WELCOME
Juniors and Junior Parents

Planning For the Future
Class of 2027

Topics

- Graduation Pathways
- PSAT, SAT, ACT
- AP, Dual Credit, and Indiana College Core
- Internet Resources
- National Honor Society Eligibility
- First Steps in the College Search

Graduation Pathways

- In order to graduate from Munster High School, all students must satisfy these 3 requirements:
  - **Box 1:** Obtain all credits for a high school diploma
  - **Box 2:** Learn and Demonstrate Employability Skills
  - **Box 3:** Demonstrate Post-Secondary Readiness Competencies

Box 1: High School Diploma

- Students should know which diploma they are working towards:
  - Core 40
  - Core 40 with Academic Honors
  - Core 40 with Technical Honors

- Students must satisfy all requirements for one of these diplomas to 'check' Box 1.

Box 2: Demonstrate Employability Skills

- 2 ways to 'check' Box 2:
  - Earn 8 points in school-sponsored clubs/sports
    - 1 season of participation in a sport= 8 points
    - Steady participation in clubs allows students to accumulate points
      - Clubs and point values can be found in the Course Selection Guide, pages 40-45: Clubs and Activities

OR

  - Earn 75+ hours of paid employment over 4 years of high school that can be signed off on by an employer
  - Volunteer hours **DO NOT** count for Box 2

- Students are also responsible for writing a 2-3 page reflection paper based on their Box 2 activity/employment

Box 2: Employability Skills Requirement

Munster High School
Box 2: Employability Skills Verification Form

Student Name:	**Graduation Year:**
Student Signature:	
Type of Learning (Check one): ☐ Project-Based Learning ☐ Service-Based Learning ☐ Work-Based Learning	
Counselor Name:	

Section 1: Points Earned (8) / Hours Worked (75) - Attendance Requirement Met

Activity Name / Company Name:	Points Earned or Hours Worked:	Did the student have at least a 75% attendance rate for this activity?	Coach / Sponsor / Supervisor Signature:
		☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	
		☐ Yes ☐ No	

Section 2: Demonstration of Employability Skills

Please initial each section to indicate the student met the following criteria:	Initials:
Mindsets - Lifelong Learning & Self-Confidence: Demonstrates willingness to work and learn, and continually apply new knowledge; possesses belief in own ability to succeed and assert self when necessary.	
Learning Strategies - Effective Communication, Decision-Making, Initiative, Attention to Detail, Problem-Solving & Aptitude Awareness: Applies skills to clearly & effectively express ideas and messages to others appropriate to the environment, utilizes critical thinking skills to make informed decisions, applies self-motivation and self-direction to work and learning, achieves thoroughness and accuracy when accomplishing a task, applies critical and creative thinking skills to resolve problems, and identifies and communicates individual interests and skills that may lead to potential career paths.	
Social & Emotional Skills - Connection, Regulation & Collaboration: Demonstrates the ability to network with others through social awareness and cultural sensitivity, recognizes and manage one's emotions, and works well with others in a team.	
Work Ethic - Self-Discipline, Independence, Perseverance, Adaptability, Integrity, Professionalism, Time Management & Organization: Demonstrates self-control and behaves in acoordance to rules with minimal direction, carries out expectations with minimal supervision, demonstrates endurance and capacity to complete tasks, manages transitions and adjusts to changing situations and responsibilities, acts in a trustworthy and honest manner, demonstrates skills and behaviors appropriate for school and work, and plans and organizes short and long-term goals while maintaining balance with other responsibilities.	

Section 3: Student Reflection

Student must submit a 2-3 page (typed, double-spaced) reflection addressing the following questions:

What lessons have you learned from this activity or experience? Did you learn anything about working with others, exhibiting professionalism, showing integrity or your own work ethic? Did you experience diversity within this setting? Please give examples of opportunities you had to demonstrate at least 2 of the following skills: leadership, time-management, taking initiative, organizational skills, problem-solving, conflict management, or teamwork.

Counselor Approval

Counselor Signature:	
Date:	

MHS Box 2: Employability Skills Information

Project-Based Learning: Allows students to gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge. Students engage in a rigorous, extended process of asking questions, finding resources, and applying information. These projects can be established within certain Capstone classes, and must include creation of a student work product that is validated by the high school. Completion of Verification Form with Essay is required.

Service-Based Learning: Integrates meaningful service to enrich and apply academic knowledge, teach civic and personal responsibility (and other employability skills), and strengthen communities. At MHS, **participation in a school-based activity that is co-curricular/extra-curricular such as sports, clubs and activities can count toward accumulation of points**. These points can be added together so the student can accumulate 8 TOTAL POINTS over the course of their time at MHS. See the chart below for activites and point awarded. Completion of Verification Form with Essay is required.

