

Senior Parent Program Minnetonka High School

Webinar -- September 15, 2021

An overview of this presentation

- Introduction of MHS Counselors & College Counselor
- Role of the parent and counselor, as well as the student
- Profile from Minnetonka High School
- The Application Process
- Trends in College Admissions
- Important Dates for Seniors and Senior Parents
- Recommended Websites
- Our Pledge

MHS Counselors

Brad Burnham

Sarah Seldon

Theresa Exenberger

Conor Maher

Stephanie McClendon

Cassie Klein

Monica Jones

Amanda Wavrin

Kendra Olson

David Bierly

Phil Trout

A-Brb

Brc-De

Df-Gn

Go-H

I-Lar

Las-Moh

Moi-Pom

Pon-Schu

Schv-Tun

Tuo-Z

College Counselor

What is the role of parents?

- a) Believe in your child's abilities
- b) Continue to take an interest in your child's academic life
- c) Keep an open dialogue about the college search and be clear about financial expectations – do some research with net price calculators
- d) Stay in touch with your child's counselor – we all want to help our students find good matches!
- e) Address any special needs

What is the role of counselors?

- a) Believe in the student's abilities
- b) Communicate on deadlines/timeline about the admissions process at recommended colleges
- c) Stay in touch about student's progress – for post high school plans, as well as graduation
- d) Monitor application activity – for admissions and financial aid/scholarships
- e) When needed, write the counselor letter

Minnetonka High School Profile from 2020 & 2021

• % attending 4-year colleges	76%
• % attending 2-year colleges	10%
• % attending MN institutions	36%
• % attending out-of-state institutions	50%
• Average number of applications	5.69

Class of 2020

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota - TC

Normandale Community College

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Minnesota State, Mankato

Univ of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Class of 2021

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota - TC

Normandale Community College

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

Iowa State University

University of St. Thomas

University of Iowa

Apply for admission and financial aid in the fall!

- As the student gets ready to become an applicant, the top priority – finding the right fit! NOTE: “You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!”
- Most MHS students apply between September and December
- Separate deadline for need-based financial aid -- filing the FAFSA can be done any time after Oct 1.
- The college selection process could last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

Admission application options

Early Decision

Early decision plans are binding – a student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend the college.

Early Action

Early action plans are non-binding – students receive an **early** response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the candidate reply date of May 1.

Regular Decision

Regular decision is the process by which students apply by published deadlines, with the promise of receiving an admissions outcome no later than April 1.

Rolling Admission

Rolling admission is a policy used by many colleges to admit freshmen to undergraduate programs. Under rolling admission, candidates are invited to submit their applications at any point within a large window of time.

The application process

Anatomy of the application:

- Complete the application
- Send a transcript
- Send test score(s), if the student wishes
- Other items (teacher and/or counselor recommendation), or any supplementary materials

Different application sources:

- School Application
 - For example:
www.umn.edu
- Common Application
 - www.commonapp.org
- Coalition Application
 - www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org

Detailed information on the application process is included in the **Senior Seminar**, posted for students in Schoology.

The application process

Applying for Financial Aid

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

- Available to complete after October 1
- Uses the “prior-prior year” federal tax information
- FAFSA priority deadlines vary – most at Feb 1 or Mar 1

www.fafsa.ed.gov

CSS Profile

- Additional form required by more selective colleges

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

Applying for Scholarships

- Best source for a scholarship is the college
- Research the scholarship list in Naviance – both national and local
- We recommend this website:
<https://finaid.org/scholarships/>

Naviance

The Common Application

After finishing the education section of your Common Application, you will need to match your Common App account to your Naviance account.

- Complete the FERPA Release Authorization in the Common Application
- In the “Colleges I’m Applying To” tab in Naviance, enter your Common App email address in the “Match” box.
- Note: students use MySSO to access Naviance

Recommendations

Teacher Recommendations

1. Contact your teacher through Schoology or email to ask if they would be willing to write a recommendation.
2. If they agree, go to the Colleges tab in your Naviance account and select your teacher from the drop-down list.
3. Please allow 2-3 weeks for your teacher to process your request.

Counselor Recommendations

1. If a counselor recommendation is required, please go to the “About Me” tab in Naviance to complete the Senior Questionnaire.
2. Your counselor will want to speak with you for more information (senior meeting).
3. Please allow 2-3 weeks for your counselor to process your request.

