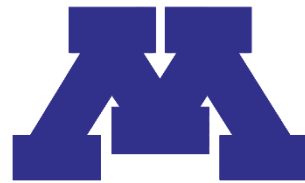




Junior Parent Coffee Hour

Resources for the Class of 2021



A Webinar for Junior Parents
June 2, 2020

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Agenda for Today's Webinar

- Recognizing our current situation, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and social unrest, following the death of George Floyd
- Timely update for students and parents in the post high school planning process – what has stayed the same? What has changed?
- Exploring and researching options, in a virtual format
- Use of Naviance
- Recommended websites/resources

Taking care of ourselves – and one another!

- Self care – personal health and mental well being
- Caring for others – in our family, our community, and our state
- Personal habits: nutrition, sleep, exercise and handwashing
- #keepitreale

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- The role of the **parent**: providing support and affirmation, being a great listener, keeping a strong interest in your child's academic and personal life, keeping an open mind about possible options and opportunities.
- Remember that it is their search – not yours.
- Be realistic about finances. Be willing to research college costs.
- The role of the **counselor**: serving as a resource to the student in all aspects of the post high school planning process.

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- The need for students to do a **self-assessment**. Figure out what **you** want – College? 2-year or 4-year? Work? Apprenticeship? Military? Gap year? Do the exercise on pages 6-7 in the Post High School Planning Guide.
<https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/uploaded/Documents/MHS/Counseling/MHS-Post-High-School-Planning-Guide.pdf>
- It might be helpful to do a Myers-Briggs personality inventory, like the **Do What You Are** assessment in Naviance. (Go to the About Me section to find the assessment)

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- For those who want college: “What do you want to get out of college? What do you look forward to doing in college? How will you become a part of the college’s legacy?”
- What are the 2 or 3 key characteristics of your college? (Setting, campus culture, academic programs, career placement, activities and personal development
- Remember that the college search process is not about “getting in,” but rather about “going.” What will it be like for you to be there?







Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- College search process is individual
 - May not be the same as friends, classmates, or siblings
 - Your list might include schools you have not heard of
 - Focus on the “fit and the match,” but not the “prize”
- Cost of attendance? The need to research net price calculator. <https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price>
- Students can use **Naviance** to build a college list. “Colleges I’m Thinking About”

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- Timeline to apply for admission
 - Applications open in the summer, after August 1, at most colleges
 - The Common App opens on August 1 – but is available now for students to get started. www.commonapp.org
 - The earliest college application deadlines are Oct 15 and Nov 1
 - Note: rolling admission colleges send out their first decisions in the summer

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- Early Decision and Early Action options
 - Early Decision is a binding agreement – it commits the admitted student to enroll. Many colleges (most of them private institutions) offer ED I and ED II, with higher acceptance rates than in Regular Decision. This is for the student who has “fallen in love.”
 - Early Action is not binding – it gives the student an earlier response, in most cases by the Christmas break. Lots of colleges and universities (including the U of M and UW-Madison) offer this option.

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- Holistic review in admissions
 - The single most important item in an application file is the **student's transcript**. Colleges will examine in detail the courses taken over the four years, the grades earned, and the growth of the student's academic achievement.
 - The majority of colleges do not require an essay, not do they require recommendations.
 - The most selective colleges require an essay (or several), in addition to recommendation letters.

Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- Timeline to apply for **financial aid**
- The FAFSA opens on Oct 1. For students in the Class of 2021, the tax document used will be from 2019. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Every college has a net price calculator on their admissions web site – it's time well spent!
- Every college that offers merit scholarships has a full listing in their admissions web site. In most cases, an application for admission is also an application for scholarships.
- An interesting web site: www.myintuition.org

Post High School Planning – So what has changed?

- Testing requirements
 - There are several hundred colleges and universities that have gone test score optional for 2021, including BU, Carleton, Colgate, Fordham, Macalester, Northeastern, Pomona, Tulane, and all the campuses of the University of California system.
<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
- All spring testing dates for ACT and SAT were cancelled. A huge number of students have yet to take either test.
- No student needs to take the optional writing section of the ACT or SAT

Post High School Planning – So what has changed

Students can register for an upcoming ACT or SAT test

ACT

July 18

Sept 12

Oct 24

www.actstudent.org

SAT

Aug 29

Oct 3

Nov 7

www.collegeboard.org/sat

Post High School Planning – So what has changed?

- Closed campuses and distance learning
 - All college and universities (except one) closed their campuses this spring. Many have announced plans to reopen this fall. A comprehensive list of college plans can be found here: https://www.chronicle.com/article/Here-s-a-List-of-Colleges-/248626?cid=wcontentgrid_hp_1b
- Campus tours will most likely begin again this summer and fall. Check the virtual tours on each college's web site.
<http://www.ecampustours.com/>
<https://www.youvisit.com/>

Closing Thoughts

Recommended websites/resources

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

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

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

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

<http://collegecost.ed.gov/>

<http://myintuition.org>

Closing Thoughts

- The post high school planning process is individual
- The more you know about yourself, the easier it will be!
- Our goal at Minnetonka – and our pledge – is to help each student find the best matches possible for their post-secondary experience.
- Colleges don't want you to enroll – they want you to graduate!



Thanks for attending!

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