



Information from Counseling Department – October 2020

For Parents of Seniors:

Parents of seniors – Apply free to MN State Colleges and Universities

Many MN public and private colleges are allowing students to apply free during the month of October. For students from low-income families: Every day of the year, students from families with low incomes can apply to most colleges at no charge using a fee waiver. **See your counselor if this applies to you.**

Parents of Seniors - FAFSA and other Financial Aid Forms: The 2021-2022 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is now available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You must complete the FAFSA online if you are applying for federal financial aid. It is recommended that every family fill out the FAFSA for a few reasons. First, all students are eligible for low-interest loans. Second, families have different financial situations from one year to the next, including sometimes having more than one student in college. Finally, some colleges look at whether a student has a FAFSA on file when they are considering students for scholarships. There are three categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans. Colleges typically have December through March priority deadlines for the FAFSA, so get your FAFSA completed and submitted as soon as possible.

For Parents of Sophomores and Juniors:

Wednesday, October 14 is a testing day for students in grades 10 and 11. Sophomores will be taking the Pre-ACT. Juniors will be taking the PSAT (preparation for the SAT). Students will need two #2 pencils and a calculator. Cell phones are prohibited in the testing areas. These are required and important tests. Students will get an email before testing day with the room they should report to on testing day. Students will meet in their testing rooms at 8:00 am and will be given directions for testing. Students will be dismissed between 11:30 and noon. For those students who are approved for extended time, the dismissal time will be by 1:30 pm.

Note: Freshmen are not testing and NOT required to be at school this day due to space constraints. Seniors are NOT required to be in school so that you can use the day for college visits or to work on college application materials.

For Parents of Freshmen:

The transition to senior high is an important and exciting time in the life for freshmen. The counselor's role is to help support your student in that transition both academically and socially. The counselors will be meeting individually with every ninth grade student this fall, and they will invite you to attend that meeting virtually through Zoom. Your attendance is welcome and encouraged, but not required. The counselors will send an email message in October with more information about these meetings that will take place in November and December. We are available to you throughout the school year through email, telephone, or virtual Zoom meetings. [Click here](#) for contact information.

For Parents of All High School Students:

Time to register for 2021 AP exams and art portfolios – Students and parents should have received an email with all of the details and instructions of what AP students need to do to get registered for AP exams or portfolios by October 9, 2020: **We have a video that will answer your questions and walk you through each of these steps:**

[AP Registration 2021 Video Link](#)

Virtual College Visits to BSM – These visits are open to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors College representatives will be "visiting" BSM virtually this year. Information about the colleges virtually visiting BSM will be updated daily on BSM's Naviance website. All visits are also listed in Powerschool Learning; click on: Quick Links > Guidance and Counseling > College Visits.

Upcoming College Fair Opportunities

There are many college fairs coming up, including an HBCU fair, a Jesuit Education Fair, a Canadian Education Fair, Minnesota fairs and National fairs. Some require that you register and may fill up, so check them out sooner than later at this link: [Upcoming Virtual College Fairs](#)

2020-2021 ACT and SAT Test Dates:

2020-2021 ACT Test Dates Create account and register at: www.actstudent.org

National Test Dates	Registration Deadlines
October 10, 17, 24, or 25, 2020	September 17, 2020
December 12, 2020 – BSM is a test center	November 6, 2020
February 6, 2021	January 8, 2021
April 17, 2021 – BSM is a test center	March 12, 2021
June 12, 2021	May 7, 2021
July 17, 2021	June 18, 2021

Remember to have scores sent to colleges!

BSM's school code: 242-202

BSM's test center code: 178790

2020-2021 SAT Test Dates Create account and register at: sat.collegeboard.org

National Test Dates	Registration Deadlines
October 3, 2020	September 4, 2020
November 7, 2020	October 7, 2020
December 5, 2020	November 5, 2020
March 13, 2021	February 12, 2021
May 8, 2021	April 8, 2021
June 5, 2021 – BSM is a test center	May 6, 2021

Remember to have scores sent to colleges!

BSM's school code: 242-202

BSM's test center code: 24176