Work-Based Learning: Allows students to apply classroom theories to practical problems, to explore career options, and pursue personal and professional goals. This includes activities that occur in workplaces and involve an employer assigning a student meaningful job tasks to develop their skills, knowledge, and readiness for work. **Hours spent working at a part-time job can be counted toward this requirement**. (Students must be able to produce a paystub if asked.) Completion of Verification Form with Essay is required.

Service-Based Learning - Points for Participation

Points per Year	Activity Name
1	ASL Club, Balkan Culture Club, Black Culture Club, Class Executive Council (CEC), Chess Club, Civics Club, Chinese Culture Club, Christian Culture Club, Creative Writing Club, Environmental Club, Fashion Club, French Club, GSA, HOSA, Indian Culture Club, Jewish Culture Club, Mental Health Club, Muslim Culture Club, Philosophy Club, Ping Pong Club, Poetry Club, Raspberry Pi Club, SADD, S.T.A.N.D., Ultimate Frisbee Club, DARE Role Model, Math Contests, Snowflurry
2	Academic Super Bowl, Art Club, Best Buddies Associate Member, Culture & Cuisine Club, Film Club, LINK Crew, National Honor Society (NHS), Mustang Volunteer Project (MVP), Read & Write Book Club, Student Advisory Council (SAC), Spanish Club, TEAMS, Beginning Choir, NWI Youth Symphony, Skills USA Competition
3	Best Buddies/Peer Buddy, DECA, Math Team, Jazz Band
4	Best Buddies/Buddy, Cyber-Patriots, Intermediate Choir
6	Bowling Club, eSports, Winter Guard
8	**All IHSAA Sports**, Athletic Training, BAND, Boy/Girl Scouts, Cheerleading, CHORALE, Color Guard, Munster Police Explorers, POMS, Publications (Crier Student Newspaper & Paragon Yearbook), Robotics Club, Science Olympiad, Orchestra, SING/SONG Choir, Speech & Debate Club, Winter Percussion, 4H, & some specific Outstanding Achievements (DOC 200 Award, Eagle Scout/Gold Award, Hoosier Boys/Girls State, & the IU Honors Language Summer Program.)

1 point = 10 hours of service/participation

All Indiana students are required to complete the Box 2 requirement for Graduation Pathways. Students can do so by being active in clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities and must accumulate 80 hours of service (8 points TOTAL) during their time in high school. Students participating in activities not listed above are encouraged to talk with their school counselors to see if those activities can count toward the Box 2 requirement.

Box 3: Post-Secondary Readiness Competencies

- Students must achieve **one** of the following:

- Honors Diploma: Academic/Technical- satisfy all requirements
- SAT: Meet the 480 ERW and 530 Math benchmarks
- ACT: Meet college-ready benchmarks (see course selection guide, page 8)
- ASVAB: Earn a minimum AFQT score of 31 **and** have intent to enlist
- State-and Industry recognized Credential or Certification
- Federally Recognized Apprenticeship
- Career-Technical Education Concentrator- must earn a C average in at least two non-duplicative advanced courses within a program
- AP/Dual Credit Courses: Must earn a C average or higher in at least three courses
- Locally Created Pathway- Human Services, Entrepreneurship, Fine Arts, Exercise Science, PLTW: Engineering, PLTW: Biomed, Computer Science

ASVAB Clarification

- ASVAB= Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery- entrance exam for armed services, is offered once in the spring at MHS
- ASVAB benchmark is an AFQT score of 31 or higher
- ASVAB score may only be used for Box 3 if a student fills out an Intent to Enlist Form with plans to commit to a military branch after high school
- This is a change from the state, effective with the class of 2025

PSAT: Basics

The PSAT is the practice test for the SAT.
It helps predict SAT scores.

- Includes test 'modules' in reading, writing and language, and math
- Tightly aligned with the SAT
- All students grades 9-11 will take either the PSAT 8/9 or the PSAT/NMSQT in school on **Tuesday, October 21th**.
- Attendance on test day is **IMPORTANT**- please plan accordingly!

PSAT/NMSQT

- Score report access emailed to students; also available via College Board accounts
- PSAT scores (160-760) are aligned to SAT scores (200-800).
- PSAT scores determine eligibility for National Merit Scholarship Competition junior year only.

PSAT

- PSAT is completely digital.
- 2 hours and 14 minutes- 30 minutes shorter
- 98 total questions, down from 139
- Specific details regarding the day of testing will be made available soon.

