

The background features several watercolor-style floral illustrations. In the top left, there are two light pink daisies on a green stem with a pink and white striped ribbon. In the top center, there are clusters of small pink flowers. In the top right, there are several bright orange flowers on a green stem with a pink and white striped ribbon. In the bottom left, there are small orange buds on a green stem. In the bottom right, there are small orange flowers on a green stem. A large, faint leaf illustration is visible at the bottom center.

Junior Night 2025

March 11, 2025

Contact Information



Megan McCamy

College & Career Counselor / College 101 Teacher

Central High School Counseling Office

816-671-4080

meganmccamy@sjsd.k12.mo.us





ACT (CHS School Code 262895)

Who should take the ACT?

- Anyone planning to attend college should consider taking the ACT.
 - Some colleges are “test optional” now.

Scores are reported back to the student and the high school.

Register online (<https://my.act.org/>)

Cost \$69 ~ Juniors & Seniors on free/reduced lunch qualify for 4 fee waivers (see counselor).

Typically, there are tests offered in February, April, June, July, September, October, December each year. The registration date is about a month in advance of test.

Many colleges require scores to be sent directly from ACT (can select up to four colleges at no extra charge during registration).

****Many colleges do not require the “writing” portion of the ACT (\$94). Contact individual colleges to see what they recommend.**





ACT (Changes for 2025)

Beginning September 2025 (paper testing)

- Reducing number of questions
- Reducing test length
- More time per question
- Science section optional
- ACT composite scores will include: English, Math, and Reading scores

Who should take Science section?

- Students planning to major in science or a STEM field or take science courses in college should consider taking the science section since those who have math and science scores will still receive a STEM score.

More information:

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-changes/enhancements.html>



Requirements for Dual Credit/Enrollment

- DC Chemistry: ACT Math subscore of 22 required
 - MUST have this score to take the class
- DC Math: ACT Math subscore of 22 required OR 3.0 GPA
 - Without this score, students may take class for high school credit (if space allows) but not for college credit
- DE English: ACT English subscore of 18 required OR 2.7 GPA (through 6 semesters)
 - Without this score, students may take class for high school credit (if space allows) but not for college credit

If not registered for April test, student should take June or July test. Score must be on file before class begins!



MWSU Early College Academy

- MWSU offers a variety of ONLINE dual enrollment classes (examples: PSY101, COM104, SOC110)
- MWSU verbiage = Flex classes; CHS verbiage = College Studies
- <https://www.missouriwestern.edu/eca/>
- This class would be one of the seven classes in their CHS schedule
- Same cost as dual credit “seated” classes (\$99/credit hour)
- Registration will begin in April - email instructions will be sent out to all current juniors

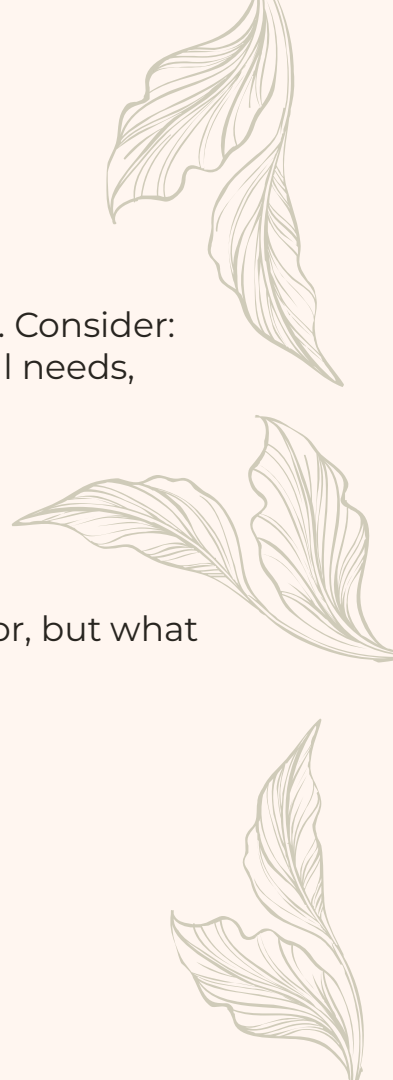


Selecting the Right College

- Selecting the “right” college is difficult.
- College selection should be based on where the student will be successful. Consider: campus size, distance from home, cost, majors, scholarships, sports, special needs, etc.
- Ask the question – is this a realistic choice?
- ALWAYS have a back-up plan!
- Online college searches are very helpful. Don’t focus too much on the major, but what the college has to offer the student:

www.collegeboard.org and www.missouriconnections.org

- Look at admission requirements now – 4 years of Math? World Language?





