

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.



College Matriculation 2017-2021

Alabama A & M University	George Mason University	Northeastern University*	United States Air Force Academy*
The University of Alabama	George Washington University*	Northern Illinois University	United States Naval Academy*
American University*	Georgetown University*	University of Northern Iowa	Unity College
Arizona State University*	Gonzaga University*	Northern Michigan University*	University of Jamestown
The University of Arizona*	Grand Canyon University*	Northwestern University*	University of North Georgia
Auburn University	Gustavus Adolphus College*	University of Notre Dame*	University of Northwestern
Augsburg University*	Hamilton College	Ohio University	University of Oregon*
Baylor University*	Hamline University*	Ohio Wesleyan University	University of South Hampton
Belmont University	Hampton University	Oregon State University	University of St. Andrews
Bemidji State University*	Harvard University	Emory University-Oxford College	Utah State University
Benedictine College	High Point University*	Pacific Lutheran University	University of Utah*
Bethel University*	College of the Holy Cross*	University of the Pacific	Vanderbilt University*
Boston College*	Illinois Wesleyan University	Pennsylvania State University	University of Vermont
Boston University*	Indiana University*	Pepperdine University*	Villanova University*
Bowling Green St University	Iowa State University*	Point Loma University*	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
University of British Columbia	University of Iowa*	Providence College*	Viterbo University*
Brown University	University of Kansas*	University of Puget Sound	Wabash College
Butler University	University of Kentucky*	Purdue University*	Wake Forest University
California Lutheran University	Lake Forest College*	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*	Waseda University
California Polytechnic State University	Lawrence University	University of Richmond	Washington and Lee University
University of California-Irvine*	LIM College	University of Rochester	Washington State University in St. Louis
University of California-Los Angeles	Lindenwood University	Rockhurst University	University of Washington- Seattle*
University of California- San Diego	Louisiana State University	Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Wellesley College*
University of California- Santa Barbara	Loyola Marymount University*	Sacred Heart University*	Wilberforce University
Carleton College*	Loyola University Chicago*	Saint Anselm College	Willamette University
Case Western Reserve University*	Loyola University Maryland	College of Saint Benedict*	College of William and Mary*
Catholic University of America	Luther College*	Saint John's University*	The University of Winnipeg
Champlain College	Lynn University*	Saint Louis University*	Winona State University*
Chapman University*	University of Manitoba	Saint Mary's College*	University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire*
Clarkson University	Marist College	Saint Mary's College of California	University of Wisconsin- Madison*
Clemson University*	Marquette University*	Saint Mary's University of Minnesota*	University of Wisconsin- River Falls*
Coastal Carolina University*	University of Mary	San Diego State University	University of Wisconsin- Stevens Point
Colgate University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of San Diego*	University of Wisconsin- Stout*
University of Colorado Boulder*	University of Massachusetts- Amherst	Santa Clara University*	University of Wisconsin- Superior*
Colorado College*	Mayville State University	Savannah College of Art & Design	University of Wisconsin- Whitewater
University of Colorado- Colorado Springs*	McGill University	Seattle University*	Xavier University*
Colorado School of Mines*	University of Memphis	University of South Carolina*	York College of Pennsylvania
Colorado State University- Fort Collins*	Miami University- Oxford*	South Dakota School of Mines and Technology*	Youngstown State University
Columbia College Chicago*	University of Miami*	South Dakota State University*	
Columbia University - New York	Michigan State University	University of Southern California*	
Concordia College at Moorhead*	Michigan Technological University*	Southern Methodist University*	
Concordia University-Montreal	University of Michigan- Ann Arbor*	Spelman College	
Concordia University- Saint Paul*	MidAmerica Nazarene University	St. Catherine University	
Creighton University*	Milwaukee School of Engineering	St. Cloud State University	
Dartmouth College*	Minnesota State University- Mankato	St. Olaf College*	
University of Dayton	University of Minnesota- Duluth*	St. Petersburg College	
Denison University	University of Minnesota- Twin Cities*	St. Thomas*	
University of Denver*	Mississippi State University	University of St. Thomas*	
DePaul University*	University of Missouri-Columbia*	Swarthmore College	
Drake University*	Montana State University*	Syracuse University*	
Duke University	Mount Holyoke College	The University of Tampa*	
Elon University*	University of Nebraska- Lincoln*	Temple University	
Florida Gulf Coast University	University of New England	Texas Christian University*	
Florida Southern College	New York Film Academy	The University of Texas at Austin	
Florida Southwestern State College	New York University*	Culinary Institute of America	
Franklin Pierce University	North Central University*	Ohio State University	
Franklin University Switzerland	North Dakota State University*	Tulane University of Louisiana	
	University of North Dakota*	Union College	

* indicates more than one student attending

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)