

Junior Seminars

March 2020

Before we get started:

- *Please pick up the packet with your student's name*
- *Please complete the student information form and turn it in before you leave today*
- *Grab any additional handouts that you would like to take home*

Agenda

- High school graduation requirements
- Post-secondary options
- College admission requirements
- College credit opportunities at MHS
- Junior/senior timeline
- College admissions tests
- Student resume
- Online resources

MHS Graduation Requirements

- **English** - 4.0 credits
- **Math** - 3.0 credits
- **Science** - 3.0 credits
- **Social Studies** - 3.0 credits
- **Physical Education** - 1.5 credits
- **Health** - 0.5 credits
- **Financial Literacy** - 0.5 credits
- **Additional Credit Requirement:**
 - Option A:**
Fine Arts - 1.0 credit and CTE - 1.0 credit
 - Option B:**
World Language - through level III proficiency
Fine Arts - 0.5 credit and CTE - 0.5 credit
- **Electives** - 4.0-6.0 credits
- **Service Learning** - 40 hours

Total Credit Requirements - 23.75

Graduation Requirement Checklist

Subject Area	Required	Earned	In Progress	Scheduled	Completed?	Notes
Career & Tech Ed	1.0 (Option A) or .5 (Option B)					
Electives/Advisory	varies					
English	4.0					
Financial Literacy	.5					
Fine Arts	1.0 (Option A) or .5 (Option B)					
Health	.5					
Mathematics	3.0					
Physical Education	1.5					
Science	3.0					
Service Learning	40 hours					
Social Studies	3.0					
World Language	0.0 (Option A) or Level III (Option B)					
Total Credits	23.75					

Service Learning

- 40 hours of service are required to graduate.
- Service hours can be viewed on Infinite Campus.
- If you have additional questions, contact Service Learning Coordinator, Ben White:
bwhite@mcpasd.k12.wi.us or 829-9819
- See letter in your packet.
- Get more information [here](#).

Post-Secondary Options

- College: 4-year ([public](#), [private](#))
- Technical (more information [here](#))
- Military (more information [here](#))
- Employment (more information [here](#))
- Gap Year (more information [here](#))

Note: Today's discussion will focus mostly on college prep.

How to Select a College

- **What do you want to study?**
 - [Xello](#)
 - [Major Mania \(UW System\)](#)
 - What type of degree do you need?
- **What features are important to you?**
 - Location
 - Size of city/campus
 - Class sizes
- **Do you meet admission requirements?**
 - G.P.A.
 - ACT/SAT
 - College prep curriculum
- Identify a [“safety, target, & reach/dream”](#) school

College Admission Requirements

Criteria varies from school to school, but all colleges focus on the strength and quality of your high school curriculum. Requirements may change from year to year, so always check with your college of interest for the most up to date information.

Public Universities

English.....4 years
Mathematics.....3-4 years
Science.....3 years
Social Studies.....3 years
Academic Electives..2 years
Foreign Language....2 years*

**only applies at some public universities*

Highly Selective Colleges

English.....4 years
Mathematics.....4 years
Foreign Language....4 years*
Lab Science.....4 years
Social Studies.....3-4 years
Academic Electives....2 years

**same language*

Private 4-Year Colleges

English.....4 years
Mathematics.....3 years
Foreign Language.....2-4 years
Science.....3-4 years
Social Studies.....3-4 years
Academic Electives.....2 years

Technical/Community Colleges

Varies greatly from an open door admission policy to selective course requirements by the different departments.

Another Important Factor...Money! \$\$\$

- **How much does it cost?**
 - All college websites include a Net Price Calculator/Cost of attendance
 - [College Navigator](#) is a helpful resource
- **Make sure to apply for financial aid!**
 - Families will be able to complete the [FAFSA](#) on or after October 1st.
 - [FAFSA4caster](#) is a financial aid estimator.
 - Assistance is available (Financial Strategies Night, FAFSA Workshop, [College Goal Wisconsin](#))
- **[Scholarships](#)**
 - College specific
 - Local
 - State & national

College Credit Opportunities at MHS

- Advanced Placement (AP)
Examples: AP Psychology, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, etc.
For specific information on how colleges grant credit, visit [College Board](#).
- Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP, UW-Oshkosh)
Examples: World languages - levels V and VI, Personal Finance, Sociology, etc.
For specific information on how Colleges that accept CAPP credit visit [CAPP](#).
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW, MSOE, etc.)
Examples: Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Introduction to Engineering Design, etc.
- Early College Achievement Program (ECAP, Madison College)
Examples: Technical College Math, Computer Applications, etc.
- Please see pages 8 - 9 of the [course offering book](#) for additional information.

