

Vancleave High School

Senior Year Resource Guide

Class of 2026

Welcome to your senior year! Here you can find resources to help you plan for your graduation and for life after high school.

Helpful Contact Information

Class of 2026 Remind Codes

A-L: @vhs2026al

M-Z: @vhs2026mz

Mrs. Campbell (A-L)

Mrs. Bailey (M-Z)

Mrs. Krohn (Scholarships, Military Recruiters, College Recruiters)

Ms. Wiley (Career Coach)

What to do the summer before senior year?

- ☐ Begin creating your college list.
- ☐ Schedule campus tours (best to go when school is in session)
- ☐ Take the ACT
- ☐ Attend ACT tutoring with Mrs. Bonilla
- ☐ Work on community service hours if you are planning to work towards Mississippi Scholars or Tech Master's Scholars (or to add to your resume!)
- ☐ Job shadow and/or work on career skills with a part-time job
- ☐ Meet with your counselor
- ☐ Take your yearbook senior portraits

Graduation Information

Senior Dues: \$45

- Covers diploma cover and diploma, senior T-shirt, and senior activities throughout the year
- Payable to Mrs. Taylor
- Must be paid by October 31 or price increase

Requirements for Early Dismissal

To be able to have early dismissal, **ONE** of the following conditions must be met:

17 on the English part of the ACT **and** 19 on the math part of the ACT

OR

Silver on the ACT Workkeys

OR

2.5 GPA and be enrolled in a higher English and higher math class

Must Pass the Following State Tests to Graduate

Algebra I

Biology

English II

Passing score on each test is 1050. Students earning below a 1050 on a test can also meet graduation requirements the following ways:

- Using the concordance table below
- Earning a 17 on an equivalent subscore on the ACT
- If adding the total scores of all 4 tests and dividing by 4=1050

Universal Concordance Table

Concordance Table	Scale Score			
Grade in Course	1049-1048	1047-1046	1045-1044	1043-1042
A	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
B	Pass	Pass	Pass	Fail
C	Pass	Pass	Fail	Fail
D	Pass	Fail	Fail	Fail

Accolades (Extra awards)

Honors-QPA of 4.0 to 4.49 (gold cord at graduation)

Special Honors-QPA of 4.5 and higher (gold cord and gold tassel at graduation)

Mississippi Scholars or Tech Masters

<https://msmec.com/public-education-forum/curriculum/> (medal at graduation)

ACT College and Career Readiness-Gold or Platinum on the ACT Workkeys OR ACT sub scores of 22 in Math and 18 in English OR 22 in Reading (medal at graduation)

Traditional Diploma and Endorsements

Traditional-24 Credits

You must meet ONE of the options listed below for early release your senior year but not for graduation:

17 English ACT Sub Score and 19 Math ACT Sub Score OR

Silver level on ACT WorkKeys OR

Overall 2.5 GPA/Passed all 4 state tests/on track for diploma requirements/enrolled in Essentials for College Math or Literacy.

CTE Endorsement

26 credits

2.5 GPA

Silver Level on ACT WorkKeys

Work-Based Learning

Experience or Career

Pathway Experience OR Earn

a State Board of Education

approved National Credential

Academic Endorsement

26 credits

2.5 GPA

17 English ACT Sub Score

19 Math ACT Sub Score

One AP or DC class with a "C" or higher

Must take the AP exam

Distinguished Endorsement

30 credits

3.0 GPA

18 English ACT Sub Score

22 Math ACT Sub Score

One AP or DC class with a "B" or higher

Must take the AP exam

9th grade cohort_____

26/30 minimum credits

STATE TEST

Algebra I	_____	English II	_____
Biology I	_____	US History	_____

DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC ENDOREMENT
Must meet following Requirements for this diploma:

- Overall GPA – 3.0
- ACT Sub Scores: 18 (English) 22 (Math)
- One AP course with a “B” or higher and take the appropriate AP exam OR one dual credit course with a “B” or higher