SAT Testing Months: Saturdays

August, September, October, November, December, March, May, June

Test Areas:

- Evidence-based Reading, Writing/Language, and Math.
- Test scores range from 200-800 per section.
- Register online at www.collegeboard.org
- $68.00 fee to take a weekend SAT
- If student receives free/reduced lunch and/or text book assistance, fee waiver is available. See counselor for details.

*** Follow all directions on the College Board website.**

2025/2026 SAT Testing Dates Offered at MHS



- **Saturday, October 4, 2025**
  - **Registration Deadline: September 19th, 2025**
- **School Day SAT: March, 2026**
- **Saturday, May 2, 2026**
- **Essay section has been discontinued**
- **All SAT exams are now digital**

School Day SAT

- All junior students will take the SAT during the school day at MHS in early March.
- This is an Indiana testing requirement.
- If students meet the benchmarks on the SAT laid out by the state, it will 'check' Box 3 of Graduation Pathways (**480 ERW** score, **530 math** score).
- More information regarding the School Day SAT will be forthcoming in early second semester.

Preparing for the SAT

- College Board
  - Question of the Day
  - Free Practice App (Android and iPhone)
  - Full Practice Test: www.collegeboard.org
- Khan Academy: https://www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat
- Jeanius Prep: www.jeaniusprep.com
- Tutors Across America: https://tutorsacrossamerica.com/
- Private Prep Classes: Excel Edge
  www.exceledgeinc.com
  - Junior families will receive Excel Edge registration information during first semester.

ACT
(American College Testing)

- Tests evaluate English, Mathematics, Reading Comprehension and Science.
- Optional Writing test available
- Score Range: 1-36
- $93.00 with writing test/$68.00 without writing
- $40.00 fee for late registration
- MHS is a test site in April, 2026
- Register online: www.actstudent.org
- Fee waivers available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch and textbook assistance- see counselor for details.

Should a student take a college entrance exam more than once?

It depends…

Do the scores:

- Reflect the student's true academic ability?
- Fall within the range of scores required for admission to the college of their choice?
- Meet requirements for a scholarship?



Test Optional…What Does This Mean?

- Due to Covid, many colleges made the submission of college entrance exams optional for admissions decisions…this may not still be the case. Be sure to check admissions websites!

- **Should your student submit their scores? It depends…**
  - Are their scores within or above the range for acceptance?
  - Are they looking for merit scholarship money?
  - If the answer is 'yes' to either of these questions, then they should submit scores

OR

- Are their scores below the range for acceptance but their grades/GPA fit criteria?
- If you answered 'yes' to the above, be sure that the school is test optional before deciding against submitting scores

Advanced Placement Classes and Exams

- AP classes require rigorous academic preparation.
- 4 AP credits and exams satisfy one possible requirement for the Academic Honors Diploma.
- Can also be used for Graduation Pathways Box 3 completion.



AP Registration 2025-2026

- All registration is completed online through CollegeBoard.
  - There **WILL** be fees for cancelled or unused tests- **$40**
  - Please check with your student and make sure they have an active CollegeBoard account. We cannot troubleshoot. Parent and/or student must call.
- Registration deadline: November 1, 2025
  - Students must decide by this date if they are testing
  - Includes self-study exams
- AP classes that run only second semester: registration deadline is February 1, 2026
- Payment window for all AP Exams will be in early February.

AP Registration (cont.)

- 2026 AP testing fees are $99 per exam.
  - State subsidizes Math/English/Science
  - Fee waivers available for free/reduced lunch
  - Indiana Subsidy will only cover two exams for 2026.
- $40 fee charged to student per exam ordered after the due date
- Students will register with AP teachers in each of their AP classes.
- Payments will be made online in February through EventLink.
- All AP Exams are scheduled for May.
  - Exams will be digital or hybrid.

More AP Info

- Test scores 1-5
- 3, 4, or 5 may earn college credit
- Test results posted online in July

AP Credit and Placement

https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement/search-credit-policies

AP Information for Parents

https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/exploreap/for-parents

Dual College Credit Classes

- Many classes taken at MHS also have college credit attached.
- Students will sign up in their classes.
- Only students who receive dual credit for Junior English can qualify for credit for Senior English.
- Students who are required to complete the Knowledge Assessment (KA) must complete in order to receive college credit.
- Can earn concurrent credits through Ivy Tech, PNW, and Vincennes University (Each college has their own unique qualifiers)
- Earning 6 dual credits satisfies one possible requirement for the Academic Honors Diploma.
- Earning 9 dual credits (3 in a core content area) satisfies Box 3 of Graduation Pathways.

