you would do if you were given \$1000. The scholarship will be judged on what you envision as your career dream. Please turn in completed stories to the Counseling Office. Your one page story is due no later than **May 4, 2023**.

**Paw Paw Alumni Corporation Scholarship applications are due April 15.** Forms are available in the counseling office, or were mailed to your home.

[AES Scholarship](#)—This is a scholarship from AES Engineering but you DO NOT need to be pursuing a career in engineering. They look at all students. This is a \$500 scholarship and the application deadline is **October 8, 2022**. Please click on the link for more information.

[Lydia Cruz & Sandra Maria Ramos Scholarship](#)—This is a scholarship for Latina students. This is a \$500 scholarship being offered by the Delta Tau Lambda Sorority at Western Michigan but you DO NOT have to attend Western to receive this scholarship. The application deadline is **October 16, 2022**. Please click on the link for more information. Please click on the link for more information.

[Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship](#)—The Coca-Cola scholarship foundation will select 150 students to receive a \$20,000 scholarship. The only requirement listed on the website is a 3.0 GPA and a plan to pursue a degree. The application deadline is **October 31, 2022**. Click on the link for more information.

[Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship](#)—The Elks National Foundation has a scholarship program that offers 500 scholarships ranging from \$4,000-\$50,000. There are a variety of factors that go into determining the winners of these scholarships. The application deadline is **November 14, 2022**. Click on the link for more information.

[Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship](#)—The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation offers a variety of scholarship opportunities up to \$55,000. The scholarship amounts vary based on the college attending and financial need. Please click on the link for more information. The deadline to apply is **November 17, 2022**.

[Hagan Scholarship](#)—The Hagan Scholarship Foundation is awarding scholarships of up to \$6000/semester. This scholarship is only available to students coming from a high school from towns of less than 25,000 people so you will qualify for this scholarship. Please click on the link for more information. The application deadline is **December 1, 2022**.

Attention Senior Athletes: Information is available for the **MHSAA Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar Athlete Award Scholarship**. You must be a senior and win a varsity letter in a sport prior to your senior year in which the MHSAA sponsors a post-season tournament and have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least a 3.5. Please see Mrs. Martin in the office for more requirement and application information. Deadline to apply online is **December 2, 2022 by 4:00 p.m.**

[GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship](#)—Interested in being a future leader? The GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship might be for you then. This is a \$40,000 scholarship available to students demonstrating leadership, integrity, drive, and citizenship in their communities and schools. Check out the link for more information. The application deadline is **January 5, 2023**.

[Volunteer United Youth Scholarship](#)—This is a \$1000 scholarship that will be awarded to a youth volunteer in Van Buren County. You must have shown a commitment to volunteerism through Creativity, Dedication, and Advocacy for Community Improvement. Students may nominate

themselves or another student. Click on the link for more information. The scholarship is at the bottom of the page. The application deadline is **January 27, 2023**.

[LMCU Hutt Scholarship](#)—Lake Michigan Credit Union is offering their Hutt Scholarship. There are 20 scholarships available and they are each worth \$2000. The scholarship requires you to write a brief essay. Please visit the link to see the essay topic and more details about the scholarship. The application deadline is **January 31, 2023**.

[Arbor Financial Scholarship](#)—Arbor Financial Credit Union is offering ten \$2000 scholarships this year. You have to write an essay on the topic of “What does doing the right thing mean to you?” Please see the link for more information about the essay topic. There is also a poster in the Counseling Office window. The application deadline is **February 1, 2023**.

[MEA Scholarship](#)—This is a scholarship open to students that are a dependent of a member of the Michigan Education Association (MEA). Current scholarship amounts are not known yet but last year they gave out 22 \$1600 scholarships. Please click on the link for more information. The application deadline is **February 16, 2023**.

[Greenstone Scholarship Program](#)—GreenStone Farm Credit Services is offering \$40,000 in scholarship money in the form of \$2000 for students attending a 4-year college or \$1000 for students attending a 2-year college. Students must be planning to study in an agriculture-related field. Please see the link for more information. The application deadline is **February 28, 2023**.

[Kalamazoo Community Foundation Scholarships](#)—At this time there are three different scholarships available to students in Van Buren County. One, the David & Barbara Kruse Scholarship, is only available to Paw Paw students. The other two, the Gail & Hilda Oster Scholarship and the Danial & Joeanna Smith Scholarship, are open to all students in Van Buren County. **The window to apply is Jan 1, 2023 to Mar 1, 2023.**

[MEC Scholarship](#)—If your family receives monthly service from Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) then you are eligible to apply for this scholarship. This \$1000 scholarship requires a video submission as a part of the application. Please click on the link for more information. The application deadline is **March 13, 2023**.

[Honor Credit Union Community Scholarship](#)—This scholarship is available to students that are a member of Honor Credit Union. Honor Credit Union will be granting 28 \$1000 scholarships to area seniors. Please click on the link for more information. The application deadline is **March 15, 2023**.

[BBB Trust Scholarship](#)—The Better Business Bureau Serving West Michigan is seeking applications for its 2023 BBB Trust Scholarship. There are three \$1500 scholarships available to students. There is an essay involved. Please see the link for more information and the essay topic. The application deadline is **March 20, 2023**.

