

# Fall Senior Information

Class of 2024

The background features a large, stylized graphic composed of overlapping, wavy shapes. A prominent dark red shape curves across the bottom and left side. Overlapping this is a lighter, semi-transparent red shape that also curves across the bottom. At the very bottom, there is a thin, light grey curved band.

# Did you know that...

- Most years about 60%-68% of MWHHS graduating seniors indicate that they will be attending a 4 year college. That means on average 32%-40% choose some other post-secondary path: 2-year degree, certificate or diploma program, military, gap year, full-time employment, etc.
- Three members of the Class of 2023 went into the military.
- There are 10 different community and technical colleges (both in state and out) that members of the Class of 2023 are attending this fall.

# Did you know that...

- According to the senior survey for the class of 2023, the top colleges that students are attending this year are:
  - University of MN Twin Cities (15)
  - University of MN Duluth (9)
  - MN State University Mankato (8)
  - Iowa State University (8)
- When asked what they would've done differently with post-secondary planning if they had it to do over again:
  - 69 (37%) said 'work harder on studies throughout high school'
  - 60 (32%) said 'visit more colleges'
  - 49(26%) said 'spend more time researching all types of post-secondary options'

# Important New Information

- New this year: All students must have completed ALL graduation requirements PRIOR to graduation in order to take part in the graduation ceremony.
- The new college/career planning tool that we will use moving forward is called MCIS (MN Career Information System). Access through CLEVER.
- The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will not be released until December 2023 (typically October 1). Financial Aid Information Night is being held on Monday, December 4th.

# Many post-secondary options:

## Those requiring college applications:

- Public or Private 4-year college/university
- Public or private 2-year college
  - Community College
  - Technical College
    - Certificate
    - Diploma
    - Degree

## Those not requiring college applications:

- Military
- [Apprenticeship Programs](#)
  - [ICATT Apprenticeship](#)
- Certification courses
  - Real Estate
  - Flight Attendant
  - Cosmetology
- [Formal Gap Year Programs](#)
- Full-time work

# What to do when: NOW

If pursuing an option that requires an application:

- Narrow down choices
  - Online research
  - College Fairs
  - College Visits
  - College Rep Visits
- Complete applications for admission to college of your choice

If pursuing an option that does not require an application:

- Military
- [Apprenticeship Programs](#)
  - [ICATT Apprenticeship](#)
- Certification courses
  - Real Estate
  - Flight Attendant
  - Cosmetology
- [Formal Gap Year Programs](#)
- Full-time work

# What to do when: MEA-Spring Break

## If pursuing an option that requires an application:

- Continue to complete and submit applications as needed
- Attend Financial Aid Information Night in December and complete FAFSA after the release in Dec/Jan
- Search for national scholarships
- Submit the local scholarship application (online in February)

## If pursuing an option that does not require an application:

- Set up a shadow opportunity, informational interview or informational meeting
- Meet with or get in communication with appropriate representatives
- Complete any necessary application or other paperwork.

# What to do when: Spring Break - June

## If pursuing an option that requires an application:

- Review financial aid packages
- Confirm enrollment at college of your choice and adhere to deposit deadlines
- Request a final transcript to be sent to the college that you plan to attend - Parchment
- Complete the required senior survey at that end of the year - through WIN with counselors

## If pursuing an option that does not require an application:

- Confirm enrollment or start date
- Follow through on any program specific requirements to assure a smooth transition
- Complete the required senior survey at the end of the year - through WIN with counselors



# Gather information

- Online research
  - MCIS - login through Clever
  - Specific college sites
- Campus visits
- College Rep visits
- Discussions with parents, teachers, coaches, etc.
- [National College Fair](#)

# Upcoming College Rep Visits

Sept 21st @ 2:00 (WIN 2) --> St. Olaf College, Northfield MN

Sept 21st @ 2:30 (WIN 3) --> Iowa State University

Oct 5th @ 2:15 (WIN 2) --> University of Kansas

Oct 12th @ 1:30 (WIN 1), 2:00 (WIN 2) and 2:30 (WIN 3) --> University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Oct 12th @ 2:30 (WIN 3) --> University of Wisconsin - River Falls

Oct 16th @ 11:26 (Lunch B) and 11:52 (Lunch C) --> Drake University, Des Moines

Oct 17th @ 11:26 (Lunch B) and 11:52 (Lunch C) --> University of North Dakota

Nov 2nd @ 1:30 (WIN 1) --> University of Iowa

# National College Fair

- Wednesday October 4th: 9-12 & 5-8
- Thursday, October 5th: 9-12
- Minneapolis Convention Center
- Must register for the event online prior to attending
- Over 250 participating colleges and scheduled information sessions
- Virtual options also available

# College Applications: 2-3 main parts

## Application Form:

Completed online

Most schools offer application options:

- Institutional
- Common App
- Coalition App

Application fee possibility

## Official HS Transcript:

Some colleges allow grades and GPA to be self reported

If using Common App official transcript will be sent by counselor through the SSR

For all other applications official transcripts must be requested through Parchment (small fee)

## ACT/SAT Test Scores:

Most colleges continue to be test optional or test blind for the Class of 2024

MWHS does NOT send test scores to colleges

1. Through test registration
2. Request through online account

# College Application Options: Common App

Use if applying to multiple colleges that accept the Common App.

