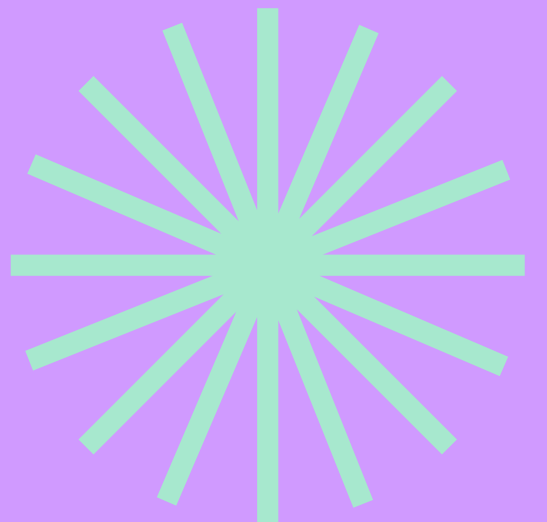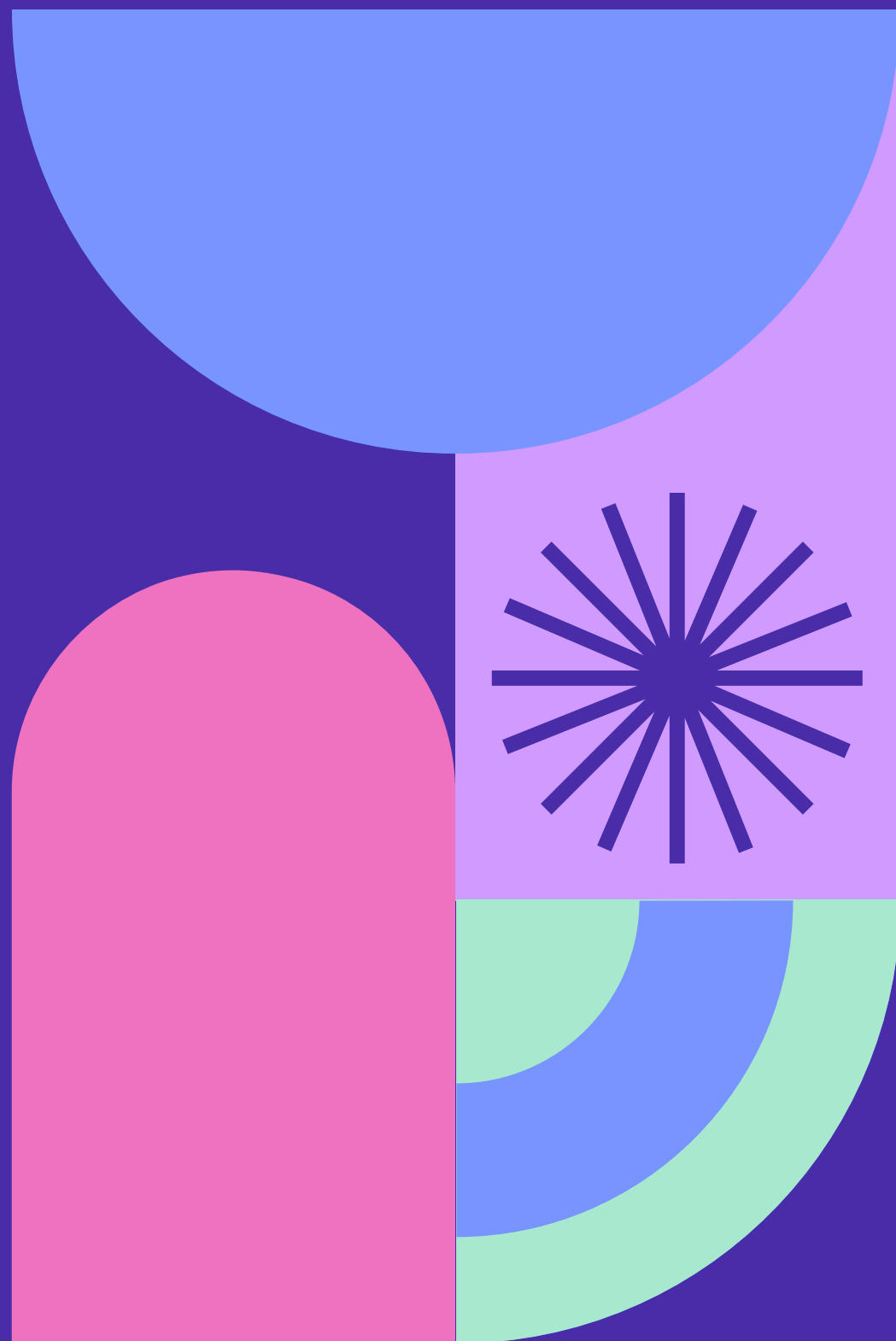# Senior Parent Meeting

September 18, 2023

Senior Prayer

King of Heaven and Earth,
We thank You for the many
opportunities You give us,
the supportive community that surrounds us,
and the beauty of creation that inspires us.
We ask for Your peace to reign in our hearts,
Your grace to forgive others,
and Your blessings to fill our lives.
Mary Queen of Victory, Pray for us!

Agenda

Please ask questions in the chat throughout!

