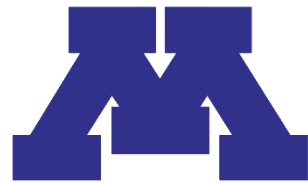




# Junior Parent Coffee Hour

## *Resources for the Class of 2024*



**A Presentation for Junior Parents  
May 10, 24, and 31, 2023  
Webinar: May 22, 2023**

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# Agenda for Today's Program

- Timely update for parents in their student's post high school planning process – in light of a pandemic over the past two-three years, what has stayed the same in college admissions? What has changed?
- Seven “C” considerations, to help with exploring and researching options
- Use of the website, Naviance
- Recommended websites and resources

# 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**. Students need to think about what **they** want – College? 2-year or 4-year? Work? Apprenticeship? Military? Gap year? Have them do the exercise on pages 6-7 in the Post High School Planning Guide.

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1663689156/minnetonka/tbiwpckjcgfrkajwnthw/2023PostHighSchoolPlanningGuide6.pdf>

- It would be helpful to do a Myers-Briggs personality inventory, like the **AchieveWorks Personality** assessment in Naviance. (Go to the Self-Discovery section)

# Post High School Planning – what has not changed?

- For our students who want to attend 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 it’s 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? You can do the research with a 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](http://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?

- Timeline to apply for **financial aid**
  - The FAFSA will open on December 1. (Note: that's a change). For the Class of 2024, the tax document used will be the 2022 federal tax return. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - Every college has a net price calculator on their admissions website – this is time well spent!
  - Colleges that offer merit scholarships often include the list (and selection criteria) on the admissions website. In most cases, an application for admission is also an application for a merit scholarship.

# 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 some cases by the Christmas break. Lots of universities offer this option, including Michigan, Notre Dame, Purdue, U of M, UW-Madison.



# 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.
  - More than half of colleges do not require an essay, nor do they require recommendations.
  - The most selective colleges require an essay (or several), in addition to recommendation letters.

# Post High School Planning – So what has changed?

- Nearly all colleges have placed limits on tour sizes. At most institutions, reservations are required. Check the college's website for specific details about the tour and information sessions – and to book an appointment time/date.
- Some colleges have recently chosen to step away from their test-optional policy in admissions (Auburn, Georgetown, MIT, Purdue) And some colleges have adopted a test-blind policy in admissions (all the University of California campuses and Cal State schools.)

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

# Post High School Planning – So what has changed?

- Ballooning application numbers at some colleges in 2022-23.  
University of Illinois (33%)  
Dickinson College (29%)  
Lafayette College (27%)  
University of Florida (23%)  
Williams College (23%).
- Over-enrollment of the first year class in Fall 2022 has impacted space availability (BU, Northeastern, and UW-Madison)



# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Closeness** to home/distance from home
  - An hour away? Or even closer? Maybe living at home?
  - The magic 4-hour window – not too far, not too close.
  - How often will the student plan on coming back home?
  - Will they have a car?
  - Additional cost of travel. A student who goes to college in southern California should expect to have parents visit!

# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Campus setting and culture**

- St. Peter is not the same setting or place as St. Pete Beach. Dallas is a very different place than Duluth.
- Is a college town of 10,000 people a better match than a city of 10 million people?
- Is a student body of 3,000 the right “fit?” How about 33,000?
- Is the student a fan of mass transit? Or do they like to walk to places?
- Do they want an ESPN campus? Filled with spirit? Or are they happy to be done with pep fests and homecoming?

# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Competitiveness** of the academic program and admission selectivity
  - How many hours per week does a student typically study? Does the weekend begin on Thursday? Is Saturday one of the busiest days in the library?
  - Is the typical course load four classes? Or five? Or three?
  - When do students get to begin to do research?
  - How competitive is the acceptance rate? Also, what’s the 4-year graduation rate? <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
  - What will make the college a good match? (Rather than a prize)



# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Curriculum and academic concentration/major**
  - The number one major of students entering college is “undecided”
  - Can the student dive into the academic sections of a college’s website – what’s the potential course of study in the College of Arts and Science? In the College of Biological Sciences? In the Honors Program? What are the distribution requirements (if any) at the college?
  - A key question: “What am I going to learn?” and then “How is that learning going to lead to a career?”
  - Is the student going to college to prepare for graduate school?

# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Calendar – is one a better fit?**
  - Two semesters
  - 4-1-4, with a special January term.
  - 4-4-1, with a special May term.
  - Trimesters/Quarters, with a 10-week term.
  - Block plan (One-course-at-a-time)

# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Cost and affordability**

- Will you be applying for need-based financial aid? If yes, the FAFSA will open on December 1 – it will be based on your 2022 federal tax return. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Will the student qualify for a merit scholarship? Most colleges award them – in Minnesota, the one exception is Carleton.
- Will the student’s list include colleges with tuition reciprocity?
- This is a great time to do a net price calculator – and to talk with your junior about college cost and the family budget
- Not all colleges cost what their published price tag is.
- Got 4 minutes? Go to this website: [www.myintuition.org](http://www.myintuition.org)

# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Considerations that are of importance to the Class of 2024**
  - Early Decision and Early Action might play a larger role in college admission selection in 2024 – it will depend on the institution.
  - Test-optional admission remains “in play” at 1800+ colleges and universities. <http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
  - No new essay topics have been added to the Common Application. [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
  - The student’s transcript remains the single most important item in a holistic application review – but some high schools changed their grading system in 2021 or 2022. Students will be invited to comment on their learning experience within the pandemic.



# Seven “C”s from the world of college counseling

- **Considerations that are of importance to the Class of 2024**
  - Before heading out to visit a college campus, you might want to do a virtual tour first. Check the virtual tours on each college’s web site – or <http://www.ecampustours.com/>
  - Colleges That Change Lives – college fair in St. Paul on Aug 15. <https://ctcl.org/st-paul-mn-august-2023/>
  - The first day of school is Tuesday, Sept 5. Most colleges begin in late August. Might be a great opportunity for a college visit.
  - Seniors at MHS have the day off on Wednesday during MEA week (October 18-20). There is no school on Oct 13 due to Parent-Teacher conferences.

# Closing Thoughts

## Recommended websites/resources

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

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

<https://collegefactual.com>

<https://ctcl.org>

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

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

<http://myintuition.org>

# Closing Thoughts

- Book recommendation – for some fun summer reading!

Where You Go Is Not Who You Will Be, by Frank Bruni (2015)

The Years That Matter Most (How College Makes or Breaks Us), by Paul Tough (2019)

The Price You Pay for College (An Entirely New Road Map for the Biggest Financial Decision Your Family Will Ever Make), by Ron Lieber (2021)

Who Gets In and Why – A Year Inside College Admissions, by Jeffrey Selingo (2020)

# Closing Thoughts

- The post high school planning process is individual
- For each student – “The more you know about yourself, the easier it will be!” Also – “You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!”
- 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 the student to enroll – they want the student to graduate!



***Thanks for attending!***

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