

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT & COLLEGE/CAREER PLANNING

Benilde-St. Margaret's

Preparing for success starts as soon as you walk through our doors.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

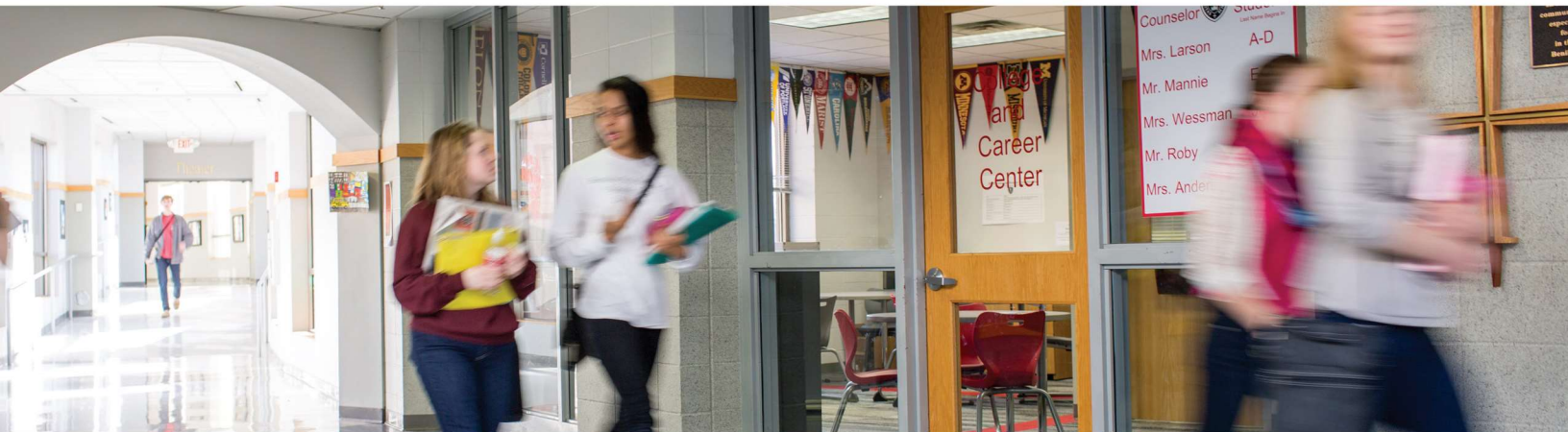
Benilde-St. Margaret's offers a comprehensive guidance program that includes personal and academic counseling, with emphasis placed on helping students plan for their future. The Guidance Department provides assistance beyond our Red Knights' high school careers. BSM offers an extensive selection of college-preparatory courses, and each student is assigned a counselor that stays with them from their very first day at BSM until they graduate.

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER

The BSM College and Career Center is a resource center for both students and parents. The counselors and trained parent volunteers staff the College and Career Center and are available to assist our Red Knight families. There are approximately 200 college representatives who visit with interested students each year in the College and Career Center.



BSM's Guidance and College Counselors individually assist all Red Knights in setting and reaching goals for successful futures.



Advanced Placement

BSM offers 23 Advanced Placement courses. In 2021, there were 25 AP Scholars with an average score of 3.57, 16 AP Scholars with Honors with an average score of 3.57, and 29 AP Scholars with Distinction with an average score of 4.15.

AP Five-Year Score Summary

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Students	240	225	253	252	271
Number of Exams	485	466	512	501	446
Percent with scores 3+	69	79	80	75	77

Matriculation

BSM's class of 2021 went on to post-secondary education at a rate of 92% (90% to four-year programs and 2% to two-year programs).

SAT

- Number of seniors taking the SAT: 31
- Percent of the Class of 2021 taking the test: 14%

ACT

- 188 students from the Class of 2021 took the ACT, representing 92% of the class.
- The average score of the highest ACT for those students was 27, compared to the Minnesota average of 21.1 and the national average of 21.0.
- In the Class of 2021, the average ACT score for the top 25 percent was 28.