01

Senior Year

02

Postsecondary
Options/Planning

03

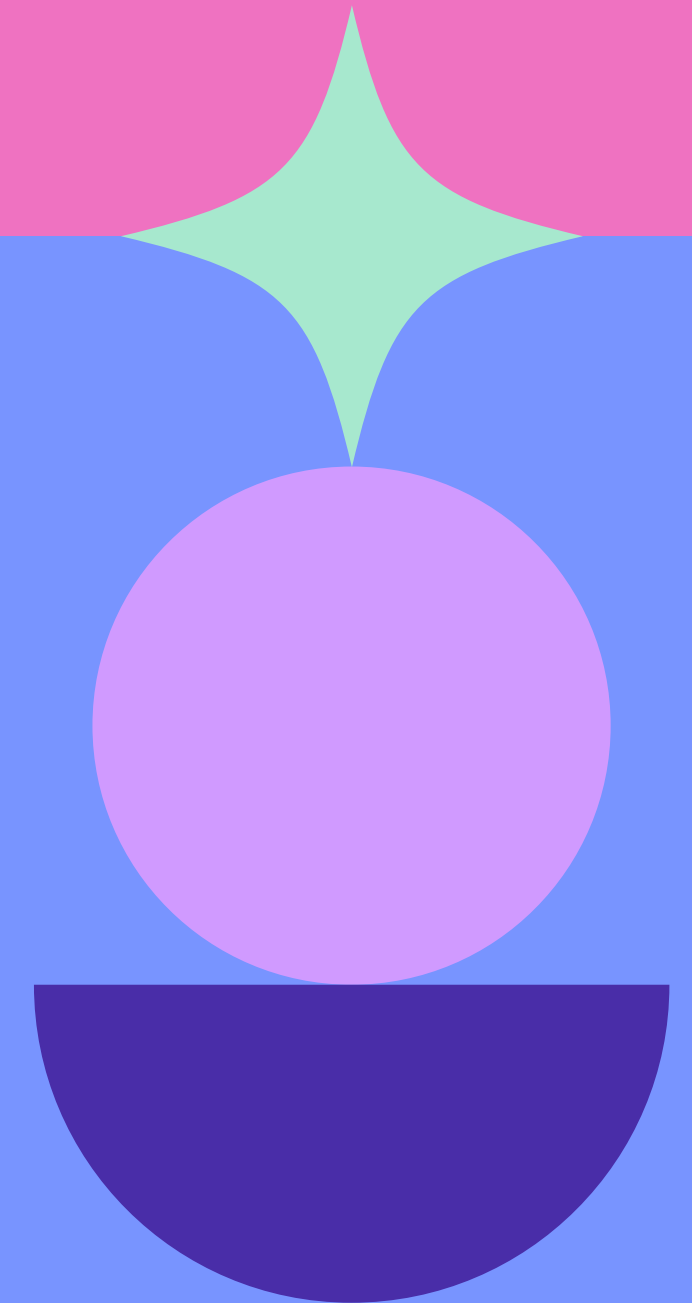Application
Elements/Timeline

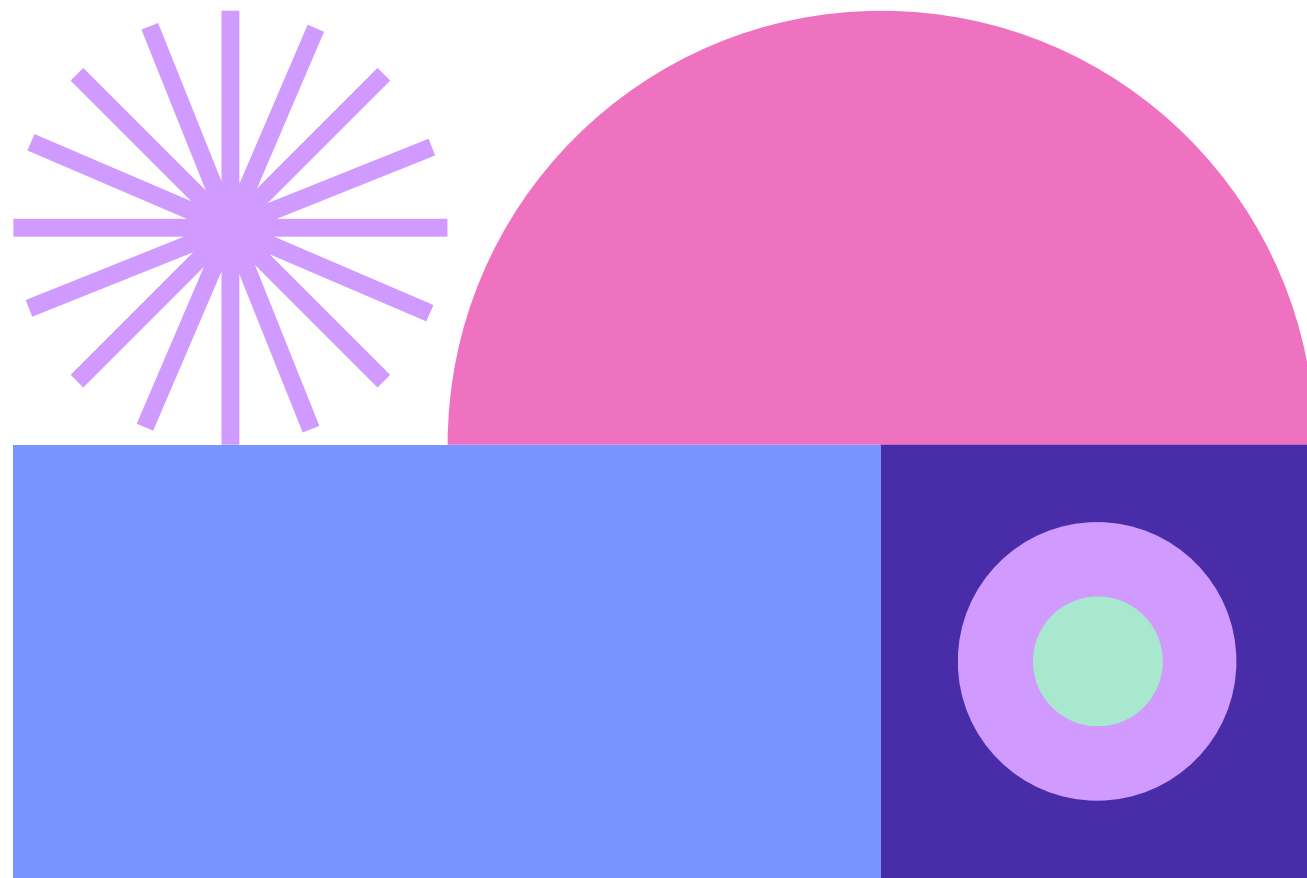**04**

Scholarships

05

Communication/
Resources

06

Financial Aid
Mapping Your Future

Senior Year

→ Senior Year Matters! Schools request mid year reports.

