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# Junior Information Session

Spring 2025

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# Plan for today

- ACT Review
  - Transcript Check
  - Important benchmarks through semester 1 senior year
  - Non four-year options
  - College Application Process
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# Future ACT National Test

- Students register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)
  - Test dates this year:
    - June 14
    - July 12
  - Registration is typically due one month prior
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# ACT & College Admissions

- ACT was NOT required for most schools for the class of 2025
  - Most colleges will remain some version of test optional for class of 2025 (exceptions in FL, GA, TX)
  - University of Minnesota has already decided NOT to require it through 2026
  - You should check admissions pages of colleges that you are interested in applying to
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# ACT & College Admissions

- If students do not submit an ACT, they should assume that other parts will weigh more heavily in the admission decision.
    - This includes: course rigor, gpa, part time employment, variety of activities with leadership, etc.
  - Students should consider “traditional ACT requirements” when deciding if they should include their ACT score. If it will help their application, they should include it.
  - Most schools will post the middle 50% of submitted ACT scores on their website
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# Checking your transcript....

Reviewing your transcript will give you a better idea of **how you are represented when it is shared with others** (employers, scholarships, colleges)

Reviewing your transcript allows you to make sure you are **on track for graduation** at MWHS and meeting any admission requirements colleges might have

Reviewing your transcript **helps you plan for the future** by guiding course selection and goal setting for GPA

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**MOUND WESTONKA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**5905 SUNNYFIELD ROAD EAST**  
**MINNETRISTA, MN 55364**  
**PHONE: (952) 491-8100**  
**WESTONKA ISD #277**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ State ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level: GD Entered: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrew: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade 09 - 09 Year 2010					Grade 10 - 10 Year 2011				
Course	Course	Earned	To Be Earned	S1 S2	Course	Course	Earned	To Be Earned	S1 S2
0090	ENGLISH 9 A	0.500	0.000	C	0100	ENGLISH 10 A	0.500	0.000	B-
0091	ENGLISH 9 B	0.500	0.000		0101	ENGLISH 10 B	0.500	0.000	C
0092	SPEECH 9	0.250	0.000	B+	0141	ADV AM HIST 10A	0.500	0.000	B+
0147	GEOGRAPHY	0.500	0.000	B	0142	ADV AM HIST 10B	0.500	0.000	B
0167	PHY ED 9	0.500	0.000		0172	BODY SHOP	0.500	0.000	B+
0168	HEALTH 9	0.250	0.000	A	0184	BIOLOGY A	0.500	0.000	B
0182	PHY SCIENCE A	0.500	0.000	B	0185	BIOLOGY B	0.500	0.000	C+
0183	PHY SCIENCE B	0.500	0.000		0220	ALGEBRA II X A	0.500	0.000	B-
0214	GEOMETRY A	0.500	0.000	B-	0221	ALGEBRA II X B	0.500	0.000	C
0215	GEOMETRY B	0.500	0.000		0245	SPANISH III A	0.500	0.000	C+
0243	SPANISH II A	0.500	0.000	C+	0246	SPANISH III B	0.500	0.000	C
0244	SPANISH II B	0.500	0.000		0292	INTRO CAD DRAFT	0.500	0.000	A
0410	DRAWING I	0.500	0.000		0419	CERAMICS I	0.500	0.000	A-
0415	ART I	0.500	0.000	A-	9512	WGI PERU	0.500	0.000	P
		<b>4.500</b>	<b>0.000</b>				<b>7.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	

