

COLLEGE/CAREER PLANNING CALENDAR

The timeline that follows provides a general time frame of suggested activities to assist you child in the college/career selection process. Students and parents are encouraged to contact the Student Services Department for additional assistance.

Freshman Year

- Discuss academic and career plans with the guidance counselor.
- Review the high school's graduation requirements and plan a course selection based on your post high school goals.
- Attend annual college fairs.
- Discuss the impact of grades and course selection on college admission with your counselor and parent.
- Review college admission requirements.
- Review requirements for entry level career positions.
- Become involved in extracurricular activities and community service projects.
- Participate in job shadow experiences.
- Establish a career cruising portfolio.
- Begin exploring college/career options.
- Plan for college expenses...explore your savings options.

Sophomore Year

- Attend annual college fairs.
- Continue to explore appropriate college and career options.
- Continue your extracurricular involvement and participate in leadership roles.
- Continue community service participation as it may support future admission, scholarship and job opportunities.
- In addition to using career cruising, research career choices and college/universities/vocational schools in the Career Center located across from the Dean's & Guidance office.
- Establish excellent working relationships with teachers, counselors and other adults in the building. You may need them to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf.
- Update your career cruising portfolio.
- Review all standardized testing options with your counselor (PSAT, ACT).

Summer Before Junior Year

- Explore job opportunities.
- Begin visiting college and universities of interest

Junior Year

- Continue college visitations.
- Attend annual college and career fairs.

- Research college admission exam information (ACT or SAT) requirements.
- Consider ACT preparation classes.
- Schedule a visit to the Career Center at MCHS to obtain additional information regarding college selections, scholarships, financial aid, testing information, etc.
- Attend information sessions and college nights sponsored by the high school.
- Become aware of scholarships and other financial assistance that may be available to you.
- Continue your involvement in volunteer services or organizations. Volunteerism may support admission scholarship, and career opportunities.
- Begin to sort through college mail as it arrives.

Summer before Senior Year

- Continue to sort through college mail as it arrives.
- Review ACT/SAT results and determine if you should retest.
- Visit different types of schools: small and large, vocational and liberal arts, private and public.
- Develop a list of questions for colleges or vocational programs and take them with you on your visits.
- Draft a generic personal essay and student resume.

Senior Year

- Continue college visits, investigate vocational programs, and explore career opportunities.
- Schedule a visit to the Career Center to obtain additional information regarding career opportunities, college selections, scholarships, financial aid, testing information, etc.
- Contact counselor to discuss your post-graduation plans.
- Develop a personal application file to include: a personal statement and/or essay, resume, transcript, letters of recommendation, and financial aid documents.
- Attend annual college fairs.
- Submit applications by the posted deadline as determined by the university.
- Review scholarship information. Local scholarships are available in January. Submit completed scholarship applications by the required deadlines.
- Apply for financial aid by completing the FAFSA application online after January 1 at fafsa.ed.gov.
- Notify your chosen school to confirm your attendance and send in the tuition/housing deposit. Notify all other schools that granted acceptance.