→ Balance - Participate, but don't create an overwhelming schedule.

→ Research/Consult Websites

    → **OGHS Postsecondary Resources - Join Code: mehk336**

→ Communication

    → Check email and bulletin

    → Google Classroom 2024

    → Fill out Senior Advising Form on Google Classroom

    → Instagram @oghs.counseling

Postsecondary Options

The world is changing and every student should consider the best fit for them based on career goals, learning methods, etc. This decision is unique to you, so try not to fall into the "comparison trap"

Gap Year

- What is a Gap Year?
- Why take a gap year?
- 2023 Options

- Internship
- Travel Programs
- Online Programs
- Work

World of Work

- Internships vs. Apprenticeships
- On-the-job training

Armed Forces

- Military Academies
- Active Duty vs. Reserve

- Army National Guard (605)939-1519

- Air National Guard (605)988-5700

Technical/Trade School

- Affordable
- Fast Programs
- High Earning Potential
- Job Security

- Southeast Tech
- Lake Area Tech

Bachelor Program

- SD Schools

- SDMyLife Username: SD- Password: MMDDYYYY

*NEW – Our Dakota Dreams

SD Program Guide

south dakota DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Learning. Leadership. Service.

Published Feb. 2020

Soft Skills Key to Success in SD Postsecondary Education

Time Management

80.5% of postsecondary institutions indicate students lack skills necessary to appropriately manage time.

"There will be many due dates and assignments to manage. Budgeting your time and making sure that assignments are turned in is very important."

Problem Solving

70.1% of postsecondary institutions notice students struggle figuring out what to do when something isn't going well with a course, roommate, etc.

"Talking to your instructors, letting them know when you have a problem before an assignment is due, is much easier than after a deadline is missed."

Communication

66.2% of postsecondary institutions indicate that students don't reach out to faculty/staff when they need assistance.

"Create positive relationships with your classmates and teachers by learning how to communicate effectively in person, via email and the phone."

Organization

66.2% of postsecondary institutions notice students lack preparation in order to meet deadlines within courses.

"Your hand is not held in the real world. Learning to organize yourself and stay on task is crucial."

Perseverance

57.1% of postsecondary institutions responded that students had a hard time recovering from failing a test.

"When things get difficult, persist! Don't quit. Ask for help!"

TEAM WORK

Top soft skill postsecondary institutions notice that students sufficiently display.

Soft Skills Students Lack Most by Institution Type

Cosmetology Institutions
- Time Management
Technical Colleges
- Time Management

Private Colleges and Universities
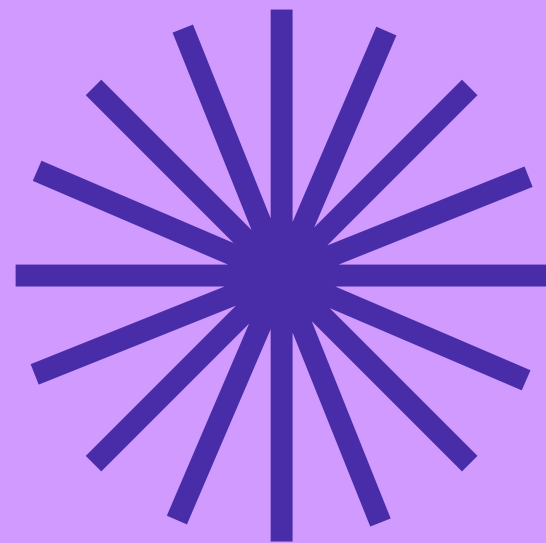- Communication, Perseverance, Problem Solving, & Time Management

Public Universities
- Communication

More information available at doe.sd.gov/cte/softskills.aspx

The results are compiled from a South Dakota survey sent to all private and public postsecondary colleges, technical colleges, and universities.
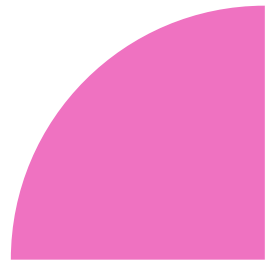
Choosing the best fit.

"It's not about where you go, it's about how you go there."

College Considerations

- Type:
  - Public or private
  - Liberal arts/pre-professional/research university
- Philosophy:
  - Traditional or experimental
  - Career-oriented or primarily scholarly
- Size
- Location:
  - Distance from home
  - Setting
  - Climate
  - Activities nearby
- Facilities:
  - Academic and athletic
- Academic Life:
  - Curriculum, faculty, class size, atmosphere, programs
- Students
  - Composition and community
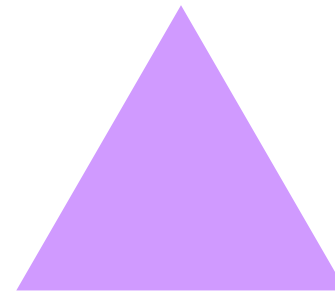- Affordability
- Feel***

How to Explore

College Fairs

You are welcome to join the juniors for the Fall Planning Day on:

Wednesday, September 27
8AM-8:45AM
Elmen Center - Augustana University
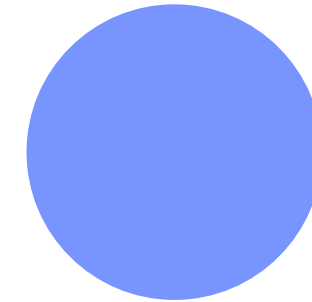Register by noon on Monday, Sept. 25

Campus Tours

Try to visit your top schools.

