



# College Admissions 101

# — Get to know your —

## MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL

### COUNSELING STAFF



**BRAD BURNHAM**

*A-Brb*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5816



**SARAH SELDON**

*Brc-Dr*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5818



**THERESA EXENBERGER**

*Df-Gn*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5824



**CONOR MAHER**

*Go-H*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5819



**CHRISTINA TAYLOR**

*I-Lar*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5821



**CASSIE KLEIN**

*Las-Moh*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5822



**MONICA JONES**

*Moi-Pom*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5828



**AMANDA WAVRIN**

*Pon-Schu*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5817



**KENDRA OLSON**

*Schv-Tun*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5823



**DAVID BIERLY**

*Tuo-Z*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5820



**LAURA HERBST**

*Advanced  
Learning Coord.*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5897



**NORMA GUTIERREZ**

*Post Secondary  
Counselor*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5746



**ELIZABETH HUMMEL**

*Social  
Worker*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-4043



**CAREINO (RENO) GURLEY**

*Student  
Achievement Specialist*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-4050



**SHANIA CASTILLO**

*Student  
Achievement Specialist*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-4051



**MEGAN DURBIN**

*School Psychologist*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5970



**PEG HILLBRANDS**

*School Psychologist*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5763



**JONNA HIRSCH**

*School Psychologist*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5969



**MIKA WALLACE**

*School Psychologist*  
Office Phone:  
952-401-5769



To schedule  
a counseling  
appointment,  
call the office:

**952-401-5811**

Visit [minnetonkaschools.org/wellbeing](http://minnetonkaschools.org/wellbeing)

Check out the District's well-being website and download the Well-Being Guide for helpful information, including contact information for our community partners. As always, remember to dial 911 in an emergency.



# An overview of this presentation

- The value of self-assessment
- Office of Admissions – Changes because of COVID-19
- Profile data from Minnetonka High School
- Holistic review – and the importance of the junior year
- College search process
- Preparing for the senior year – and college applications
- Minnetonka counseling model – and our pledge!

## Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior and senior year experience

- Students need to spend time figuring out what's important to them in the post-high school planning process. College? 2-year or 4-year? Work? Apprenticeship? Military? Gap year? Please read the exercise on pages 6-7 of the Post High School Planning Guide: <https://www.minnetonkaschools.org/uploaded/Documents/MHS/Counseling/MHS-Post-High-School-Planning-Guide.pdf>
- Also, complete the **AchieveWorks Personality** assessment in Naviance, a Myers-Briggs personality inventory (in the Self-Discovery section.)

## **Self assessment – an ongoing part of the junior and senior year experience**

- For those who have an interest in the college search, there are great opportunities to learn and discover!
- College and universities will visit Minnetonka HS this fall – see the full list in Naviance.
- Attend the national college fair in Minneapolis (Oct 4-5). Sessions at 9:10-12:00 both days; an evening session at 5:00-8:00 on Oct 4. <https://www.nacacattend.org/>
- Each Spring students are invited to attend the Minnesota Education Fairs (MHS to host) on February 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm.

# Office of Admissions

- Colleges seek the best “fit” students to find/attract/admit/enroll for their entering class
- Students seek the best “fit” college they can attend
- Numbers are important – not just in terms of applications, but in terms of a student’s academic record. And some colleges got a lot of application last year!
- It’s a process, with lots of steps/stages. Patience is a value-added virtue!

# Office of Admissions – Changes from COVID-19

- Most colleges have adopted a test-optional policy in admission. That said, some colleges still like to see a test score for certain majors, honors programs and scholarships. Be sure to do your research and ask questions!
  - The updated list can be found at FairTest.org  
<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
- The optional writing section in the SAT has been eliminated. The SAT Subject Tests have been eliminated. The number of colleges requiring an ACT test with writing is about six – students don't typically need to do the optional writing section. Please note, **West Point** is a college that still requires the writing portion.
- Most colleges and universities require registration for a campus tour. Many have added significantly to their YouTube campus tour productions. It's important to check a college's "visit" website before scheduling a trip!

# Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2022 & 2023

- % attending 4-year colleges 76%
- % attending 2-year colleges 7%
- % attending MN institutions 36%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 52%
- Average number of applications 5.3



## • Class of 2023

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Normandale Community College

Iowa State University

University of St. Thomas

University of Iowa

University of Kansas

## • Class of 2022

The top 7 schools include:

Univ of Minnesota – TC

Univ of Wisconsin - Madison

Normandale Community College

Iowa State University

Univ of Minnesota - Duluth

University of St. Thomas

Indiana University

## Holistic review – what's most important?

- The high school transcript – the student's record of academic achievement – is the most important part of the application folder.
- The rigor of the courses you have taken, the breadth of study within each department, and the grades you have earned will be examined in detail. The transcript speaks loudly.
- Colleges and universities want to see the quality of your life as a student. They want to see trends, growth, challenge, and achievement.