Class of 2021 ACT Summary

Section	Middle 50%	Mean
English	22-33	26.8
Math	22-29	25.7
Reading	23-33	27.9
Science	23-30	26.3
Composition	23-30	26.4

National Merit

In the last five years, 35 seniors have been recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, including seven Commended Scholars and semi-finalists from 2021. All juniors take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).

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Freshman Year

Freshmen Individual Meetings (Fall): Counselors meet individually with students and parents (optional) to discuss the student's high school and college goals.

Naviance Family Connection Introduction (October):

Freshmen are introduced to Naviance, a college and career planning website that they will use throughout their years at BSM.

Freshmen High School and College Planning (Yearlong):

Counselors meet with the freshmen eight times on "Freshmen Fridays" during the school year. At these meetings, they talk to the students about how to make the most out of high school including the importance of academics, study skills, and extracurricular involvement.

Freshmen also hear from a panel of our seniors who will pass along advice and tips about how to make the most out of their years at BSM.

Sophomore Year

Pre ACT test with interest inventory (October)

Sophomore Sessions:

The counselors will work with the sophomores for five days throughout the year regarding college and career planning. Sophomores will also hear from a panel of our seniors in the spring regarding college visits, test preparation, and the college planning and application process.

College Planning Meeting for Parents of Sophomores (January)

BSM College Fair (April):

Representatives from approximately 120 colleges and universities in the United States are invited to BSM. Sophomores are invited to attend.

Junior Year

Junior PSAT/College Planning Timeline Meeting (September)

ACT Prep Course (First Semester)

BSM facilitates a rigorous 13-week in-school ACT prep program. Each week, BSM's ACT Prep Instructor will teach 60 minutes of ACT instruction covering all frequently tested concepts and critical test-taking skills across English, math, reading, science, and the writing test.

PSAT (October): All BSM juniors take the PSAT/NMSQT. Results are mailed home in December. PSAT is the National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.

Junior/Counselor Individual Meetings (February/March):

The counselors meet individually with each junior during February and March to discuss the following topics: possible post-secondary options, important criteria in college selection, possible majors/career fields, college application process, etc.

Junior "Building Your Future Day" (February):

All BSM juniors take part in this all-day college/career planning workshop. The students attend several sessions led by college admissions counselors, a representative from a test-prep agency, and the BSM Guidance and College Counseling Team.



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Students will also receive a college/career portfolio that is worth .5 credits and a Pass/No Pass grade, and is a graduation requirement. Part of the portfolio is required attendance at the BSM College Fair in April.

College Planning Meeting for Parents of Juniors (February)

Letter of Recommendation Survey (due in April): Juniors fill out a survey about their high school activities and achievements, their post-secondary plans, and their goals for the future. This survey is required of any student who will need a recommendation letter from a teacher or a counselor.

BSM College Fair (April):

Representatives from approximately 120 colleges and universities in the United States are invited to BSM. BSM juniors are required to attend.

College Representative Visits (Yearlong)

Over 200 colleges and universities send admission representatives to speak with our students in our own BSM College and Career Center each year. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are able to attend these meetings with permission from their teachers.

Senior Year

Senior Small Group Meetings (end of August):

Counselors meet with all seniors in small groups during their BSM hours. The counselors address a variety of topics related to the entire college application process. Summer workshops are also offered to give seniors a head start on the college application process.

College Planning Meeting for Parents of Seniors (August, September):

The counselors host a college planning meeting for senior parents during the first part of September and discuss many of the topics addressed during the senior small group meetings.

Parent Questionnaire (Early September):

Parents of seniors will be asked to complete a questionnaire about their sons and daughters.

This questionnaire is used by the counselors when writing letters of recommendation.

Individual Counselor Meetings (September/October):

The counselors meet at least one time with each senior to go over their college application progress. Counselors will help make sure each student has a well-rounded list and will help organize deadlines and requirements for each of their colleges.

College Financial Aid Program for Parents of Seniors (November):

Parents of seniors are encouraged to attend this informative session on financial aid given by a financial aid officer from a local college or university.