Prepare questions before.

If you are unable to physically visit, most schools now have virtual tours.

Contact any extracurricular you want to be involved in before you attend so you can talk to coaches, advisors, directors, etc. while you're there!
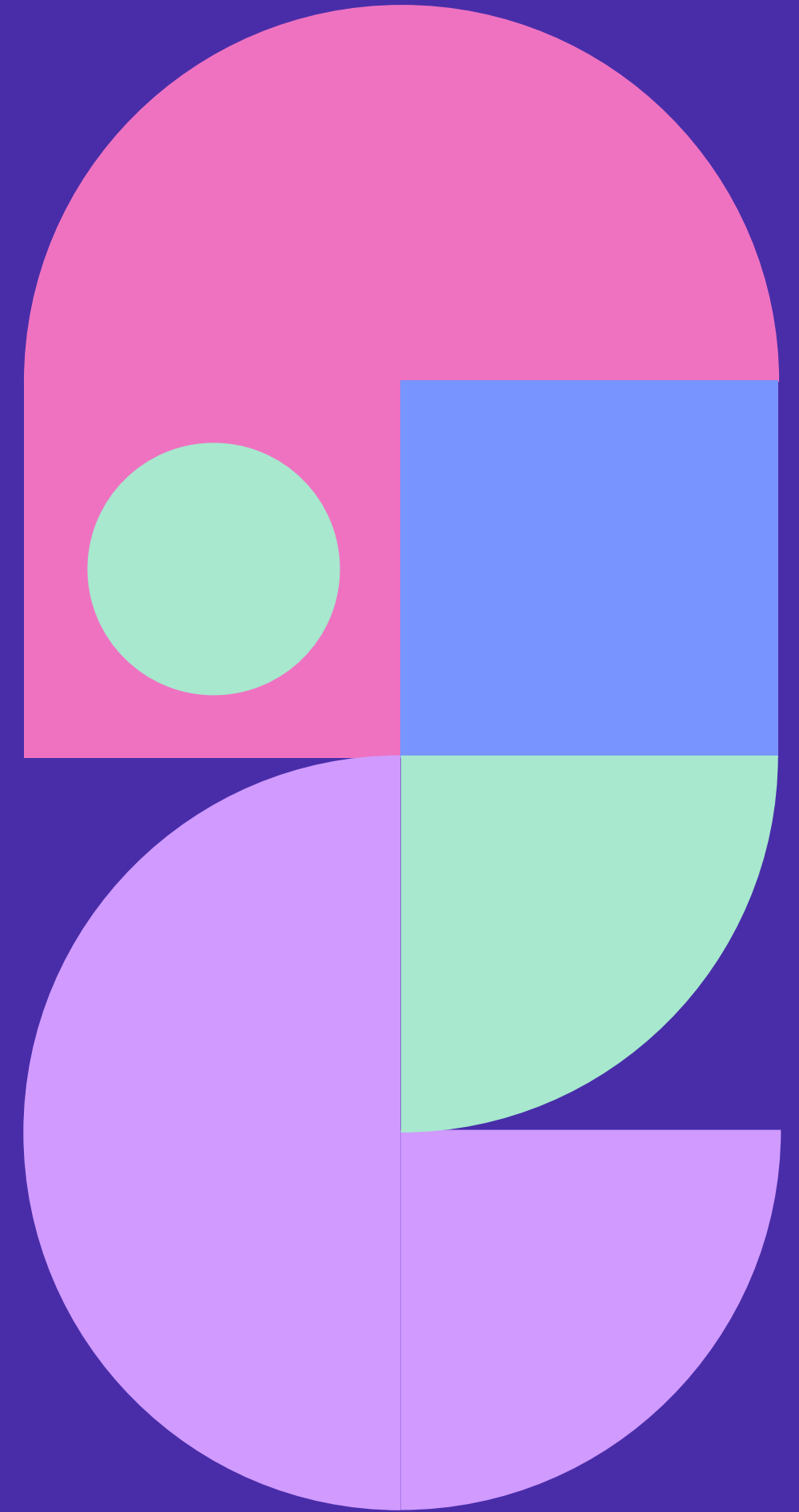
College Visits

Please look at our daily bulletin to see when schools/organizations are coming to O'Gorman.