**Testing – To register for the ACT or SAT go to:**

[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

[www.collegeboard.org/sat](http://www.collegeboard.org/sat)

\*MHS offers a school day ACT in March for juniors

## Testing – For those who choose to test

- Free test preparation is available to all students, in addition to the fee-based courses and tutoring
- In Naviance, there is a free test prep resource, with Methodize/Method Learning (Use the MySSO to access Naviance – and go to the bottom of the page for a link)
- On the ACT web site, check out the free test prep section. <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html>
- To practice for the PSAT and the SAT, check out the Khan Academy website:  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat>

# The College Search – How to begin?

- **An absolute must: conduct a self inventory or self assessment**
- What do you like to do?
- What do you hate to do?
- What subject excites you?
- What always bores you?
- How do you learn best?

## Self inventory (cont.)

- Do you enjoy being a part of a large group? Or do smaller groups suit you better?
- Do you want to stick close to home? Or do you plan to move far away?
- Do you want to live in or near a city? Or could you find happiness in a college town?
- Do you seek out diversity among your friends? Or do you hang out with people who are very similar to you?

# Information Gathering -- The Basics of a College Search

(Which of these might be important to you?)

- Size
- Faculty/Student Ratio
- Major/Strongest programs/Courses offered
- Geographical location and distance from family
- Learning focus- Liberal Arts or Specialized School
- Urban/rural
- Tuition/Financial Aid/Scholarships
- Honors/accelerated programs
- Graduation rate

# Information Gathering -- The Personality of the College

(Which of these might be important to you?)

- Retention Rate and Graduation Rate
- Activities
- Dorm life/Greek life
- Facilities
- Male/female ratio
- Multi-cultural breakdown
- Religious affiliation
- Research opportunities
- Study abroad programs



# Information Gathering – Making Use of the Internet!

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

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<https://www.niche.com>

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com>

<http://www.princetonreview.com>


<http://www.finaid.org>

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

<https://collegecost.ed.gov>

<https://myintuition.org/>


# For Parents: This is a good one!

 **INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION SCIENCES**

**NATIONAL CENTER FOR  
EDUCATION STATISTICS**

Enter search terms here

Publications & Products | Surveys & Programs | Data & Tools | Fast Facts | School Search | News & Events | About Us


 **COLLEGE**Navigator

English | [Español](#) | [About](#)


**Name of School**  
Type name of school here


**States** (use map for more than 1 state)  


No Preference  
Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona




**ZIP Code**  **Miles from**


**Programs/Majors**  
0 Items Selected  **Browse for Programs**

**Level of Award**   
☐ Certificate ☐ Associate's  
☐ Bachelor's ☐ Advanced


**Institution Type**   
☐ Public ☐ 4-year  
☐ Private non-profit ☐ 2-year  
☐ Private for-profit ☐ < 2-year

**+ MORE SEARCH OPTIONS**


 **Show Results**

 [Guide Me](#) | [Clear Search](#)

**Find the right college for you**

 **Guide Me**

- » Refine your search with *More Search Options* to select additional search criteria.
- » Build a list of schools using *My Favorites* for side-by-side comparisons.
- » Pinpoint school locations with an *interactive map*.
- » Export search results into a *spreadsheet*.
- » Save your session including search options and favorites.
- » [Add College Navigator](#) to your browser search bar.

**College Affordability and Transparency Center**   
Browse lists of institutions with the highest and lowest tuition & fees and net price. [» GO](#)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Preparing for your Education**  
Find out what you need to do to prepare for education beyond high school. [» GO](#)

**Financial Aid**  
Apply for Federal Student Aid on FAFSA. [» GO](#)

**Careers**  
Deciding on a career? Consult the *bls.gov* Occupational Outlook Handbook. [» GO](#)

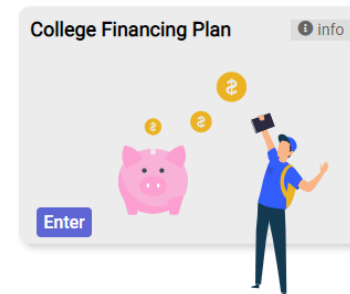
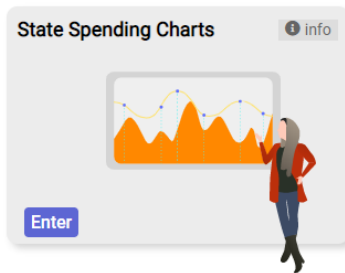
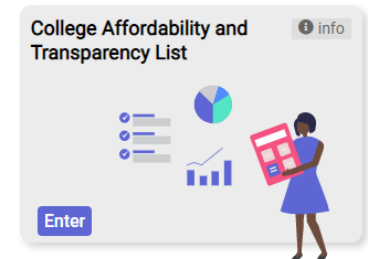
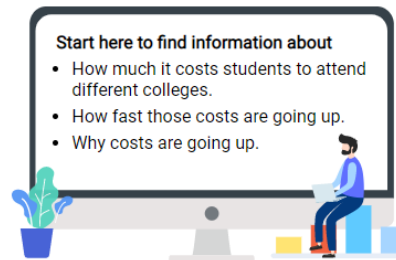
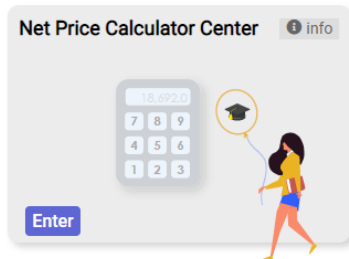
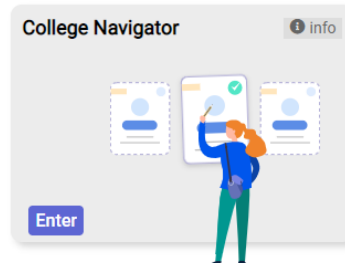
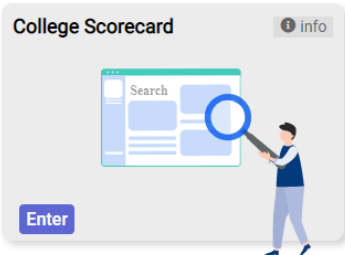
# For Parents: Or this one!