Grade 11 - 11 Year 2012					Grade 12 - 12 Year 2013				
Course	Course	Eamed	To Be Earned	S1 S2	Course	Course	Eamed	To Be Earned	S1 S2
0112	ENGLISH 11A	0.500	0.000	A-	0123	ADV COMP I	0.500	0.000	B
0113	ENGLISH 11B	0.500	0.000		0124	ADV COMP II	0.500	0.000	B
0143	ADV WORLD H 11A	0.500	0.000	B	0156	ADV AM GOVT 12A	0.500	0.000	A
0144	ADV WORLD H 11B	0.500	0.000		0157	ADV ECON 12B	0.500	0.000	A-
0187	CHEMISTRY A	0.500	0.000	C	0163	PSYCHOLOGY	0.500	0.000	A
0188	CHEMISTRY B	0.500	0.000		0192	PHYSICS A	0.500	0.000	A
0222	FST	0.500	0.000	C+	0193	PHYSICS B	0.500	0.000	A-
0223	FST	0.500	0.000		0226	GEN STATISTICS	0.500	0.000	A-
0231	BODY SHOP II	0.500	0.000	B+	0416	PAINTING I	0.500	0.000	A
0253	SPAN IV-HSP CU	0.500	0.000	C	0605	ELE TEACH AST A	0.500	0.000	P
0270	JR ACTV/COLLEGE	0.500	0.000	B+	0606	ELE TEACH AST B	0.500	0.000	P
9512	WESTONKA SUMMER INST. CHINA	0.500	0.000	P	0607	HS TEACH AST A	0.500	0.000	P
LINK	LINK LEADER	0.500	0.000	P			<b>6.000</b>	<b>0.000</b>	
		<b>6.500</b>	<b>0.000</b>						

Total Earned Credits	26.00
Cumulative GPA	3.050
Credits Required for Graduation	23.500

Code	Date	Date	Date
BTP	11/16/1994	01/18/1995	03/23/1995
HspB	09/15/1994	11/16/1994	09/15/1995
IPV	11/18/1994	01/18/1995	03/23/1995
MMR	09/15/1995	05/22/2000	
Total	06/15/2007		

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

### A. REQUIRED COURSES

#### ENGLISH (4 credits)

- \_\_\_\_\_ English 9 or Honors English 9 A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 9 or Honors English 9 B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Speech 9  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 10 or Honors English 10 A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 10 or Honors English 10 B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 11 or Hon. Lit 11 A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 11 or Hon. Lit 11 B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 12, Adv. Comp., or AP Lit A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ English 12, Adv. Comp., or AP Lit B

#### SOCIAL STUDIES (3.5 credits)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Geography  
 \_\_\_\_\_ American History, Adv., or AP 10A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ American History, Adv., or AP 10B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ World History, Adv., or AP 11A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ World History, Adv., or AP 11B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Government, Adv., or AP 12A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Economics, Adv., or AP 12B

#### SCIENCE (3 credits)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Science A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Science B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Biology or AP Biology A  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Biology or AP Biology B  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Science Elective (Chem or Physics A)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Science Elective (Chem or Physics B)

#### MATH (3 credits)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Math  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Math  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Math  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Math  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Math  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Math  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Statistics

#### HEALTH (.25 credit)

\_\_\_\_\_ Health 9

#### PHY. ED. (.5 credit)

\_\_\_\_\_ Phys. Ed. 9

#### FINE ART (1 credit)

(Visual or Performing)

\_\_\_\_\_ Semester

\_\_\_\_\_ Semester

### B. CREDITS

(23.5 minimum required for graduation)

Credit earned = \_\_\_\_\_

Credits remaining = \_\_\_\_\_

### COURSES NEEDED SENIOR YEAR

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Graduation Requirements

- 4.0 credits: English
- .25 credit: Speech (exempt if you did not attend MWHS in 9th grade)
- 3.5 credits: Social Studies
- 3.0 credits: Science
- 3.0 credits: Math (including statistics)
- .25 credit: Health
- .5 credit: Phy Ed
- 1.0 credit: Performing or visual art
- 8 credits: additional classes of your choice

**TOTAL: 23.5** (each semester is  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit)

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# Checking Your Credits

- Each semester class you pass gets “a check”
  - .25 credit is awarded for Health and Speech
  - Work through the years on your transcript
  - Math will be different for everyone (must include stats):
    - Geometry with Stats
    - FST
    - Online Statistics
    - AP Stats
    - Applied Math
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## What's Next?