Seniors with 8th period study hall are also welcome to attend the "Career Explorations" College and Career Speakers
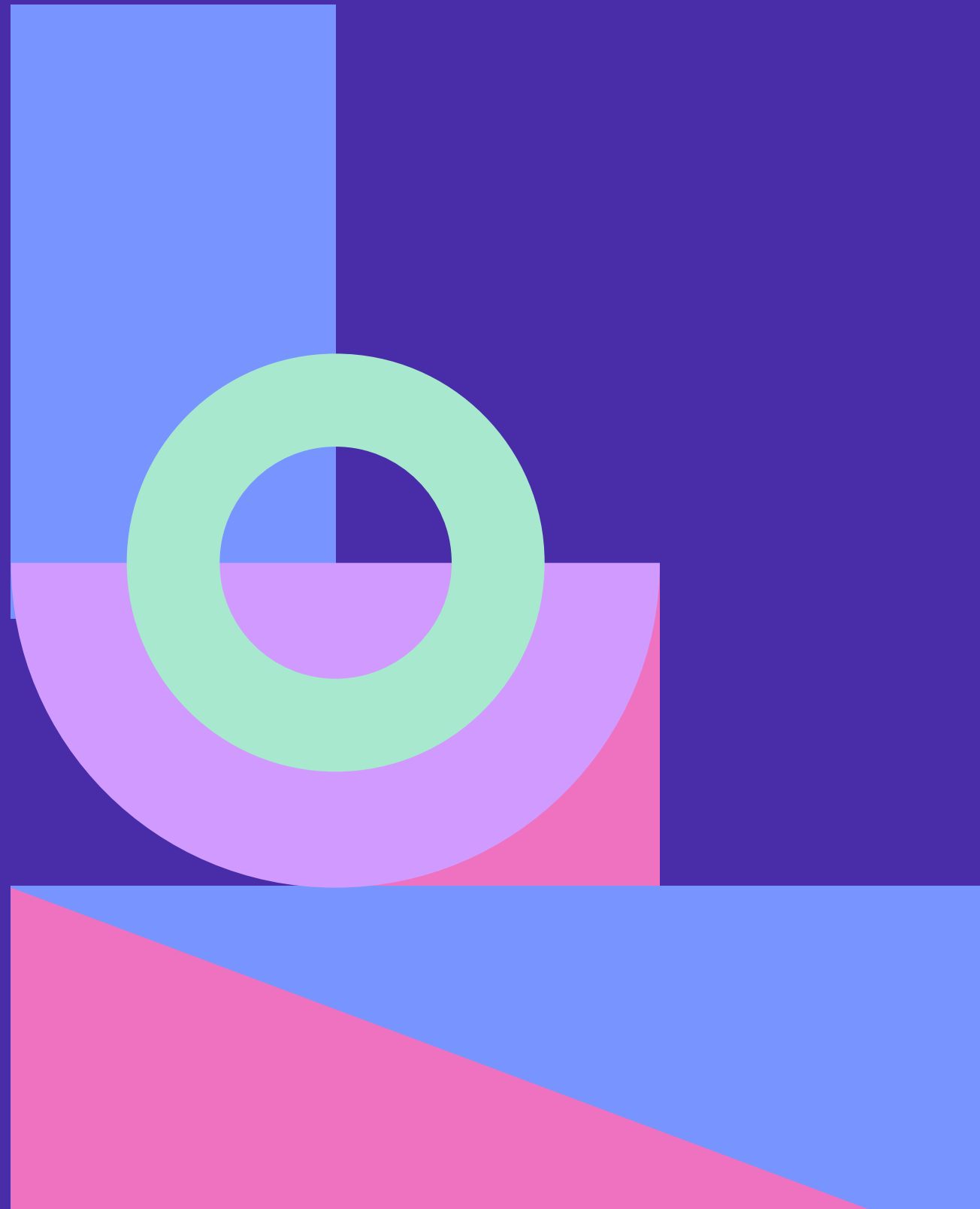
*College Visits exempt (x2)

Additional Considerations

- College Athletics – NCAA/NAIA Eligibility
- Western Undergraduate Exchange
- MN/SD Reciprocity
- Don't forget a safety school!
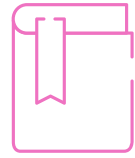- Early Decision/Early Action/Regular Decision/Rolling Admission

Senior Timeline

- Thanksgiving - Most colleges accept applications until Christmas, but we encourage students to turn them in around Thanksgiving.

- **October 1st-November 30th** - College Access Campaign (Admission fee waived to SD Schools)

- Sometime in late December - FAFSA Opens

- At least two weeks before submission date, students should request letters of recommendation if required.

- Some freshman and program scholarships are due shortly after application. Please follow the school for exact dates.

- Most scholarships are due throughout the spring, primarily in March.

Application Elements

Transcript

Parchment
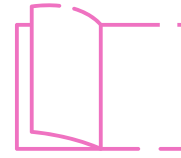- Encourage your student to create an account.
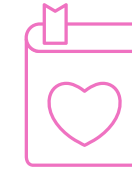
Test Scores

ACT
- Request scores from ACT

ASVAB
- October 23rd and February 6th

Letters of Rec

- Ask someone who knows strengths and is willing to write a GOOD letter.

Activities List

- Developed in English

Essay

- Developed in English
- College Essay Guy
- More Tips

Notes on Testing

- Test Optional – Definition is unique to each institution. (Read the fine print)
  - Many waive it for admissions, but require it for scholarships
  - Most will still require placement testing when arriving on campus
- Test Blind – Do not consider scores even if submitted.
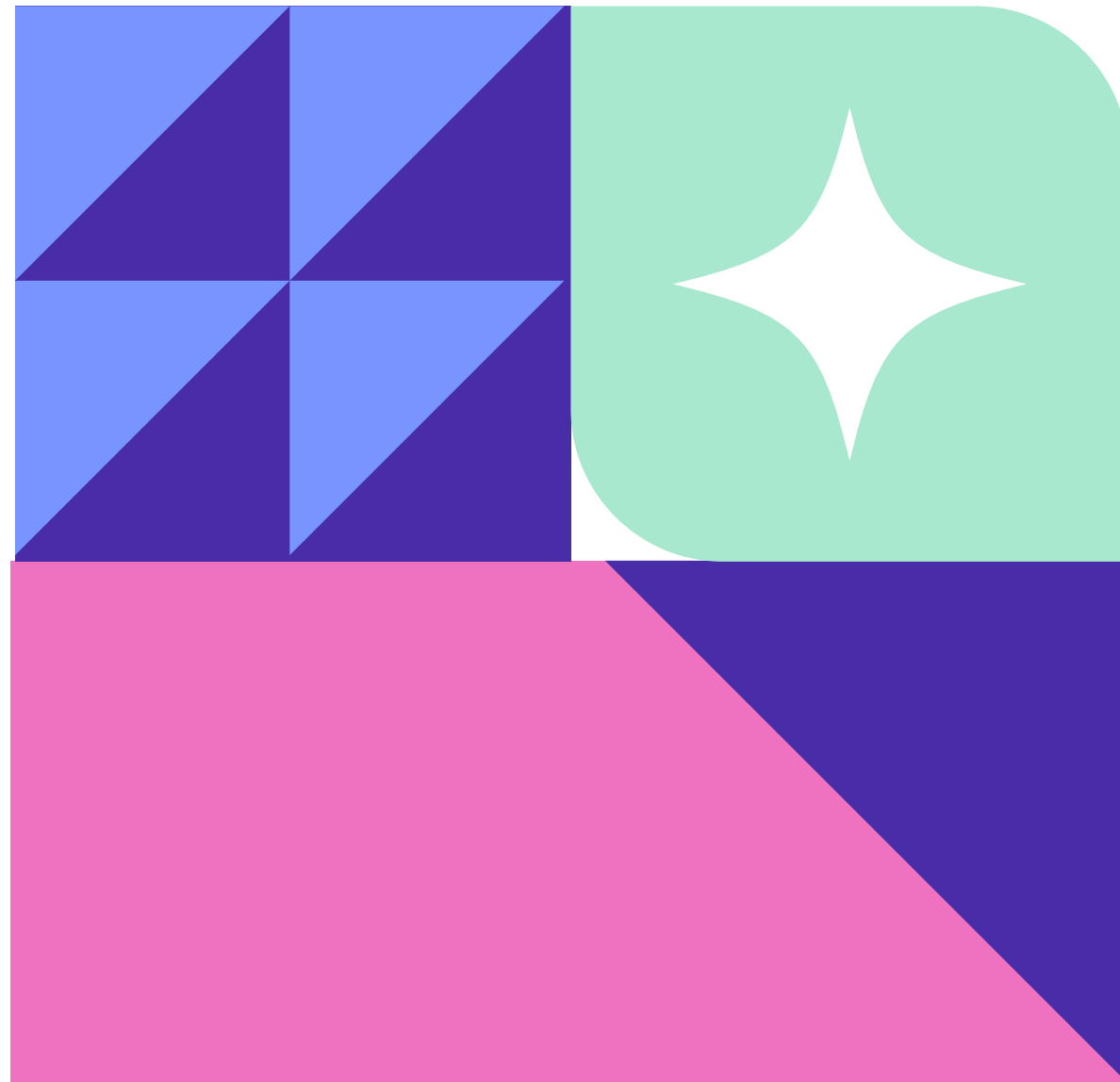- Test flexible – Allows you to choose (ACT, AP, SAT)

