

Jr Post High School Planning Night

MSSSP

MAIN STREET SCHOOL OF PERFORM

Agenda

- Post-Secondary Planning Options
- Timeline
- Resources

Post Secondary Planning

Post Secondary Options

- Employment
- Career / Technical School
- Military
- College
 - 4 year college
 - 2 year college

The Job Market

- Gain work experience before starting school
- www.iseek.org career exploration, education and training, and employment information.
- www.mnworks.net database of available jobs
- MN Work Force Centers –assistance finding jobs and training

Apprenticeships and OJT

- 2-4 year paid training in which a person learns a trade from other skilled workers.
- There are 105 occupations that have apprentices
- A High School Diploma or GED is required.
- MN Dept of Labor and Industry www.dli.mn.gov/Apppr.asp

Armed Forces

- Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force
- Selective Service –ALL males must register when they turn 18. This is the law and also necessary in order to qualify for Federal Financial Aid.
- www.sss.gov

College

- Technical College – specific skills in 3mo- 2 yrs
- Community College – offers 2 year degrees (AA) which can transfer to MN colleges to 4 year colleges and universities.
- Four year Colleges and Universities – offer Bachelor, Master's and Doctoral Degrees.

About the College Process

- Keep the process in perspective
- Work together as a family
- Students must take ownership
- Discuss finances openly
- Start early and meet all deadlines

Finding a College

- Evaluate:
 - 4 year vs. 2 year college
 - Size
 - Location
 - Campus Culture
 - Majors
 - Academic Credentials
 - Dormitories
 - Cost
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Special Programs

Hit the Road

- Visit school's websites:
 - General Information
 - Requirements
 - Deadlines
- Attend open houses and tours
- Speak to current students
- Schedule interview (if offered)

Types of Admission

- Early Decision - Binding
- Early Action – Not Binding
- Rolling Admission
- Regular Admission

Application Process

- Transcript
- SAT or ACT Scores, or Placement Test
- Essay(s)
- Resume
- Extracurricular Activities
- Letters of Recommendation

Common Application

- A free online undergraduate application
- Used by over 400 colleges and universities
- www.commonapp.org

Transcript

- MSSPA mails directly to colleges upon request
Common App--Piner submits Transcript
- There is a \$4 fee for each transcript
- GPA, Courses & Grades
- ACT/SAT Test scores

Transcript Quirks

- Most colleges require a **MINIMUM** of two years of foreign language
- Recent grades thought to be more indicative of your ability to be successful in college
- Colleges will likely not see any Senior year grades before they make their admission decisions, so finish out Junior year with strong grades.

College Admissions Testing

- All MSSPA juniors must take the ACT
- April 19th, 2016
- meets State Graduation Requirement
 - no registration required
 - FREE!!

College Admissions Testing

- Students may register to take the ACT and/or SAT and pay required registration fees.
- Each test is offered 6-7 times per year at large high schools all over the US.
- To see dates and register for tests:
 - SAT www.collegeboard.com
 - ACT www.actstudent.org

SAT/ACT

- Most colleges accept either
- ACT -emphasis on HS curriculum
 - 4 sections--English, Math, Reading and Science
 - Plus Writing-required by many colleges
- SAT-Redesigned SAT March 2016
 - Details on New versus Old SAT:
 - <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/inside-the-test/compare-current-new-specifications>

SAT Subject Tests

- A few colleges require SAT Subject Tests.
- Test knowledge of a specific subject
ie. Literature, US History, or Chemistry
- Some subject tests offered only a few times each year

Testing Accommodations

- Students with disabilities may qualify for testing accommodations
- www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/
- www.sat.collegeboard.org/register/for-students-with-disabilities
- See Mrs. Piner or your case manager with questions

Accuplacer

- Placement Exam- required by many 2-year schools
- Reading, English and Mathematics
- Contact the 2-year school for registration information, test prep and accommodations

Test Prep

- Classes www.advantageprep.net
- Practice Booklets (available for free)
- Test Prep Books
- Online Practice
 - www.act.student.org
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.princetonreview.com

Teacher Recommendations

- Choose a teacher who knows you
- Ask teachers early
- Provide a stamped, addressed envelope and list of activities.
- Check back

[Letter of Recommendation Information Sheet](#)

Timeline



April - June

- Take the ACT or SAT Tests
- Start making a list of colleges
- Research – wants and needs
- Visit schools
- Select teachers for recommendations

Early Summer

- Narrow your list of schools to a manageable number (5-9)
- Take a look at last year's application to see what kinds of items were required – Essays? How many? Letters of recommendation? Portfolios? Interviews?

August

- Register to retake ACT/SAT/Subject Tests

** The last ACT that will return scores in time to meet most deadlines is offered in September.

- Finalize list of colleges & application deadlines
- Finalize recommendation requests
- Start working on your application essay
- Research scholarships

September

- Senior Parent Meeting
- Prepare Early Decision/Early Action applications and turn them in well in advance of deadlines
- Polish your application essay
- Visit with College Representatives at MSSPA
- Attend College Receptions
- Make strong connections with Admission Reps

October

- Continue submitting applications – rolling deadlines: submit early to face less competition
- MSSPA College App Day!
- ACT/SAT re-takes
- National College Fair
- Performing and Visual Arts College Fair
- Groves Academy LD/ADHD College and Post Secondary Options Fair

November

- Thanksgiving—finish applications
- Keep searching for scholarships

December

- Get an FSA Id
- <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

Resources & Upcoming Events

- *Financial Aid Night*—Jan 12, 2016 at 7pm
- *College Reps Visiting MSSPA*— Listen to announcements and sign up for a pass
- *College Fair at Hopkins High School*-March 15, 2016
- *National College Fair*—October
- *Performing and Visual Arts College Fair* – October

Resources

- Where to find resources:
 - Handouts
- Most Frequently Used Resources:
 - www.CollegeBoard.com
 - www.bigfuture.org
 - www.actstudent.org
 - www.fastweb.com
 - NCAA - www.ncaa.org
 - Common Application - www.commonapp.org
 - FAFSA - www.fafsa.ed.gov

Other Resources

- Listen to Announcements!
- Talk to Mrs. Piner or Ms. Soskin
- Talk with Teachers/Family/
Friends