2025-2026 Dual Credit Concordance

Munster High School Course	DC Institution	College Course	Pre-Requisite	Indiana College Core	Cost
AP English Lang-Comp (11th)	Purdue Northwest	ENG 104	GPA & Test Scores	Yes	$75
AP English Lit-Comp (12th)	Purdue Northwest	ENG 231	GPA & Test Scores; AP Score of 3, 4, 5	Yes	$75
AP Statistics	Purdue Northwest	STAT 301	GPA & Test Scores	Yes	$315.30
American Sign Language 2	Purdue Northwest	ASL 101	ASL 1 & and GPA & Test Scores	No	$315.30
American Sign Language 3	Purdue Northwest	ASL 101 & 102	ASL 1 & 2 and GPA & Test Scores	No	$630.60
English 11	Ivy Tech	ENGL 111	Read & Write Ready	Yes	FREE
Composition	Ivy Tech	ENGL 215	Grade of C or higher in ENGL 111	Yes	FREE
World Literature	Ivy Tech	ENGL 206	ENGL 111	Yes	FREE
Creative Writing	Ivy Tech	ENGL 202	ENGL 111	Yes	FREE
Advanced Speech	Ivy Tech	COMM 101	Read & Write Ready	Yes	FREE
Pre-Calc/Trigonometry	Ivy Tech	MA 136 & 137	SAT Math (550); PSAT Math (27); ACT Math (24); KA STEM (70); No GPA Option	Yes	FREE
Pre-Calc/Trigonometry Honors	Ivy Tech	MA 136 & 137		Yes	FREE
Trigonometry	Ivy Tech	MA 137		Yes	FREE
AP Calculus AB	Ivy Tech	MA 211	MA 136 & 137, KA Calc (95)	Yes	FREE
AP Calculus BC	Ivy Tech	MA 211 & 212		Yes	FREE
AP Biology	Ivy Tech	BIO 105	Read/ Write Ready & KA QR (55), KA STEM (50); ACT Math (18); SAT Math (500); PSAT Math (24.5); 2.6 GPA (JR/SR)	Yes	FREE
Spanish 3	Ivy Tech	SPAN 101 & 102	Read & Write Ready	Yes	FREE
AP Psychology	Ivy Tech	PSYC 101	Read & Write Ready	Yes	FREE
AP US History	Ivy Tech	HIST 101 & 102	Read & Write Ready	Yes	FREE
AP Government	Ivy Tech	POLS 101	Read & Write Ready	Yes	FREE
AP Economics	Ivy Tech	ECON 202	ENGL 111 & ACT-M (18); SAT-M (500); PSAT-M (24.5); KA STEM 70; GPA 2.6 (JR/SR)	Yes	FREE
PLTW Intro to Engineering Design	Ivy Tech	DESN 101	Enrollment in class	No	FREE
PLTW Principles of Engineering	Ivy Tech	DESN 104	DESN 101	No	FREE
PLTW Digital Electronics	Ivy Tech	EECT 112	SAT-M (510); PSAT-M (25); ACT-M (20); KA STEM 70; No GPA Option	No	FREE
PLTW Civil Engineering & Architecture	Ivy Tech	DESN 105	DESN 101	No	FREE
Marketing Fundamentals	Ivy Tech	MKTG 101	Read/Write Ready; ACT-M (18); SAT-M (500); PSAT-M (24.5); KA STEM 50; KA Read/Write 70; GPA 2.6 (JR/SR)	No	FREE
Principles of Business Management	Ivy Tech	BUSN 101	Read & Write Ready	No	FREE
Principles of Entrepreneurship	Ivy Tech	ENTR 100 & 200	Read & Write Ready & KA STEM (50), KA CALC (95), KA QR (55), ACT M (18), SAT M (500), PSAT M (24.5), GPA 2.6 (JR/SR)	No	FREE
New Ventures Development	Ivy Tech	ENTR 215 & 218	Completion of ENTR 100 or Concurrent enrollment in ENTR 100	No	FREE
Small Business Operations	Ivy Tech	ENTR 105 & 205	Completion of ENTR 100 or Concurrent enrollment in ENTR 100	No	FREE

Read Ready: ACT Read (18); SAT ERW (460); SAT Read (25); PSAT ERW (430), Read (25); SR/JR GPA of 2.6+; KA Read/Write 70

Write Ready: ACT English (17); SAT ERW (460); SAT Write (27); PSAT ERW (430), Write (26); SR/JR GPA of 2.6+; KA Read/Write 70

Please check with colleges for the most updated information.