College Visits

- Go to the admissions website or call the college to arrange a visit.
- Summer is a good option but visiting when regular college classes are in session gives students a good idea of what the campus feels like.
- Parents should attend with the student, if possible.
- Visits can be individual or group (some offer Saturday visits).
- Ask questions (current college students can offer great info on campus safety, food, campus life, residence halls, etc.)
- Tour the residence halls and eat the food.
- Find out about hidden fees (parking, books, activity fees).
- A college visit is one of the most important things you and your student can do.
- Talk to college reps when they visit CHS this fall.





College Applications



- Each college will open their application this summer – no specific date.
- No deadlines before school starts – we will remind students after school starts!
- Many colleges have a Nov 1 – Dec 1 priority deadline.
- Even though colleges have early deadlines, many will continue to take application for admissions after deadlines – rolling admissions.
- Contact college to see what is required to apply: application, essay, ACT/SAT scores, application fee, high school transcript, letters of recommendation, supplemental information, etc.
- The Common Application is for more selective colleges all over the USA. Approximately 1,000 colleges accept the Common App.
www.commonapp.org



Requesting Transcripts

- Ms. Colgan, located in the Counseling Office, will send transcripts for scholarships and colleges. She sends them daily.
- Requests for transcripts must be completed on the CHS website (Student Support > Counseling > Transcript Request Form). Fill out form and submit online.
- If you have earned college credit through a dual credit class at CHS, you must send a college transcript to your college. Request this directly from MWSU. Do this after the class has ended and grades are posted.





Types of Financial Aid

Money used to help with college expenses:

- Scholarships (college, local, national, A+, athletic, etc.) – “free money” that is not paid back
- Grants – “free money” that is not paid back (based on financial need)
- Student Loans – must be paid back
- Parent Loans – must be paid back
- Work-Study – part-time job typically on campus





Local Scholarships



- There are many local scholarships – many due in spring of senior year!
- Ask student/parent employers about scholarships.
- Organizations in which you are a member – church, credit union, professional organizations.
- Companies you do business with – Farm Bureau, banks, insurance companies, etc.
- Find local scholarships on CHS website. Student Support > Counseling > Scholarships.
- Many scholarships are stackable (meaning you can add scholarships together to cover costs). Apply for many!





Scholar-Link



- New online scholarship portal for many local scholarships
- Opens January 15th – deadline is March 1st
- Students are strongly encouraged to use this website
- One application for multiple scholarships – over 40 for CHS students!
- www.cfnwmo.org (Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri)



National Scholarships

- A lot of money is available on the national level, but many students are competing for this money.
- There are many websites for scholarship searches:
<http://www.fastweb.com/>
<https://www.collegeboard.org/>
- There are some national scholarships listed on the CHS website also
 - Examples: Burger King, National Honor Society, Elks, etc.





A+ Program

- Students must have participation agreement on file.
- Visit CHS website: Student Support > Counseling > Scholarships > A+ Program to see guidelines.
- All requirements completed by beginning of May - senior year.
- 2.5 GPA, 95% attendance, 50 hours unpaid tutoring/mentoring, citizen in good standing, submit FAFSA.
- Visit with your college to determine if there are benefits and understand requirements.
- Many colleges have their own scholarships.
- See Ms. Davison (A+ Coordinator) in LRC.





FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)



- Available after October 1 (this year it was pushed back to December)
- Apply by February 1 (Missouri schools)
- File electronically at <http://www.fafsa.gov/>
- This is FREE – do not pay a fee!
- All families must fill out the FAFSA in order to qualify for any federal/state financial aid (i.e. grants), including loans.
- Some schools require FAFSA for scholarships; must complete for A+ Program!
- We plan to host FAFSA/Financial Aid night in October.





Summer To-Do List



- Volunteer! (Keep a log of volunteer hours)
- Complete A+ tutoring hours
- Make list of names/contact information from volunteering, employment, etc.
- Research colleges
- Go on college visit(s)
- Take the ACT and/or study for ACT
- Look at college websites to see what is needed to apply – start on essays early, request letters of recommendation, etc.

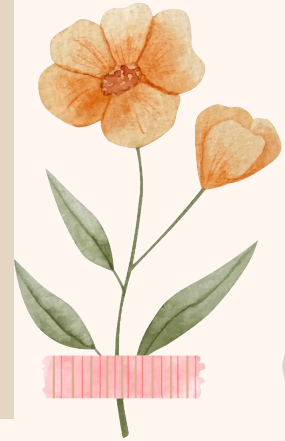




Any Questions?



- Follow us on social media:
Twitter **@Counseling_CHS**
Instagram **counseling_chs**
- Keep an eye on emails from Mrs. Viestenz for daily announcements
- Talking Points app/notifications



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