- ACT Superscores

Information Commonly Needed on Applications

- Size of Class of 2024 – 191
- Does Your School Rank – No
- Grading Scale – 4.0
- Graduation Date – May 18, 2024
- CEEB Code – 421175

School Profile

Websites to be familiar with

CommonApp
- How to Guide
- Step-by-step Considerations
- List of Schools
- Automatically sends recommenders emails

Coalition
- Similar to CommonApp
- List of Schools

SendEdu
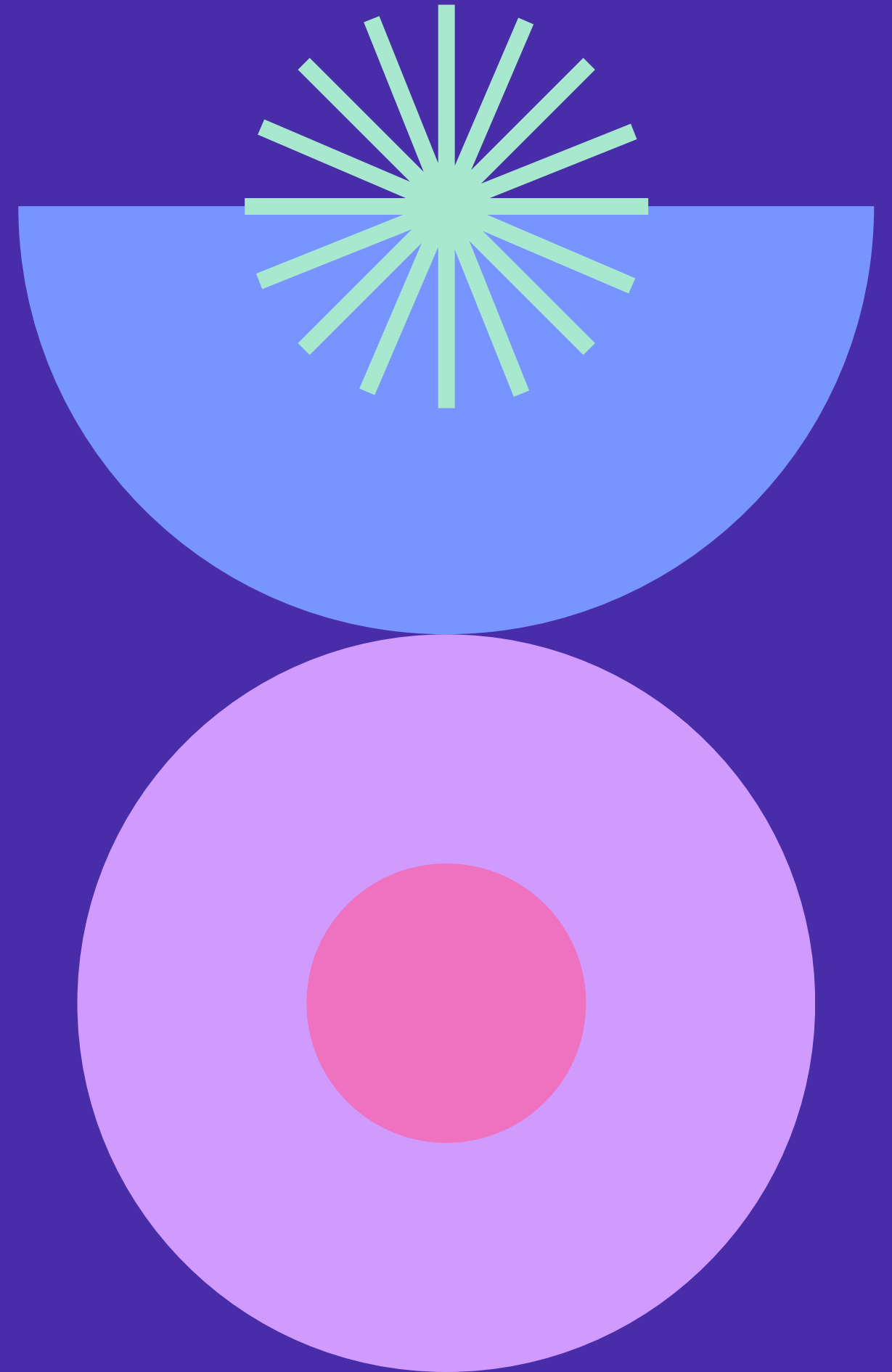- Often utilized by schools to request transcripts

Paying for College

- Scholarships
  - Fastweb – Free scholarship database
    - Do not pay for scholarship databases, talk to a counselor first!