National Decision/Reply Date for Colleges (May 1)

College Matriculation 2017-2021

Alabama A & M University
The University of Alabama
American University*
Arizona State University*
The University of Arizona*
Auburn University
Augsburg University*
Baylor University*
Belmont University
Bemidji State University*
Benedictine College
Bethel University*
Boston College*
Boston University*
Bowling Green State University
University of British Columbia
Brown University
Butler University
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University
University of California-Irvine*
University of California-Los Angeles
University of California-San Diego
University of California-Santa Barbara
Carleton College*
Case Western Reserve University*
Catholic University of America
Champlain College
Chapman University*
Clarkson University
Clemson University*
Coastal Carolina University*
Colgate University
University of Colorado Boulder*
Colorado College*
University of Colorado-Colorado Springs*
Colorado School of Mines*
Colorado State University-Fort Collins*
Columbia College Chicago*
Columbia University-New York
Concordia College at Moorhead*
Concordia University-Montreal
Concordia University-Saint Paul*
Creighton University*
Culinary Institute of America
Dartmouth College*
University of Dayton
Denison University
University of Denver*
DePaul University*
Drake University*
Duke University
Elon University*
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Southern College
Florida Southwestern State College
Franklin Pierce University
Franklin University Switzerland

George Mason University
George Washington University*
Georgetown University*
Gonzaga University*
Grand Canyon University*
Gustavus Adolphus College*
Hamilton College
Hamline University*
Hampton University
Harvard University
High Point University*
College of the Holy Cross*
Illinois Wesleyan University
Indiana University*
Iowa State University*
University of Iowa*
University of Kansas*
University of Kentucky*
Lake Forest College*
Lawrence University
LIM College
Lindenwood University
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University*
Loyola University-Chicago*
Loyola University-Maryland
Luther College*
Lynn University*
University of Manitoba
Marist College
Marquette University*
University of Mary
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Mayville State University
McGill University
University of Memphis
Miami University-Oxford*
University of Miami*
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University*
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
MidAmerica Nazarene University
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Minnesota State University-Mankato
University of Minnesota-Duluth*
University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
Mississippi State University
University of Missouri-Columbia*
Montana State University*
Mount Holyoke College
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*
University of New England
New York Film Academy
New York University*
North Central University*
North Dakota State University*
University of North Dakota*

Northeastern University*
Northern Illinois University
University of Northern Iowa
Northern Michigan University*
Northwestern University*
University of Notre Dame*
Ohio University
Ohio State University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Oregon State University
Oxford College of Emory University
Pacific Lutheran University
University of the Pacific
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University*
Point Loma University*
Providence College*
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University*
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
Rockhurst University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Sacred Heart University*
Saint Anselm College
College of Saint Benedict*
Saint John's University*
Saint Louis University*
Saint Mary's College*
Saint Mary's College of California
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota*
San Diego State University
University of San Diego*
Santa Clara University*
Savannah College of Art & Design
Seattle University*
University of South Carolina*
South Dakota School of Mines and Technology*
South Dakota State University*
University of Southern California*
Southern Methodist University*
Spelman College
St. Catherine University
St. Cloud State University
St. Olaf College*
St. Petersburg College
University of St. Thomas*
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University*
The University of Tampa*
Temple University
Texas Christian University*
The University of Texas-Austin
Tulane University-Louisiana
Union College

United States Air Force Academy*
United States Naval Academy*
Unity College
University of Jamestown
University of North Georgia
University of Northwestern
University of Oregon*
University of South Hampton
University of St. Andrews
Utah State University
University of Utah*
Vanderbilt University*
University of Vermont
Villanova University*
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Viterbo University*
Wabash College
Wake Forest University
Waseda University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University-St. Louis
University of Washington-Seattle*
Wellesley College*
Wilberforce University
Willamette University
College of William and Mary*
The University of Winnipeg
Winona State University*
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire*
University of Wisconsin-Madison*
University of Wisconsin-River Falls*
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
University of Wisconsin-Stout*
University of Wisconsin-Superior*
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Xavier University*
York College of Pennsylvania
Youngstown State University

* indicates more than one student attending