~~[Bridging the Dream Scholarship](#)—Offered by Sallie Mae, this scholarship is awarded to outstanding students from under-resourced, underrepresented, and underserved communities. These scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$10,000. A video submission is part of the application. Please see the link for more information. The application deadline is **March 27, 2023.**~~

~~Henderson Sloan Scholarship—This is a \$1000 scholarship available to students who attend high school in Van Buren County. It is offered by the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel. You must be planning to attend college in Michigan. The application is available in the Counseling Office. The application deadline is **April 1, 2023.**~~

~~[Michigan Retailers Association Scholarship](#)—This is a scholarship offered by the Michigan Retailers Association (MRA). They will be offering 12 \$3500 scholarships to students who work for or whose parent works for a business that is a member of the MRA. For more information click on the link. The application deadline is **April 1, 2023.**~~

## Financial Aid Information

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will open on October 1, 2022. Below you will find links and resources to help you complete your application. It is recommended that you complete your FAFSA regardless of whether or not you think you will receive financial assistance for college. Many colleges and universities base their scholarship decisions on your FAFSA application even if you don't qualify for any aid. [StudentAid.gov](#) is the best place to start for information to get started.

### FAFSA Videos

[How to Fill Out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\) Form](#) - This is a general overview video from the federal government YouTube channel Federal Student Aid. There are other videos available on this page as well.

[Creating your FSA ID](#) - This informational video walks you through the steps of creating your FSA ID which you will need to complete your FAFSA.

Sallie Mae offers the [YourMoney Pro](#) website that provides numerous tools that students and parents can use to plan for the cost of college and beyond. There are budgeting tools, videos, articles, and a plethora of other information available. There is information for both students and parents and the website will personalize the information they provide you based on your input. The best thing is that it is free!

[MI Student Aid](#) is offering numerous online virtual information sessions to help you complete the FAFSA. Visit the website to sign up for a session. They are offered every Tuesday night during



the months of October and November at 6:30. Click on the link to sign up for one of the virtual sessions.

[Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#) - The state of Michigan recently passed a bill for the new Michigan Achievement Scholarship. All that is required to determine eligibility for this scholarship is to file the FAFSA and then create a MiSSG portal within three to five business days. Money will be awarded at the rate of \$2,750/year at a community college, \$5,500 at a public university, and \$4,000/year at a private college or university. Please see the link for more information.

KVCC will be hosting FAFSA Night\$ every Tuesday from 4:30-6:30 in room 9210 on their Texas Township Campus. Their financial aid staff will be there to help answer questions you may have about the FAFSA. You will be able to work on your FAFSA while there. You do not need to be attending KVCC to attend these workshops.

~~We are pleased to announce that we are intending to host a financial aid night workshop on October 12 from 6:30-7:30. A financial aid officer from SMC will be here and you will be given the opportunity to work on and complete your FAFSA. The desktops in the media center will be available and we recommend you bring your Chromebook as well. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend because they must complete a FAFSA as well. You and your parents will also need to bring your 2021 tax return information. It is also recommended that you create your FSA ID in advance. Please see the video link above if you have questions about creating your FSA ID. The benefit to this event is that an expert from financial aid will be in attendance to answer any questions you may have on the spot. You do not need to be planning to attend SMC to attend this workshop.~~

## Trades - Apprenticeships and Trade Schools

[Kalamazoo Electrical JATC](#) - Are you interested in becoming an electrician? The Kalamazoo Electricians union has an apprenticeship program. You can learn on the job while also getting paid. Please click on the link for more information. They typically take a class each fall.

[Wayland Carpenter & Millwright Apprentice Training Center](#) - Do you have an interest in becoming a carpenter, millwright, or floor layer? Do you wonder what these different jobs entail? Then please click on the link. The training center in Wayland is new and state of the art. As an apprentice you get to learn on the job while getting paid. There are additional training centers around the state with other job types.

[Kalamazoo Plumbers and Pipefitters HVAC](#) - Do you have an interest in becoming a plumber or HVAC technician? The Local 357 union has an apprenticeship program. Please click on the link

for more information. Please be aware that the website does not work through the school wifi due to the security filters at school but should work outside of school.

[University of Northwestern Ohio \(UNOH\)](#) - If you have an interest in a career as a mechanic (automotive or diesel) then you should take a look at UNOH. They have a variety of programs related to engines. Take a look at the link to see if they have a program that interests you.

[Kellogg Community College Industrial Trades](#) - Kellogg Community College in Battle Creek has an industrial trades training facility. This program offers added flexibility that is not typical of most colleges in that you can register for courses at any time and once you have completed your coursework at an acceptable level you no longer need to attend classes. If this sounds like a good fit for you then click on the link and explore further.

## Job Opportunities

Greenmark Industries (John Deere farm equipment) has an opportunity to help train and place you into the agriculture industry. They will help pay for coursework, provide hands-on internships, and job placement upon completion of their program. A representative from the program will be here to meet with students on Oct. 18 at 1:00. Please [sign up here](#) if you are interested in learning more about the program.

[Ralph Moyle Industries](#) - Ralph Moyle is a trucking company based out of the Mattawan/Paw Paw area. They are constantly advertising about needing drivers. They also have a trained apprenticeship program to allow you to get paid while you learn on the job. Check out the link for more information.