College Planning

- Students can begin applying to most colleges and universities after July 1. Many colleges have a December 1 deadline in order to be considered for scholarships.
- Mrs. Krohn frequently has college recruiters come visit our campus. **Visit with them and get to know them well.** The recruiters can be a tremendous asset to you.
- Application Day will be held in October.
- Students who are eligible for free/reduced lunch can receive an application waiver. See your counselor for a waiver.
- After applying to your colleges of choice, request a transcript to be sent to them here: <https://jcsdms.scriborder.com/>
 - Directions on how to request transcripts
 -  Requesting transcripts to be sent to a college
- It is strongly encouraged to visit college campuses. Seniors get 2 “college days” to visit a campus. Those days will not count as an absence.
- Resources for exploring colleges:
 - Get2College-Visit them in Ocean Springs and visit their website <https://get2college.org/college-snapshots>
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/> You can be entered in for scholarships by completing your account.
 - Explore the websites and the social media pages of colleges you are interested in.
- Use MajorClarity to explore colleges, build a list, and keep up with application deadlines.
- Make sure you stay on top of deadlines for applications, scholarships, housing, and orientation. **This is where getting to know your recruiters and following social media accounts can come in very handy! And check your email!!**
- If you need a recommendation letter from your counselor, please make sure you give your counselor at least 2 weeks to complete.

College Application Steps

1. Research colleges and create a list
2. Tour college campuses (you can use 2 college trip days your senior year that will not count as an absence)
3. Apply to several different colleges (Dec 1 is the priority deadline for scholarships for most Mississippi schools-must be accepted by Dec 1-that means you need to apply much earlier!)
 - a. Send transcripts
 - b. Send ACT scores through myact.org
 - c. If you receive free/reduced lunch you can see your counselor for an application fee waiver
4. Apply for scholarships on the college scholarship portal (many will have a February to April-highly competitive ones will be earlier-pay attention to deadlines!)
5. Make final college choice
6. Apply for housing (typically opens in January) if living on campus
7. Accept financial aid offers
8. Attend on campus orientation (Spring/summer)
9. Send final transcript

Financial Aid

Types of Financial Aid

- Federal and/or State Aid-grant money that does not have to be repaid
 - Complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Opens for 2026 school year in October of 2025 this year. You will use 2024 tax information.
 - We will have FAFSA days scheduled in the career center for assistance with applications. See Mrs. Krohn to schedule a time.
 - Mississippi State Aid-Mississippi has 4 grants. Learn more about them and apply at <https://www.msfinancialaid.org/>
- Institution Aid-
 - This is money directly from the college or university
 - All schools will have Freshman scholarships based on ACT and GPA that you do not have to do an extra application to receive.
 - All schools will also have a scholarship portal that opens after you have been accepted. Make sure you check in and apply!

- Local and community scholarships
 - Mrs.Krohn will be your go to for all local scholarships. Check with her frequently. She also has a scholarship remind account where she will send out information and approaching deadlines.
- National scholarships
 - These have a larger pool of applicants, but there is still money to be had. Create an account for one scholarship search engine. They all have pretty much the same scholarships.
 - <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
 - Major Clarity Scholarship search
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/scholarship-search>
 - <https://www.fastweb.com/>
 - <https://get2college.org/scholarships/>

Career Exploration and Planning Resources

- Meet with Ms. Wiley (Career Coach) to explore career options.
- <http://www.youscience.com/> See Ms.Wiley for a free access code
- <https://mspathfinder.org/>
- <https://www.mywayms.org/my-way-works/get-on-the-grid/>
- <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- Review the Career and Technical Programs at MGCCC. They have so many to choose from!
 - <https://mgccc.edu/programs/career-technical-programs-by-location/>
- For Military options, see Mrs.Krohn to connect with a recruiter. Make sure you sign up to take the ASVAB in October and/or March.