Transcript release form

As soon as you know where you are applying, submit a Transcript Release form to MHS, which includes instructions on “how to apply.”

<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/schools/high-school/mhs/counseling/transcripts>

MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT RELEASE			
NAME (last, first) _____		GRAD YEAR _____	BIRTHDATE _____
		CELL PHONE _____	
STUDENT EMAIL _____		TODAY'S DATE _____	
CIRCLE YOUR COUNSELOR:			
Dave Bierly Brad Burnham Theresa Exenberger Monica Jones Cassie Klein Conor Maher Stephanie McClendon Kendra Olson Sarah Seldon Amanda Wavrin			
I authorize Minnetonka High School to release my official transcript to the place(s) indicated below:			
Student's Signature _____		Parent's Signature (if under 18) _____	
COLLEGE(S) or SCHOLARSHIP*:			
School:	College Deadline:		
	Early Action/Decision:	Y	N
City/State:	Common Application?	Y	N
	Counselor Recommendation Required?	Y	N
How to Apply to College:			
1. Submit each completed application directly to the college.			
2. Using the Common App? If yes:			
• Complete the FERPA Release Form in your Common App account.			

Test scores

Sent by the student only, not by MHS.

Important: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many colleges and universities have adopted a test-optional policy in admissions.

A comprehensive list is available on the [FairTest](https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional) website.

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

ACT

- You will need to know the username and password you used to create your account.
- Once you have signed in, you will click “send my scores”
- www.act.org

SAT

- This is the same account you used to see your AP scores.
- www.collegeboard.org

Writing Center help

- The adults in the Writing Center are coaches who can provide individualized guidance and strategies for writers as they work on college essays.
<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/schools/high-school/mhs/student-life/writing-center>
- Set up an appointment with the Writing Center at OnBoard.na.rapidbiz.com, using your student ID as your username and your lunch code (once) as your password.
- Several upcoming workshops on the Common App essay during the last two weeks of September!

Trends in college admissions

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic, a huge increase in the number of colleges that have adopted a test-optional policy in admission. The updated list: <https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>
- These days, the ACT and SAT are interchangeable – no longer is a test “connected” to a certain geographic setting.
- Students do NOT need to take the optional writing section in the ACT. The SAT has dropped the optional writing section. In addition, the College Board has discontinued the SAT Subject Test program.
- A growing number of colleges have adopted a self-reported academic record in the application (including all three Iowa universities, U of Illinois, Rutgers, and the U of M, Twin Cities)
- Also, many more colleges now allow students to self-report test scores on the application.
- The admission outcome could be an offer for January enrollment, rather than for fall.
- Some college campuses remain closed for tours/visits – for now. Always check the admissions website for up-to-date information.

Timeline – some upcoming dates


- After Oct 1 FAFSA opens for Class of 2022
- Oct 14-15 Parent-Teacher conferences at MHS
- Oct 20-22 No school for seniors (MEA) – perfect time for college stuff!
- Oct 25 Financial aid program (in-person and virtual)
- Nov 1 Deadline for many early action/early decision applications
- Nov 1 Early Action deadline for U of M, Twin Cities and UW-Madison

Timeline (continued)

- Nov 12 No school; opportunity for college stuff
- Nov 15 EA/ED deadline for some colleges
- November Deadline for application to University of California schools
- Jan 1 Regular decision deadline for many colleges and universities
- May 1 National candidate reply date
- June 10 Graduation day for the Class of 2022

College visits at MHS

All schedules listed in Naviance – students need to register

College Visits		 Search for colleges
SEPTEMBER Thu 16 09:15AM	Furman University 📍 Minnetonka High School, College and Career Center; Virtual Visit (Link available at visit time)	View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 16 09:15AM	Hillsdale College 📍 Minnetonka High School	View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 16 10:15AM	Drake University 📍 Minnetonka High School	View Details
SEPTEMBER Thu 16 10:15AM	University of Wisconsin-River Falls 📍 Minnetonka High School, College and Career Center	View Details

Upcoming virtual national college fairs



Sep 28
Northeastern US
College Fair

NACAC
Virtual
COLLEGE FAIRS

Sep 28 - Northeastern US Fair
Sep 28th 3:00 pm - Sep 28th 7:00 pm CDT



Oct 3
College Fair

NACAC
Virtual
COLLEGE FAIRS

Oct 3 - Signature Fair
Oct 3rd 12:00 pm - Oct 3rd 5:00 pm CDT



Oct 14
Midwest US
College Fair

NACAC
Virtual
COLLEGE FAIRS

Oct 14 - Midwest US Fair
Oct 14th 4:00 pm - Oct 14th 8:00 pm CDT



Oct 24
College Fair

NACAC
Virtual
COLLEGE FAIRS

Oct 24 - Signature Fair
Oct 24th 12:00 pm - Oct 24th 5:00 pm CDT

Register at virtualcollegefairs.org

Additional college events

The Minnesota Association for College Admission Counseling will hold a variety of college presentations and college admission/application seminars on Oct 5-7.