Junior Year Timeline

- Review & understand high school graduation requirements and college admissions requirements.
- Attend [college visits](#) in Student Services.
- Jumpstart your college search by reading about majors, careers and colleges - [Xello](#) is a great resource.
- If possible, visit college campuses.
- Research schools of interest and request additional information as needed.
- Compare college costs, learn about financial aid and scholarships.
- If needed, retake the the ACT and/or SAT in June or in the fall.
- Take the Advanced Placement (AP) exams and/or SAT subject tests (if applicable, May or June).
- Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job, or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.
- Update your student resume.

Senior Year Timeline

- Attend the senior class meeting (September).
- Schedule an appointment with your school counselor prior to submitting college applications.
- Talk to your counselor to see if you qualify for application fee waivers.
- Attend High School 101 (September).
- Ask your school counselor and teacher(s) for recommendations if needed.
- If needed, register for the ACT/SAT/SAT subject tests for the fall dates.
- Create a master calendar of important dates, deadlines, etc.
(UW system schools start accepting applications on August 1 for the following fall semester)
 - They will not begin to review applications until mid-September
- Update your resume/profile of activities, clubs, volunteer list, awards and honors, & work experience.

Senior Year Timeline (continued)

- Attend college visits in Student Services.
- Attend Financial Strategies Night (fall semester, date TBD).
- Complete the FAFSA on or after October 1st.
- Review scholarship opportunities listed on the MHS website and other scholarship searches on a regular basis.
- Upon completion of first semester, submit mid-year reports/grades if needed.
- Submit the local scholarship application to Student Services (February)
- Inform your counselor where you plan to attend college or what your plans are following high school.

Factors in Admissions Decisions: “State of College Admission” finds colleges focus more on academics than personal characteristics and value first-generation status over race/ethnicity.

2018 #Admissions Insider

Characteristic	Considerable Influence	Moderate Influence	Limited Influence	No Influence
High school attended	3.6%	18.1%	36.7%	41.6%
Race/ethnicity	2.4%	13.0%	20.7%	63.9%
State or county of residence	1.2%	7.9%	23.6%	67.3%
First-generation status	4.2%	12.6%	32.3%	50.9%
Ability to pay	1.2%	4.2%	13.7%	81.0%
Gender	1.8%	3.0%	17.9%	77.4%
Alumni ties	1.2%	11.3%	38.1%	49.4%

Factors in Admissions Decisions: “State of College Admission” finds colleges focus more on academics than personal characteristics and value first-generation status over race/ethnicity.

2018 #Admissions Insider

Factor	Considerable Influence	Moderate Influence	Limited Influence	No Influence
Grades (all courses)	80.9%	10.4%	5.8%	2.9%
Grades (college prep)	70.8%	17.5%	8.8%	2.9%
Test scores (SAT, ACT)	52.3%	30.8%	14.5%	2.3%
Strength of curriculum	51.2%	29.3%	12.9%	6.5%
Essay or writing sample	16.7%	36.9%	20.8%	25.6%
Counselor recommendation	10.8%	46.1%	28.7%	14.4%
Demonstrated interest	15.5%	21.4%	34.5%	28.6%
Teacher recommendation	7.1%	46.4%	29.2%	17.3%

College Visits

On-Campus College Visits:

- Very important!
- Helpful in determining if school is a good fit ([CollegeBoard Big Future](#))
- See [list of questions](#) in handouts
- Try to visit when the school is in session
- If possible, meet with admissions and/or someone in your field of interest

College Visits to MHS:

- Take place in Student Services; see Ms. Middleton for a pass
- LOTS of opportunities each fall and spring (including military and trades)
- Listed in daily announcements and on [MHS website](#)
- Great opportunity to talk one-on-one with admission representatives

College Admissions Tests

- ACT (www.act.org) and/or SAT (www.collegeboard.org)
- Fee waivers are available for those students who qualify, please see your school counselor.
- The Benefits of Multiple Test Scores:
 - Effort speaks to colleges.
 - Some colleges will combine the highest sub sections of each test (superscore).
 - Colleges always use the highest score - they want to see potential.
 - ACT versus SAT - which one is your child better at?
 - ACT: Curriculum-based test (English, math, reading, science and writing)
 - SAT: Aptitude-based test (reading, writing and language, math, and essay).
 - Scoring of each test is different- make sure you know the scoring guidelines before testing
- There are some test-optional schools, but not common (ex. Ripon and Carthage)
- ASPIRE score reports show predicted ACT scores

Major Changes Coming to the ACT in Sep of 2020!

- Section Retesting
 - Available to all students who have taken the full ACT test (that will be all of you!)
 - Can retake one section or subject of an ACT at a time.
 - Will be offered seven times a year, on the same dates as the national ACT test.
 - Students may take up to three section retests on any one test date.
 - There are no limits on the number of times a student may take a retest.
- Superscoring
 - Recalculation which shows the highest possible composite score across multiple ACT tests and ACT Section Retests.
 - Reflects the average of the four best subject scores from each of the student's ACT test attempts.
 - Colleges set their own policies on superscoring.
 - ACT will supply them at least one full composite score with each superscore, plus all of the scores from the test events that are part of the superscore composite.
- Faster results with Online Testing
 - Students will now be able to choose paper or online.
 - If they choose online, they could receive scores as early as 2 business days after the test date.