- Federal Aid (FAFSA) –
  - Grants
  - Loans
  - Work Study

- Public vs. Private Considerations

- SDASFAA Tips

- Mapping Your Future

Scholarships

- University
  - Freshman Scholarships
  - Look at each website for most up-to-date information
  - Catholic University Scholarships
  - Deadlines vary

- Honors/Program specific
  - Not all honors programs have scholarships associated
    - Dorms, class sizes, research opportunities

- Local - Most due February-March
  - Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation
  - Dakota Dreams Bulletin Board
  - Foundation Scholarships
  - Watch OG Counseling scholarships tab and OGHS Postsecondary Resources
  - Class of 2024 Google Classroom

- State

SD Opportunity Scholarship

- Super score will be allowed if on an official score report from ACT

- Requirements: Have a score of 28 or above; or a score of 24 and completion of the specified curriculum requirements with no course lower than a "C".

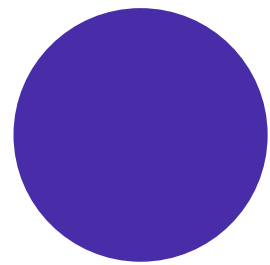- Once decision is made, fill out initial application online.

Build Dakota

- Technical School scholarship opportunity for high demand fields.
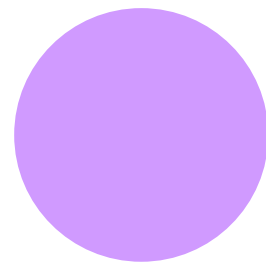- 2023-2024 High-needs fields

Dakota Corps

- Full ride scholarship at SDBOR school with a commitment to work in critical-need field in SD for 5 years
- Areas of critical need:
  - Teachers - High School Math, High School Science, Elementary or Secondary Special Education, High School Career and Technical Education, K-12 Foreign Language, Secondary Language Arts
  - Accountant / Auditor
  - Engineer (includes all fields EXCEPT mining)
  - Information Technology
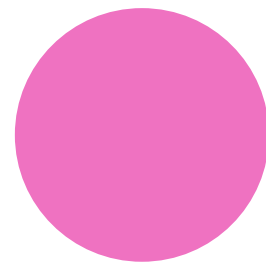 - Registered Nurse

How we communicate

Here are a few ways to stay up-to-date with all counseling resources.
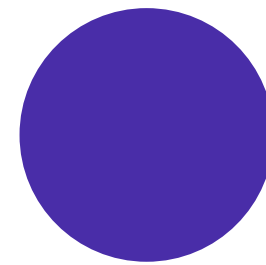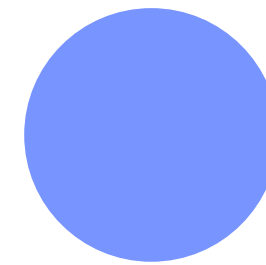
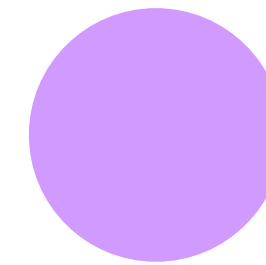Bulletin (Campus visits, upcoming events)

OGHS Postsecondary Resources

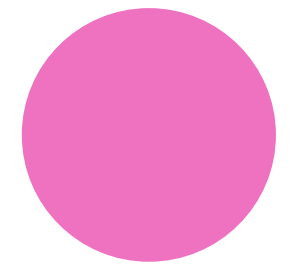Counseling Website (Scholarships, general information)

Weekly Updates from Mrs, Mahoney

Email (Application questions, essay review, etc.)

In-person (Stop in to Mrs. Hefner to make appointment or fill out senior advising form)

Peer Relations Reporting Tool (Anonymous)