[What is the Common App?](#)

Once you add schools under MY COLLEGES, you will be able to see that school's specific requirements.

\*Please invite your counselor under the FERPA/Recommenders section.

\*Use our @westonka.k12.mn.us email address.

If recommenders are required by your colleges, be sure to check with those people prior, provide them with a completed copy of the [MWHS recommendation Form](#) and allow at least 2 weeks.

## My Colleges

Bowdoin College ▼

Colby College ▼

Colgate University ▲

College Information

### Application

Questions

Recommenders and  
FERPA

Review and Submit -  
Common App

Georgia Institute of  
Technology ▼

# Recommenders and FERPA

Recommenders are people who will submit forms to colleges on your behalf. This page shows which recommender types this college needs. Each college will have different requirements.

## ⚠️ FERPA Release Authorization

Before you can invite your counselor, teachers, recommenders, parents, or advisors, you must complete the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release authorization process.

[Learn more about FERPA](#)

[Complete Release Authorization](#)

[Continue](#)

# College Application Options: Institutional Applications

Specific to each college

Found on the college website under admissions. Look for an APPLY NOW button.

Will require an account set up

Requirements will vary by college: academic history, essay, recommendation forms, etc.

[Coalition Application](#): is less popular, but is an option for some schools. Please talk with your counselor if you are planning on completing the Coalition App.

# College Applications: Additional Requirements

## Counselor Forms:

- Not required by all colleges
- Common App:
  - ◆ Secondary School Report is required for all colleges
  - ◆ Counselor Recommendation is only required by specific colleges.
- Notify counselor and submit a [MWHS Recommendation Form](#)
- Expect at least a 2 week turnaround.
- Must invite counselor before we can access necessary forms

## Recommendations:

- Not required by all colleges
- Understand the process and notify the teacher/advisor prior
- Submit a [MWHS Recommendation Form](#)
- Allow enough time - 2 week minimum
- Write a thank you note



# Sending High School Transcripts

\*Note: if applying to a college using the Common App, an official transcript will be sent by your counselor through the Secondary School Report. So, you don't need to request through Parchment.

Parchment: secure electronic transcript delivery service. All transcript requests must go through Parchment if not using the Common App.

Set up an account if you did not last spring. Will need one to send your final transcript at the end of the year - even if using the Common App right now.

Recommended that you use an email other than your school email and record your username and password, MWHS does not have access to this. Parchment Support

Every time you make a request, your most updated transcript gets sent (not a copy of what might be stored in your account from when you first set up the account).

# Sending Test Scores

Test scores are not required for most school for the class of 2024: most test optional, some test free (will not look at scores). For test optional: If you feel like your score is an accurate representation of your ability and will help your chances of admission, you should submit it.

If you choose not to submit a test score, you should assume that other parts of your application (class rigor, GPA, activities) will weigh more heavily on admission decision.

## Sending ACT Scores:

- Refer to [MyACT](#) account - you set up last year to take the district ACT test
- Cost (around \$16) per score sent.
- MWHS does not send scores.

## Retakes:

- Refer to [MyACT](#) account
- Registration deadline 1 month prior to test date
- Upcoming test dates: October 28th and December 9th

# MN Goes to College



MN Office of Higher Education effort to provide graduating seniors with support and resources to apply and enroll in college.

Runs throughout the month of October.

Several MN schools waive application fees during all or part of the month. [Here](#) is a list with specific information.

Counselors will be hosting optional application help sessions during WIN on the following dates:

- October 5th: WIN 1 and WIN 2
- October 26th WIN 1 and WIN 2

# Need help?

## MWHS:

- No matter where you are in the process, we're happy to work through the steps with you and evaluate your options.
  - Email us for an appointment
  - Make an appointment with Ms. Heier in the counseling office
- WIN College Application Help Sessions October 5 & 26 - general help
- WIN Help Bulman/Baumann:
  - 9/21: activities statements/Personal Statement Do's/Don'ts
  - 9/28: Why this college/DEI statements/Major Statements
  - 10/12: Essay editing and support

## Digital Resources:

- College Essay Guy (Web, Instagram, youtube)
- AdmissionsMaven (TikTok, Instagram)

# FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- Complete the FAFSA each year.
- 2024-25 academic year release December 2023.
  - Subsequent years will go back to October 1 release.
- You will use your 2022 tax information (prior, prior year). All of the information will be automatically accessed from the IRS through the Direct Data Exchange.
- [FAFSA](#) - make sure that you use the .gov not .com. You do not need to pay anything to complete the FAFSA.
- You and a parent will need to set up a FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID to sign the FAFSA electronically. It is recommended that you do that at least 3-5 days before you plan to complete the FAFSA.

# Financial Aid Information Night

## Financial Aid Information Night:

- Monday, December 4th
- 6:30 PM



- Speaker: Susan Ant, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Normandale Community College
- In depth review of the FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid process
- Available to answer specific questions
- Parents and students are invited

# Scholarships

- Local Scholarship Program - more information to come in February
- Financial Aid Office of the college/university that you plan to attend
- Employers or service organizations that your parents or other family members belong to
- National scholarship search sites
  - Scholarship List (under the Education tab) in MCIS
  - Fastweb: <https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships>
  - Finaid: <https://finaid.org/scholarships/>