<http://mn-acac.org/virtualcollege>

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VIRTUAL COLLEGE EXPLORATION

Virtual College Exploration
For all Minnesota students

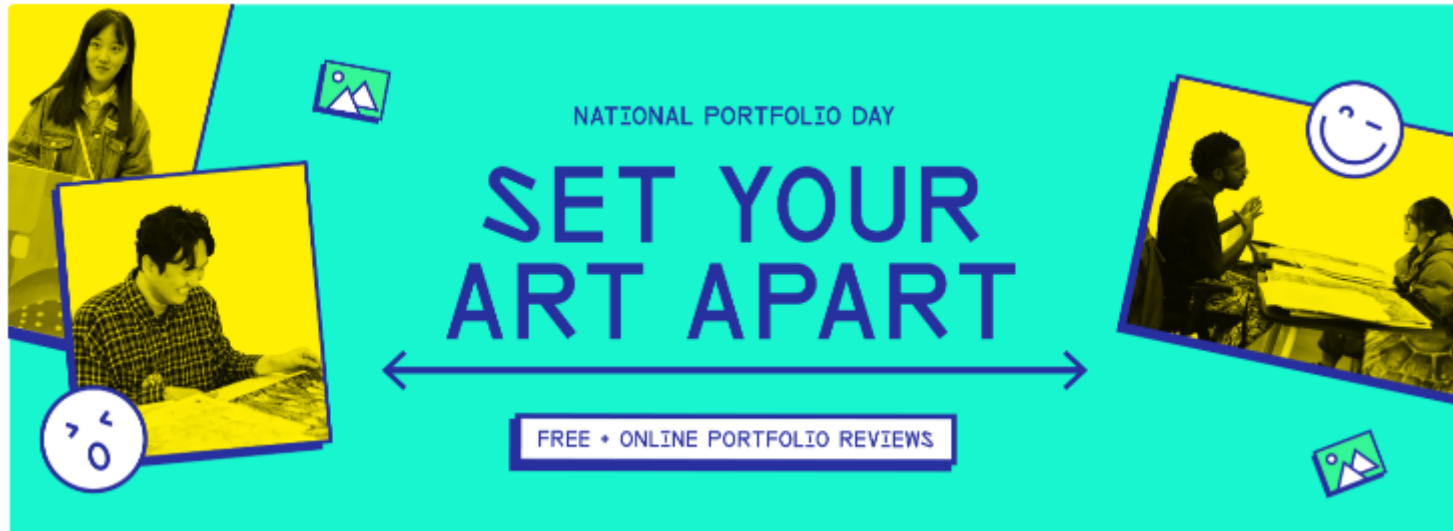
Virtual presentations for students to explore college opportunities
October 5-7, 2021


Hear from Admission Officers
Experienced admission counselors will tell you what you need to know


Gain Important College Knowledge
Choose from over 150 different presentations and information sessions


150 Colleges and Universities
Learn more about hundreds of different colleges from 29 states and 4 countries!

National Portfolio Days - Online



- 15 in-person National Portfolio Day events from Sept to Dec 2021
- Minnesota day is Sunday, October 24, 1:00-5:00 p.m. at MCAD
- Register at nationalportfolioday.org

Recommended websites

<http://student.naviance.com/minnetonka>

www.commonapp.org

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.finaid.org

collegecost.ed.gov

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

<https://myintuition.org/>

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

Minnetonka counseling model – our pledge!

- 10 School Counselors + 1 College Counselor
- Personalization and support
- Our pledge – to help each student find the best matches possible for their post-secondary experience!

Phillip Trout

College Counselor

Minnetonka High School

952-401-5746

collegeguy@minnetonkaschools.org

Twitter: @MHScollegeguy

www.minnetonkaschools.org/collegecounselor

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