Communication Considerations

@oghs.counseling

School Counselor Role

- Meets individually and in groups throughout high school
- Course planning
- Career and College planning
- Academic support
- Social emotional support
- Confidential individual or family setting
- Advocate for student
- Resource for students or parents of students struggling with any mental health issues
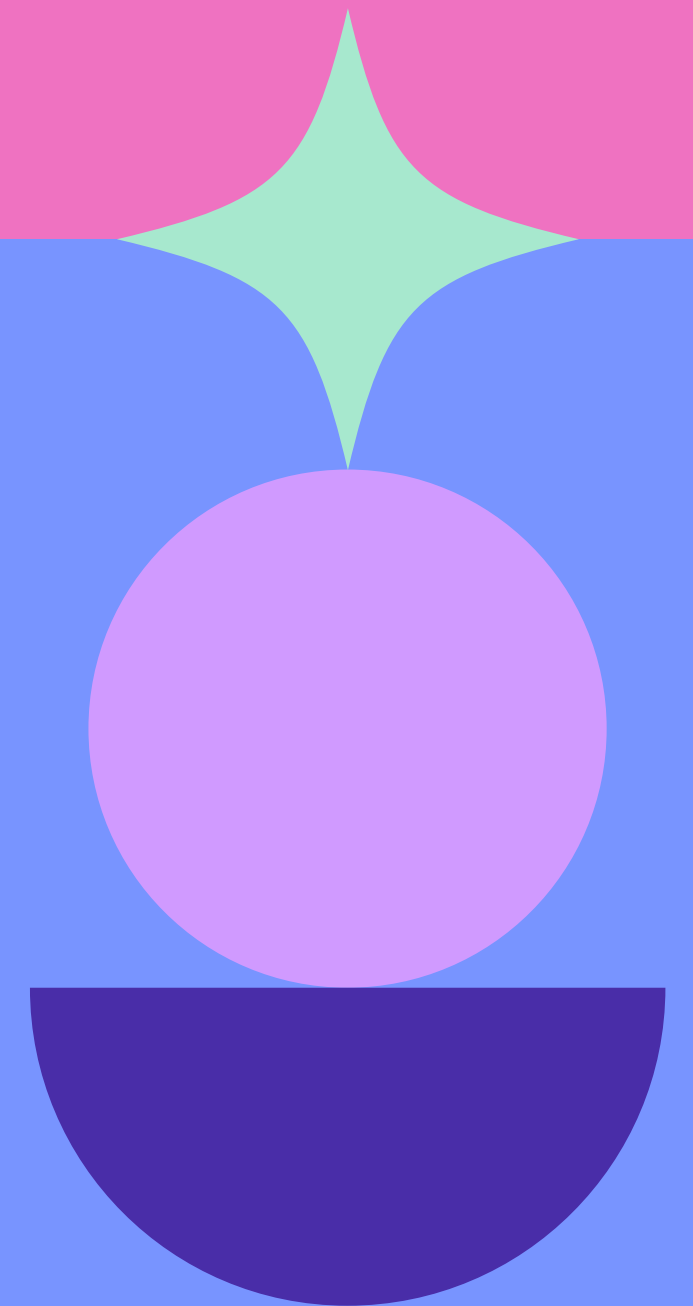- Referral source for long term counseling

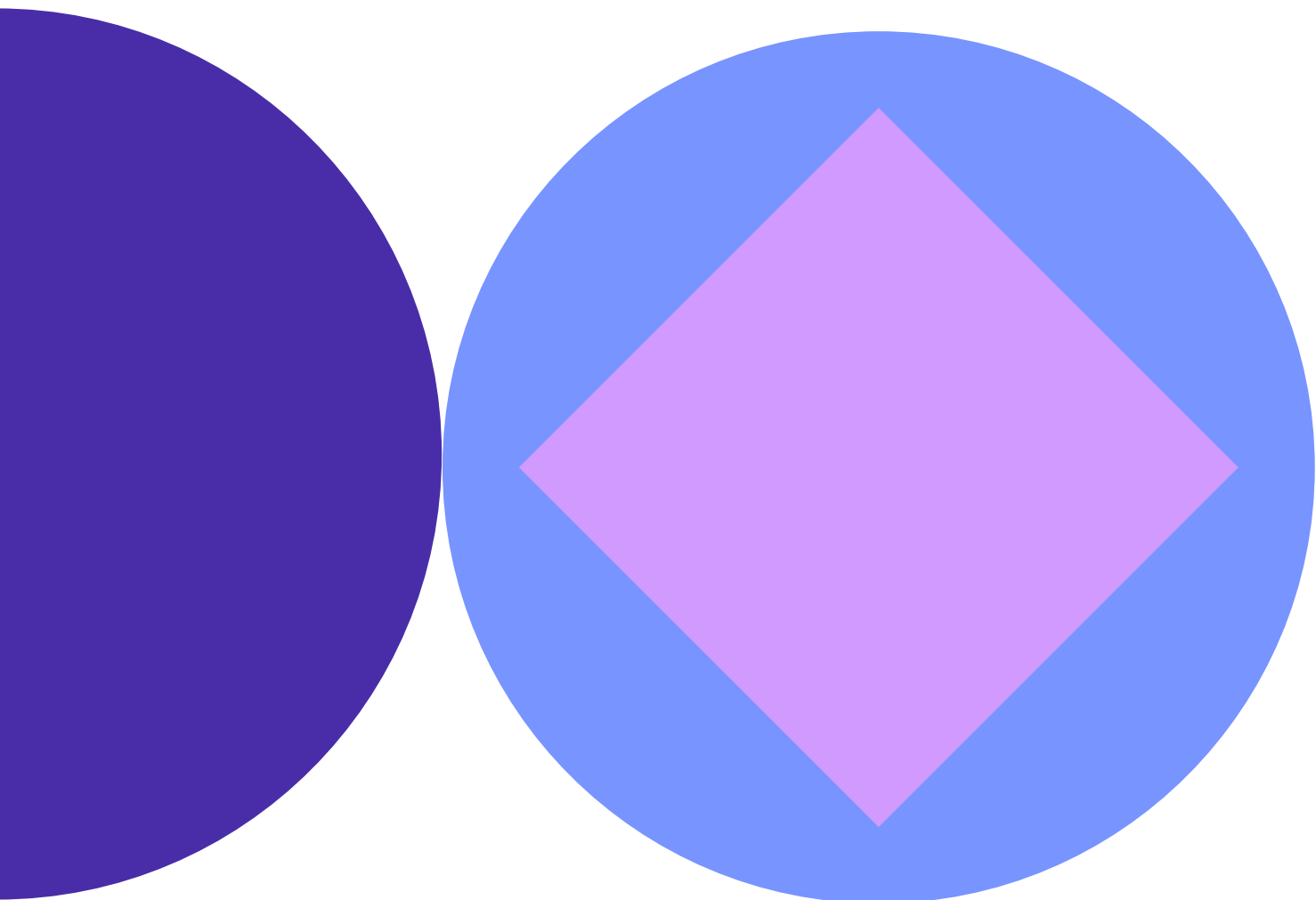Encourage your student to reach out to a school counselor!

Counseling Department

(605)575-3320

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Last Names N-Z
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Kelsey Hefner

Registrar/Administrative Assistant
khefner@ogknights.org
Focus Areas - Transcripts, records

Questions