ACT and SAT dates for the 2019-20 School Year

ACT Test Dates:

April 4, 2020

June 13, 2020

July 18, 2020

SAT Test Dates:

May 2, 2020

June 6, 2020

College Applications

- UW System (including UW Colleges 2-year campuses)
 - August 1: Application becomes available
 - September 1: Students may begin submitting applications
 - September 15: UW System starts processing applications
- The Common Application
 - Used by more than 800 colleges
 - Enter your information one time and use it to apply to multiple schools (separate essays/personal statements & other questions may be required for each school)
 - August 1: Application becomes available

College Applications (continued)

- Coalition for College Access
 - More than 140 colleges & universities
- Common Black College Application
 - Apply to any number of the 53 HBCUs at one time
 - Student is asked to select their top 4 college choices, but their application is made available to all 53 member institutions
- Types of Application Decisions: Early Decision & Early Action
 - Early Decision: student applies early and decision is binding
 - Early Action: student applies early and decision is non-binding

Application Timeline Ins and Outs

- Early Decision
 - Typically a Nov 1 deadline
 - Decision is binding
 - Examples: Brown, Macalester, Northwestern
- Restrictive Early Action
 - Allows students to apply to only one early action institutions and to no institutions early decision
 - Examples: Yale, Stanford
- Non-Restrictive Early Action
 - No restrictions, just getting applications in earlier for an earlier result
 - Examples: UW-Madison, Notre Dame
- Rolling Admission
 - Schools that consider applications as they arrive and admit accordingly until the application deadline or until spots are filled.
 - These schools still may have priority and regular deadlines
 - Example, UW-Eau Claire priority 12/1 deadline; 2/1 regular deadline

Applications & Personal Statements

- Make sure to answer the question
- Provide specific examples
- Pick a topic that sets you apart from other applicants
- Don't use buzzwords or cliches ("I've always wanted to be a Badger!")
- Have several people read it!
- Longer isn't necessarily better - do not go beyond the maximum length
- Address weak academic records or other extenuating circumstances - this is your chance to tell your story!
- [BigFuture College Essay resource](#)
- Fall ASR college essay help sessions with English Department.

Activities Resume

- Extracurricular activities - doesn't need to be a long list, but it should show commitment
- May include activities in and out of school
- Include community service and volunteer work
- Include employment
- Highlight leadership - captain, officer, tutor, first chair, trainer, coach, camp counselor, Sunday school teacher, etc.
- Highlight recognitions - Solo & Ensemble, All Conference, MVP, Most Improved, Sportsmanship, manager, academic letter, Badger State Award, art work display in museum or gallery, etc.

*Xello has a great resume builder tool!

Application Process and Checklist

- Students receive a step-by-step handout at the all class senior meeting in September.
- Handout is specific for 4 year, 2 year, & Common Application colleges/universities.

Note: Details may change from year to year.

Article: [Data on Admissions](#)

Transitioning 504 and IEP plans

- IEP - Ends with high school graduation, most colleges will meet upon request to review the Transition Plan Summary of Performance, discuss what supports could look like
- 504 - High School plan ends with graduation, most colleges will meet upon request to discuss what supports could look like
 - Common accommodations - extra time/alternate location for tests, use of writing, math, tutor labs, mental health services, additional support from academic advisor in planning course load
- Some universities may have alternative application review process conducted by Center for Students with Disabilities (i.e. UW Whitewater)
 - Student must self-disclose disability on application (essay, statement)

Online Resources

[MHS Website](#) → For Students/For Parents → Post High School Planning

- College Resource Center
- Events and Presentations
- Summer Opportunities
- ACT/SAT Information
- Financial Aid
- Scholarships
- Transcripts
- Apprenticeships
- Gap Year Opportunities
- Military
- Work

Parent/Guardian Share Out

For those of you who have been through this process before, what suggestions or advice do you have to share with others?

Need a laugh with the stress of college admissions? If so, check out this article:

[College Admissions Shocker](#)

Questions?

If you have not already done so:

- *Complete the student information form and turn it in before you leave*
- *Grab any additional handouts that you would like to take home*
- ***Students Only:** Please get out your phones and text the number below to join your counselors' remind group! Make sure to include the @ symbol*
 - *Mr Athanas - @mrathanas to the number 81010*
 - *Ms. Brendemuehl - @642de6 to the number 81010*
 - *Ms. Brown- @brownthere to the number 81010*
 - *Mr. Kusch- @kuschc to the number 81010*
 - *Ms. Pellegrino- @33k744 to the number 81010*
 - *Ms. Smith- @smithmhs21 to the number 81010*