

Mountain Ridge High School Junior Year Counseling Presentation



Decisions...

This is a BIG year for you!!! This lesson is to provide an overview of resources available to help as you begin to think about life after high school



Objectives for Today

- To review high school graduation requirements
- To understand how grades and class rank factor into post secondary planning
- To gain a deeper understanding of optional exams and how you may benefit by taking them
- To learn how to access online resources to help you prepare for post-secondary goals



Credit Requirements: a review...

- Need 22 credits to graduate High School
- If on track, how many credits should you have now?
- If you are not on track to graduate, now is the time to meet with your counselor and develop a plan to get back on track

Grades Matter

- Technical/Trade Schools
 - Often have a minimum gpa requirement (e.g. West-MEC)
- Community Colleges
 - President's Scholarship
 - Minimum final 3.25 unweighted cumulative gpa
 - Pays for up to 4 semesters of full time tuition
- University admissions and merit based scholarships
 - Based on unweighted grades in 16 core competency courses
 - Some universities will only look at your grades through end of junior year so grade improvement should be completed by summer after junior year.



More on grades

16 Core Competency Courses

4 credits of English

4 credits of Math

3 credits of Lab Science

1 credit of United States History

1 credit of Social Studies

2 credits of the same Foreign Language - NAU does not require F.L.

1 credit of Fine Arts or CTE

Aim for B average or higher in these 16 courses for university admission and merit based scholarship consideration

Class Rank

Based on **weighted** grades in the following core classes:

Freshmen

ELA

Math

Science

Juniors

ELA

Math

Science

Social Studies

Sophomores

ELA

Math

Science

Social Studies

Seniors

ELA

Math

Science

Social Studies

College Entrance Exams

ACT

SAT



Why Take ACT and/or SAT?

- The ACT and SAT may be used by colleges to predict whether a student is prepared for college level work
- Your scores provide an opportunity to see how you compare with students both locally and nationally
- Your scores also provide insight into your academic strengths and weaknesses
- ACT includes an interest assessment to help you identify how your interests align to career fields
- Your ACT and/or SAT scores may open the door for opportunities you wouldn't otherwise have
 - Merit based scholarships from universities
 - Scores may be used to compensate for lower gpa on college admissions decisions

How can ACT/SAT scores get you money for college

- Online Scholarship Estimators

- ASU

- UA

- NAU



How Do I Prepare for College Entrance Exams?

- Take the PSAT (October 14th!!)
- Use the free online resources available
 - ACT
 - SAT
- SAT Prep Seminar \$125
- ACT Prep Seminar \$125

What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

- PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test
- The PSAT/NMSQT measures:
 - Evidence-based Reading
 - Writing and Language
 - Math
- Your score will provide detailed information about your academic strengths and weaknesses and may be linked with free online help specifically targeted to your needs
- Juniors who take the PSAT are automatically screened for the National Merit Scholarship!

How do I take the PSAT/NMSQT?

- Registration began online through **Total Registration** on August 20th-September 5th, look for email from counseling that was sent this week.
- The fee for the test is **\$25**
- The test will be held on the Mountain Ridge campus on **Tuesday, October 14th.**

ACT at MRHS

- ACT test will be given to all juniors during the school day in the spring - last year it was at beginning of April
- This is your one opportunity to take the test for **FREE**
- Registration for this one testing date will be done on campus during school
- District-mandated exam—GRADE ENHANCEMENT
- You can retake ACT but you need to sign up and pay for it through [ACT website](#)



What else can I do to help figure out what I'd like to do after high school?

Take the ASVAB

- ◆ Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery
- ◆ Assesses aptitudes in Verbal, Math, Science and Technical/Spatial
- ◆ ASVAB results let you know how your strengths and particular skill set aligns with careers you are interested in
- ◆ A free test given during school



ASVAB

- Dates to come TBD
- This will NOT count as an absence since you will be on campus

What else can I do to help figure out what I'd like to do after high school

[MajorClarity](#) (sign in with Clever)

- Great new resource with a multitude of uses!
- Take personality and learning styles inventories and see how they align to course and career planning
- Explore colleges and technical schools that have programs matched to your interests
- Watch videos and/or complete activities to gain true insight into a variety of careers
- Track your graduation progress and align your courses with your postsecondary plans
- Explore and apply for scholarships

[Explore the MRHS Counseling website for additional resources](#)

What else can I do to help figure out what I'd like to do after high school

- Attend in person and virtual visits to learn more from
 - Military
 - Technical Schools
 - Community Colleges
 - Universities—**AZ Public University night at Ridge 8/27 @ 6pm**
 - **AZ Private University night at District Office 9/4 @ 6pm**
- Be sure check your Canvas and school email inboxes - counselors will periodically send out important announcements.

Review

- How do you register for the PSAT?
- When is it offered?
- What is the cost?
- What are some reasons to take it?

**PSAT/
NMSQT®**

 **CollegeBoard**
 NATIONAL MERIT
SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Review

- Why take the ASVAB?
- How do you sign up for ASVAB
- What are some other resources to help you plan for life after high school?



MRHS Counseling Website

[MRHS Counseling page](#) is a great resource to help with all of your post-secondary planning

There are links for scholarships, college planning, letters of rec, etc.