- Contact your counselor with questions
  - If you do not have enough credits for next year (can earn a max of 7), make arrangements to get those credits done via summer school or night school.
  - Make sure your schedule next year reflects what you need to graduate
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## Next 9 months

- **Now:** continue to complete college visits, look at alternative options, refine list of post secondary options
  - **End of Junior year:** Check transcript. Make sure all high school graduation requirements are accounted for.
  - **Summer:** Prepare for applications. Consider recommenders if required, brainstorm essay topics if needed. Prep essays: some schools could require multiple essays.
  - **Late August/Early September:** Applications open-review requirements and begin the process. Note deadlines.
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## Fall semester senior year

- **September-October:** complete and submit applications (early deadlines)
  - **Late September:** Attend the Financial Aid Information Night
  - **October 1:** FAFSA opens (this is a change from last year)
  - **November:** Research national scholarship opportunities through places of employment, scholarship search sites, etc.
  - **November-January:** Await admissions decisions and confirm enrollment
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# Interested in non-four year options?

ICATT Apprenticeship Program: helps manufacturers and companies attack the talent shortage with a sustainable solution that provides a pipeline of talent.

Dunwoody Monthly Open Houses: experience what a vocational school experience would look like

Hennepin Technical College Weekly Tours: available at both campuses

Minneapolis College Open House: experience community college and vocational opportunities

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# Interested in non-four year options?

## [Consider looking into the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum](#)

- Designed to provide a seamless transition to a Minnesota four year college or university after completing designated classes
  - You can start at a variety of colleges including, Normandale, Minneapolis College, or Hennepin Technical College
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# What makes an application complete

- Application submitted
  - Application fee paid
  - Transcript sent through Common App or Parchment
  - Standardized test scores sent when applicable
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## Be aware of different deadlines:

**Rolling Decision:** Applications will be reviewed as they are accepted

**Regular Decision:** Applications are due on a certain date and reviewed in no particular order

**Early Action:** Students apply by certain date and are guaranteed a decision by a certain date

**Early Decision:** Students apply by a certain date and get a decision by a certain date. **THIS IS BINDING:** upon acceptance, student must withdraw all other application at other institutions.

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# Different types of applications

- **Institutional Application:** published by the college or university only for that particular college or college system (e.g. Wisconsin or Minnesota university system).
  - **Common Application:** a general application that many colleges use for admission. General information is shareable but colleges might have supplemental requirements.
  - **Coalition Application:** general application that is used by other institutions. The Coalition App is meant to be more of a portfolio tool aimed at equal access for high school seniors.
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# Essays

- An opportunity bring the applicant to life and share what NOT in other areas of the application
  - Recommended to stay away from talking about a sport/activity unless you are going to talk about a specific personal characteristic or skill that was developed
  - Students should be comfortable with doing multiple drafts and digging into the “micro” aspects of things
  - How does this narrative make you stand out against other applicants and contribute to their campus
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- Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
  - The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
  - Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
  - Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
  - Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
  - Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
  - Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.
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It is important to St. Thomas that everyone understands the role they play in creating an inclusive environment on campus and in the broader community. Please share your thoughts and personal experience with diversity, equity and inclusion. Address topics like socioeconomic status, race, ability, sexual orientation or other examples. Most importantly, speak from the heart.

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Tell us why you decided to apply to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, please include why you are interested in studying the major(s) you have selected. If you selected undecided please describe your areas of possible academic interest. (you may enter up to 650 words). \*

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# Letters of Recommendation

- Not all colleges require a recommendation: check before asking
  - Recommendation form: might be required INSTEAD of a letter
  - Give recommender at least two weeks to write a letter or complete form
  - Request in person with a [“WHS Recommendation Form”](#) available for reference (should be done before assigned in Common App)
  - Thank the recommender via a thank you note
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# New for the Class of 2026

## Direct Admission Minnesota

- Qualified Seniors will be offered automatic admission based on academic record at [participating colleges/universities \(50+\)](#) in Minnesota
  - Students will need to identify the institutions that they would like to hear from and “opt in” to the process
  - Colleges will still require an application, but invited students will know before submitting that they were admitted
  - More information coming in the late Spring; please encourage your student to review and complete the form when it comes
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## Final reminders:

- College research tools are available through MCIS
  - College Rep visits will increase this spring: these are great resources to learn more about ANY college
  - Virtual College Fairs are available throughout the spring; they are another great tool to learn more about a college that isn't local
  - Campus visits can be scheduled directly on a college website
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