- Courses may require a pre-requisite
- Courses may require students to take a Knowledge Assessment or an English/STEM/Calc exam to qualify.
- **BE MINDFUL** of dual credit emails- important information!
- An updated crosswalk will be sent to families soon
- Any questions regarding dual credit should be directed to Kristan Reed at khreed@munsterschools.gov

Indiana College Core (ICC)

- Block of 30 dual credit hours of general education, college-level coursework which is guaranteed to transfer between all Indiana public colleges and universities.

- Munster High School finished 5th in the state for ICC completions, with 33% of seniors earning the certificate.

- MHS Students who earned the ICC have:
  - Saved thousands of dollars on general college credits
    - PNW Students: $12,000 to date
    - IUB/Purdue WL: $25,000-$30,000 to date
    - Out of State: $50,000+ to date
  - Finished college in three years
  - Progressed to graduate coursework faster

DUAL CREDIT TRANSFER

TransferIN

https://transferin.net/



Transferology

https://www.transferology.com/index.htm

Transferology®

Junior Year Counts!!!!

- Junior year grades should impress college admissions departments.
- Take challenging classes through senior year.
- Consider and explore career options.
- Make community service a part of the high school experience- it can lead to scholarship opportunities.

College Acceptance: Analyzing the Applicants

- College admissions officers look closely at:
  - Classes taken
  - Transcript/GPA
  - Strong senior schedule
  - Solid extra-curricular activities
  - SAT/ACT scores
  - Essays (when required)
  - Recommendations (when required)
  - Student's interests and perceived fit for college
- Acceptance is **provisionary** upon the review and approval of the final transcript!

Volunteer Opportunities

- Hospitals
- Churches
- Salvation Army
- Red Cross
- Animal Shelters
- Munster Parks Department
- Political Campaigns

- Serve Indiana: http://www.in.gov/serveindiana/volunteer/2407.htm

- Volunteer Match: https://www.volunteermatch.org

National Honor Society Criteria



- **Scholarship:**

  3.25 GPA after fifth semester
- **Leadership**
- **Character**
- **Service**
- **Questions? Contact:**
  - **Val Pflum: vmpflum@munsterschools.gov or**
  - **Cam Adams: cmadams@munsterschools.gov**

VALUABLE STEPS IN EXPLORING COLLEGES

- **Meet with college reps- lunch room visits, college fairs**
- **Attend campus visits**
- **Explore college websites**
- **Search websites:**
  - **College Board (Big Future): https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org**
  - **College Planning: *https://learnmoreindiana.org/college-discovery/***

College Fairs

- College Fairs:
  - NACAC National College Fair: September 13, 2025 at Navy Pier, Chicago (11:00-3:00)
    - Register at: https://www.nacacattend.org/25Chicago
  - Northwest Indiana Area College Fair
    - Munster High School
    - September 3rd, 2025 6:00-7:30pm
- College Visits:
  - College reps at MHS
  - Check MHS announcements
- College Visit Absence Form available on MHS website

More Helpful Websites

- For Potential College Athletes:
  NCAA Eligibility Center: https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/

- Indiana College Admissions Info:
  College Board Big Future:
  https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search

Questions? Here's Who to Contact…

Guidance Office Phone Number: 219-836-3209

- **Ms. Terry:** students with the last names **A-Co**
  - cnterry@munsterschools.gov Phone Extension: 3210
- **Mr. Gregory:** students with the last names **Cp-Hi**
  - pkgregory@munsterschools.gov Phone Extension: 3409
- **Mrs. Elizabeth Keleher:** students with the last name **Hj-Mn**
  - epkeleher@munsterschools.gov Phone Extension: 3434
- **Ms. Cindy Kielbasa:** students with the last names **Mo-Sa**
  - clkielbasa@munsterschools.gov Phone Extension: 3212
- **Mrs. Kristen Salan:** students with the last names **Sc-Z**
  - kmsalan@munsterschools.gov Phone Extension: 3365

Who to Contact…

- **Mrs. Kristan Reed**
  - Dual Credit, Scholarships
  - khreed@munsterschools.gov , Extension 3213
- **Mrs. Nikki Olson**
  - Registrar
  - ndolson@munsteschools.gov , Extension 3208
- **Mrs. Maureen Gaither**
  - General Questions
  - mmgaither@munsterschools.gov , Extension 3207
- **Mr. Robert Snyder**
  - Assistant Principal over Guidance Department
  - rcsnyder@munsterschools.gov , Extension 3324

Thanks for Your Attendance!



Make it a great year!