U.S. Department of Education

College Affordability and Transparency Center

Help




# For Students: You'll love this one!


 [FORUMS](#) [COLLEGES](#) [ARTICLES](#) [Sign Up](#) [Log In](#)   


[all categories ▾](#) [all tags ▾](#) **Categories** [Latest](#) [School Forums](#) [+ New Topic](#)


Category	Threads
<b>College Search &amp; Selection</b> <a href="#">Christian Colleges</a> <a href="#">Community Colleges</a> <a href="#">Women's Colleges</a> <a href="#">Online Degrees</a>	20 / week
<b>Parents Forum</b> <a href="#">Class of 20xx Community</a> <a href="#">Parent Cafe</a>	23 / week
<b>College Admissions</b> Discuss everything about applying to college and the admissions process here! <a href="#">Early Decision / Early Action</a> <a href="#">Admissions Hindsight and Lessons Learned</a> <a href="#">Common and Coalition Application</a> <a href="#">Gap Year</a> <a href="#">Non-Traditional Students</a> <a href="#">Study Abroad</a>	39 / week
<b>Specialty College Admissions Topics</b> <a href="#">African-American Students</a> <a href="#">Athletic Recruits</a> <a href="#">Hispanic Students</a> <a href="#">Veterans</a>	5.6k

Latest


 **Rising sophomore at Harvard - AMA about the application process, life at Harvard, and working at the Harvard Crimson!** 26  
2d  
[Ask Me Anything!](#)  
class-2025, harvard-university, sponsored

 **Early Decision/Early Action Threads Have Been Created!** 17  
3d  
[College Confidential Community](#)





 **Vaccine reluctance** 3.7k  
1m  
[Parent Cafe](#) covid-19

 **What constitutes 4 years of math for admissions?** 0  
4m  
[College Admissions](#)

# For Parents & Students: Use this one!



[Home](#)[Self-Discovery](#)[Careers](#)[Colleges](#)[Planner](#)

 [About Me](#)

## Welcome, Sam!

Search for Colleges

SEARCH

### Intro to Seniors

English

Go


Greetings from the MHS Counseling Office!


We will once again be using our interactive counseling tool, *Naviance Student*, to assist you with post-high school planning.


We hope you will explore the many beneficial features that are available to you. We recommend the following links:

Read more

### My Favorites

 COLLEGES  
I'm thinking about

 COLLEGES  
I'm applying to

 CAREERS AND CLUSTERS  
I'm thinking about

### Important To-Dos and Tasks

### What's New

# Applying for admission – it happens in the senior year!

- For all our students, let this be your “guide.” You apply for admission to a college because you want to go there!
- Focus as much on “going” to the college as you will focus on “getting in.”
- As a counseling staff, we plan to work with students in the college search process to help them find good matches!!  
“What will make this place be a great fit for me?”
- “College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

-- Frank Sachs, retired from The Blake School, Minneapolis

## Applying for admission (continued)

- As you get ready to become an applicant, your top priority is finding the right fit!
- Most MHS seniors apply between August and December
- Separate deadline for need-based financial aid -- filing the FAFSA can be done in December. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Determine which application plan/option works best for you (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision or Rolling)
- The selection process can last for months, especially when cost of attendance is a significant factor.

# Applying for admission – next steps

- Attend the in-person and virtual college admission visits this fall – see Naviance for the full list (in the Colleges tab)
- MEA week travel – seniors have off that Wednesday!
- Arrange a meeting with your school counselor or post-secondary counselor
- Fill out the Transcript Release form

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

- If you need a counselor recommendation, fill out the Senior Questionnaire (a survey in the About Me section in Naviance)
- If appropriate, open your Common App account

<https://www.commonapp.org/>



# Minnetonka counseling model – our pledge!

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

Norma Gutierrez

Post-Secondary Counselor

Minnetonka High School

952-401-5746

[Norma.gutierrez@minnetonkaschools.org](mailto:Norma.gutierrez@minnetonkaschools.org)